

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 623 SD1
A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO TUITION ASSISTANCE

PRESENTATION TO THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION, BUSINESS,
AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

BY

MAJOR GENERAL ROBERT G. F. LEE
ADJUTANT GENERAL
March 17, 2009

Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Choy, and Committee Members:

I am Major General Robert G. F. Lee, State Adjutant General. I am testifying on Senate Bill 623 SD1.

We strongly support Senate Bill 623 SD1, since this measure broadens the scope of the tuition assistance to members of the Hawaii National Guard by including all commissioned officers rather than officers in the grade of 01 (Second Lieutenant) to 03 (Captain). Also, this measure includes all students working toward a degree on any campus of the University of Hawaii. However, this bill gives priority to members of the Hawaii National Guard that are working on toward an undergraduate degree.

Passage of this bill will provide the Hawaii National Guard with a very valuable incentive for recruiting and retaining our highly trained soldiers and airmen capable of performing their federal and State missions.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony. Are there any questions?