

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2502 SD1  
A BILL FOR AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE  
HAWAII CIVIL AIR PATROL FOR OPERATING EXPENSES

PRESENTATION TO THE  
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

BY

MAJOR GENERAL ROBERT G. F. LEE  
DIRECTOR OF CIVIL DEFENSE

March 25, 2010

Chair Oshiro and Committee Members:

I am Major General Bob Lee, Director of Civil Defense, State Department of Defense. I am providing written testimony on Senate Bill 2502 SD1.

This proposed bill will appropriate funds out of the general revenues for fiscal year 2010-2011 for the operational expenses of the Hawaii Civil Air Patrol. This proposed bill will enable the Hawaii Civil Air Patrol to continue its operations and training in support of the Hawaii Civil Defense system. These operations are especially crucial to the Civil Defense warning system for tsunami alerts as demonstrated during the Chile Tsunami Warning of February 27, 2010. The Hawaii Civil Air Patrol also performs other important missions for Civil Defense such as air reconnaissance, aerial damage assessments, inland search and rescue, and small cargo delivery when inter-island transportation is not available.

We support the intent of Senate Bill 2502 SD1 so long as it does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in the Executive Supplemental Budget Request.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on Senate Bill 2502 SD1.



**HEADQUARTERS**  
**66<sup>TH</sup> COMPOSITE SQUADRON**  
**CIVIL AIR PATROL**  
United States Air Force Auxiliary  
10 Hickam Ct, Bldg. 2094  
Hickam AFB, HI 96853



March 23, 2010

TESTIMONY FOR: House Committee on Finance

FROM 66<sup>TH</sup> SQUADRON COMMANDER, Lieutenant Colonel Carswell Ross, CAP

Good morning Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair and Representative Marilyn Loo, Vice Chair and members of the House Committee on Finance. I strongly endorse and support SB 2502, SD1, making an appropriation to the Hawaii Civil Air Patrol for operating expenses.

I am the commander of a Civil Air Patrol unit located on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. My unit has 55 cadets and 45 senior members. Our senior members are volunteers who train to fly tsunami missions for the State of Hawaii. Our role is to provide warning to beach goers, boaters, and others who may be off shore or at locations without warning devices. Our secondary mission would be to perform damage assessment. In order for our pilots, observers, and scanners to be of value to the Department of Defense, Civil Defense, County Civil Defense units and Homeland Security we need to train. Unfortunately, bad events rarely occur between 8:00 am and 6:00 pm. A tsunami can occur at dusk, dawn, to middle of the night. That is why the funds from the state are so important; we need to provide trained teams to perform our Tsunami and damage assessment Missions.

We understand that there are limited funds within the state budget; nevertheless, training for a disaster is worth the expense, especially when we are hoping to save lives.

Thank you for this opportunity to share my view on this matter.

*Carswell J. Ross, Jr.*

Carswell J. Ross, Jr., Lt Col CAP  
66<sup>th</sup> Composite Squadron, Commander  
Hangar 11

**HEADQUARTERS  
CIVIL AIR PATROL, HAWAII WING  
United States Air Force Auxiliary  
419 Lele Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96819**

**TESTIMONY TO THE  
House Finance Committee**

**MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE  
CIVIL AIR PATROL, HAWAII WING  
For Tsunami Operations**

**SB 2502**

**Thursday, 25 March 2010  
11:00A.M.  
Conference Room 308**

**FROM**

**Stanley Y. Fernandez, Colonel, CAP  
Director, Government Affairs**

**TO**

**Rep. Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair  
Rep. Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair**

**IN SUPPORT OF SB 2502, Making an Appropriation to the Civil Air Patrol, Hawaii  
Wing for Tsunami Operations.**

**On Saturday morning, 27 February 2010, the Pacific Tsunami Center, notified the Hawaii State Civil Defense of a tsunami which was generated by the Chilean earthquake which measured 8.8 on the Richter scale. It was a major earthquake. The Hawaii State Civil Defense immediately alerted the Civil Air Patrol to fly and provide aerial warning to low lying inundated areas where it would be a danger for swimmers, surfers, campers, and to residents where the State did not have**

