

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

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

PRESENTATION TO THE  
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

BY

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

February 22, 2010

Chair Mercado Kim 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.

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. Additionally, the Hawaii Civil Air Patrol 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 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.



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



18 February 2010

TESTIMONY FOR: Committee on Ways and Means

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

Good morning Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair and Senator Shan Tsutsui, Vice Chair and members of the Ways and Means committee. I strongly endorse and support SB 2502, making an appropriation to the Hawaii Civil Air Patrol for operating expenses.

I am the commander of a Civil Air Patrol unit located on 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

**From:** [herbkane06@juno.com](mailto:herbkane06@juno.com)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB 2502 Making An Appropriation to Hawaii Wing, Civil Air Patrol for O peration Expenses  
**Date:** Thursday, February 18, 2010 12:12:34 PM

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Honorable State Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Room 210  
Chair, Ways and Meams Committee  
Hawaii State Senate  
Hawaii State Capitol  
413 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Kim

I AM IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL SB2502 MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE HAWAII WING CIVIL AIR PATROL FOR OPERATING EXPENSES.

Civil Air Patrol (CAP) is a non-profit public service organization devoted to emergency services, cadet programs and aerospace education. We have served the State of Hawaii by providing these humanitarian services using volunteer members. CAP volunteers are UNPAID, CONCERNED CITIZENS DOING GOOD WORKS THROUGH LOCAL COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES. In the State of Hawaii we have 224 Cadets and 313 Senior Members.

As CAP volunteers, our rewards are not monetary, but they are as tangible as money in the bank. Nothing compares to the sense of satisfaction that comes with a job well done, particularly if that job is saving lives or aiding communities.

Under the emergency services progream the volunteer members participate in tsunami warning, search and rescue and disaster damage assessment. We have nine (9) Cessna aircraft all equiped with sirens and public address system. The aircrafts are stationed as follows. One in Hilo, one in Kona, one in Maui, two in Kauai, one at Wheeler field and three on Oahu. We train the all volunteer aircrew in preparation for these activities. THESE EXERCISE ARE NOT FUNDED.

Therefore, I strongly endorse SB 2502 Making An Appropriation to Hawaii Wing, Civil Air Patrol for Operating Expenses.

Thank you for the oppportunity to share my views on this important matter.

With Every Best Wishes

Herbert T. Kaneshige, Colonel, CAP  
Deputy Director Government/Legislative Affairs  
Civil Air Patrol, Hawaii Wing  
Email [herbkane06@juno.com](mailto:herbkane06@juno.com)

**From:** [Joe Kaanapu, Jr.](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB2502 - Making An Appropriation to the Hawaii Civil Air Patrol for Operating Expenses  
**Date:** Thursday, February 18, 2010 12:22:57 PM

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Honorable State Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Rm 210  
Chair, Ways and Means Committee  
Hawaii State Senate  
Hawaii State Capitol  
413 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Kim

**'IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 2502" - Making an appropriation to the Hawaii Civil Air Patrol for Operating Expenses.**

The Civil Air Patrol is an important aircraft warning asset for the State of Hawaii for providing airborne tsunami warning to swimmers, surfers, and to residents living in tsunami inundated areas without State provided siren/public address warning systems. Upon initial notification by the Hawaii State Civil Defense of an impending tsunami, Civil Air Patrol has nine single engine Cessna aircraft equipped with siren and public address system on stand-by, ready to launch in an hour, to provide airborne warning for all of the islands in Hawaii. The Air Force provides funding for CAP to fly search and rescue mission for the Air Force and Coast Guard searches. However, for state and local tsunami missions and support for the State of Hawaii disaster missions i.e., hurricanes or any other natural disasters in Hawaii, the CAP is "**not funded**" by the Air Force. It cost **\$135 per hour** to fly a Cessna aircraft versus the thousands of dollars to fly helicopters or C-130 cargo aircraft or F-15 fighter aircraft to provide coastal warning to our residents of Hawaii. The Hawaii CAP is not funded for fuel, oil, maintenance nor for the training to support the Hawaii Tsunami warning mission. All pilots, aircrews, operations personnel, radio operators, administrative personnel in CAP are "non-paid volunteers" We have 551 volunteer personnel in the Hawaii Wing Civil Air Patrol. This past year, there were "three" actual tsunami warnings for the State of Hawaii. In all three incidents, the Hawaii Wing CAP was called upon by the Hawaii State Civil Defense to prepare their airplanes to fly airborne tsunami warning flights. In all three cases, CAP responded with their nine airplanes, with aircrews ready to fly. Fortunately, no major tsunami occurred and all aircrews were ordered to stand down by the Hawaii State Civil Defense. Many of our CAP volunteers utilize their personal time, talent, and treasure to support this mission. CAP has not received full legislative funding since 1996 when we were being funded \$190,000 per year for operating expenses. This funding was cut in 1996. In 2003, CAP was granted \$50,000 from the State Legislature with a matching fund of \$50,000 from the Hawaii State Civil Defense. Monies were from the Federal Homeland Security Funds. CAP again lost legislative funding from 2004 til present. We were fortunate that the State Civil Defense was able to obtain \$50,000 from the Federal Homeland Security funds for both 2008 and 2009. However, this Federal funding is **not a confirmed grant**. To fully support the Hawaii Civil Air Patrol approximately \$238,000 is needed. Airborne tsunami training mission has been severely curtailed and disaster preparedness training has been limited due to lack of funding. Aircrews need to train and fly to provide the maximum protection for the citizens of Hawaii. I urge your support for SB 2502. Thank you for allowing me to express my views on this matter.

