

SR 105

SCR 207

Measure Title:

URGING MEMBERS OF HAWAII'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO SUPPORT
H.R. 208, THE NATIONAL GUARDSMEN AND RESERVISTS PARITY FOR
PATRIOTS ACT, AND S. 644, THE NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE
RETIRED PAY EQUITY ACT OF 2009.

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 207
URGING MEMBERS OF HAWAII'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO SUPPORT
H.R. 208, THE NATIONAL GUARDSMEN AND RESERVE PARITY FOR PATRIOTS
ACT, AND S. 644, THE NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE RETIRED PAY EQUITY
ACT OF 2009.

PRESENTATION TO THE

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

AND

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, INTERNATIONAL AND
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

BY

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

MARCH 29, 2010

Chair Espero, Chair English and Committee Members:

I am Major General Bob Lee, Adjutant General, State Department of Defense. We strongly support Senate Concurrent Resolution 207.

Since September 11, 2001, at the call of the President, the Hawaii National Guard and Reserves have activated and deployed soldiers and airmen in support of America's war on terrorism. Within the last six years, the Hawaii Army National Guard, along with the Army Reserves has deployed units in support of Iraqi and Enduring Freedoms. In fact, our 29th Infantry Combat Team, which includes the 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry from the Army Reserves, have deployed twice to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom within the last six years.

We are continuing to train, mobilize, and deploy our units in support of our nation's war. Currently we have two National Guard units scheduled to deploy to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

These overseas combat tours have disrupted the lives and employment of our citizen soldiers and airmen. Some have lost employment and others have been overlooked for promotions. Passage of the National Guardsmen and Reservists Parity for Patriots (H.R. 208) and the National Guard and Reserve Retired Pay Equity Act of 2009 (S. 644) would truly indicate of our citizen soldiers, airmen, and reservists that America cares and support their service to our country.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in strong support of Senate Concurrent Resolution 207.