The sirens or public address systems. Civil Air Patrol airplanes were ordered by the State Civil Defense and nine CAP single engine airplanes were providing aerial warning throughout all of the Islands of Hawaii. We had two airplanes on Kauai, two on the Big Island of Hawaii, two on Maui, two for the island of Oahu. One of the Kauai CAP aircraft covered the Island of Niihau. CAP aircrews reported campers shining their flashlights responding by breaking down their camp sites, and CAP aircraft were instructed to fly into areas where the State Public Address and Siren systems were inoperative. Hawaii was very fortunate that it was spared a major tsunami. Recall the Hilo incident where there were major loss of life due to negative warning. There were 251 CAP volunteers on duty on Saturday, 27 February 2010. After the All Clear was sounded, CAP took an assessment of our capabilities. Many of the aircraft public address speakers on our airplanes overheated. One of our aircraft had to return to base (Honolulu) for maintenance which created a period where Maui was covered with just one airplane. We have one airplane out of the nine available without the siren/public speaker system so could not be used other than providing aerial communications. CAP is in dire need of up dated equipment. Also, CAP Was lacking in mission qualified pilots to fly the tsunami warning flights due to minimum airborne training (due to lack of monies). The last year, CAP was provided training and equipment funds by the Legislature was back in 2003. It has been six years that the Hawaii Wing has operated without Legislative funding. To fully operate the CAP mission in Hawaii would require \$298,000 per year (Optimum). We are fully aware of the fiscal situation and all we are asking for is any Funding that we can obtain for updating our equipment and money for aircrew tsunami training. Approximate cost of the siren/public address system is \$9,000 per aircraft X 9 aircraft = \$81,000 and \$50,000 for training and minor maintenance for our airplanes. This would total \$132,000. If not available, Any available funding will be of great help to continue our tsunami mission for the State of Hawaii. Thank you for allowing me to share my views on SB2502.

**STANLEY Y. FERNANDEZ, Colonel, CAP**  
Director, Government Affairs  
Phone: (808)456-5578 (home)  
(808)256-5988 (cell)  
Email: sonnyfernan@msn.com

SB 2502

Dear Sirs,

*As a pilot for the Civil Air Patrol here in Hawaii, and a first responder on the day of the Tsunami, I urge you to consider voting in support of SB 2503 - Making an Appropriation to Civil Air Patrol for Tsunami Operations.*

*Seeing the response of the people on the ground in remote areas that were unaware of the impending tsunami was eye opening. Without the Civil Air Patrol and the early warning we delivered, a truly devastating tsunami would kill many.*

SM Adam Orens  
Civil Air Patrol - Kauai  
7071A Kaholalele Pl.  
Kapaa, Hi 96746  
808-635-8799

## **FINTestimony**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**ent:** Tuesday, March 23, 2010 6:33 PM  
**fo:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** herbkane06@juno.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB2502 on 3/25/2010 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 3/25/2010 11:00:00 AM SB2502

Conference room: 308  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: Yes  
Submitted by: Colonel Herbert Kaneshige  
Organization: Civil Air Patrol  
Address: 419 Lele Street Honolulu, HI 96820  
Phone: 847-3417  
E-mail: [herbkane06@juno.com](mailto:herbkane06@juno.com)  
Submitted on: 3/23/2010

Comments:

## **FINTestimony**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 23, 2010 8:39 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** rickbe55@verizon.net  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB2502 on 3/25/2010 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 3/25/2010 11:00:00 AM SB2502

Conference room: 308  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Dr.Rico F.Autori  
Organization: Individual  
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Submitted on: 3/23/2010

**Comments:**

The Civil Air Patrol is a valued asset to the community. Not just in disaster relief situations such as Feb 27 2010. But also with youth programs for cadets. It is deserving of support.