With Every Best Wishes,

Joseph J. Kaanapu, Jr., Captain, CAP  
Webmaster

Civil Air Patrol, Hawaii Wing

Phone: (808)488-3300 (home)

(808)341-4987 (cell)

Email: [jjk77@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:jjk77@hawaiiantel.net)

**From:** [STANLEY FERNANDEZ](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB2502- Making An Appropriation to Hawaii CivilAir Patrol for Operating Expenses  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 17, 2010 11:27:34 PM

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Honorable State Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Rm 210  
Chair, Ways and Means Committee  
Hawaii State Senate  
Hawaii State Capitol  
413 South Beretania Street  
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**IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 2502 - Making an Appropriation to the Hawaii Civil Air Patrol for Operating Expenses.** The Civil Air Patrol is an important aircraft warning asset for the State of Hawaii for providing airborne tsunami warning to swimmers, surfers, and to residents living in tsunami inundated areas without State provided siren/public address warning systems. Upon initial notification by the Hawaii State Civil Defense of an impending tsunami, Civil Air Patrol has nine single engine Cessna aircraft equipped with siren and public address system on stand-by alert, ready to launch in an hour, to provide airborne warning for all of the Hawaiian Islands. The Air Force provides funding to CAP to fly search and rescue missions for the Air Force and Coast Guard searches. However, **for state and local tsunami missions** and support for the State of Hawaii disaster preparedness missions i.e., hurricanes, other natural disasters in Hawaii, the **CAP is "not funded"** by the Air Force. It **cost \$135 per hour** to fly a Cessna aircraft versus the thousands of dollars to fly helicopters, C-130 cargo aircraft or F-15 fighter aircraft to provide coastal warning to our residents, swimmers, and surfers. The Hawaii CAP is not funded for oil, gas, maintenance, nor for the required training to support the Tsunami warning mission. All pilots, aircrews, operations personnel, radio operators, administrative personnel in **CAP are "non-paid volunteers."** **We have 551 volunteer personnel** located throughout the State of Hawaii. This past year, there were **"three" actual** tsunami warnings for the State of Hawaii. In all three incidents, the Hawaii Wing CAP was called upon by the Hawaii State Civil Defense to prepare our airplanes to fly airborne tsunami warning flights. In all three cases, CAP responded with their nine airplanes and crews ready to launch. Fortunately, no major tsunami occurred and all aircrews were ordered to stand down by the Hawaii State Civil Defense. Many of our CAP volunteers utilized their personal time, talents, and personal treasure to support this mission. CAP has not received full legislative funding since 1996, Prior to that time frame CAP was being funded \$190,000 annually. No legislative or state funding from 1996 to 2003. In 2003, CAP received \$50,000 from the Legislature with matching funds of \$50,000 from the Hawaii State Civil Defense, which took it from the Federal Homeland Security Fund. In 2004, the CAP again did not receive any Legislative funding. In 2005, CAP received \$50,000 from the State Civil Defense from the Homeland Security fund. This funding is not guaranteed annually and due to the current economy in our National government CAP may not receive future funds. To fully support the Hawaii CAP would approximate \$238,000 annually. Airborne tsunami warning training and disaster preparedness training has been severely curtailed due to lack of funding. Aircrews and operations personnel need to train and coordinate simultaneously with local agencies i.e., police, fire department, civil defense, and military to provide maximum protection for the citizens of Hawaii. Urge your support for SB 2502. Thank you for allowing me to express my views on this matter.

With Every Best Wishes

Stanley Y. Fernandez, Colonel, CAP  
Director, Government/Legislative Affairs  
Civil Air Patrol, Hawaii Wing  
Phone: (808) 456-5578 (home)  
(808) 256-5988 (cell)  
Email: [sonnyfernan@msn.com](mailto:sonnyfernan@msn.com)

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**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB2502- Making An Appropriation to Hawaii CivilAir Patrol for Operating Expenses  
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Chair, Ways and Means Committee  
Hawaii Stae Senate  
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413 South Beretania Street  
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With Every Best Wishes

Stanley Y. Fernandez, Colonel, CAP  
Director, Government/Legislative Affairs  
Civil Air Patrol, Hawaii Wing  
Phone: (808) 456-5578 (home)  
(808) 256-5988 (cell)  
Email: [sonnyfernan@msn.com](mailto:sonnyfernan@msn.com)

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**From:** [dchoy@usa.com](mailto:dchoy@usa.com)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB2502- Making An Appropriation to Hawaii Civil Air Patrol for Operating Expenses  
**Date:** Friday, February 19, 2010 1:37:29 PM

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Honorable State Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Rm 210  
Chair, Ways and Means Committee  
Hawaii State Senate  
Hawaii State Capitol  
413 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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With Every Best Wishes

Lt Col Darryl Choy, CAP  
Director of Personnel  
Civil Air Patrol, Hawaii Wing HQ

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