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**Testimony of
Thomas Smyth, President
Military Officers Association of America, Hawaii Chapter
Before the Committee on Public Safety & Military Affairs
Thursday, March 24, 2011, 10:30 am, Room 309**

HCR 77/HR 70

**Urging The Commercial Airline Industry To Extend Various Courtesies To
Members Of The United States Armed Forces With Military Orders Who Are
Transported By Commercial Aircraft, In Recognition Of Their Service To
The People Of The United States And As An Expression Of Gratitude And
Appreciation**

Chair Aquino, Vice Chair Cullen and Members of the Committee:

Our chapter of 500 retired and currently serving officers understands the intent and purpose of HCR 77 and HR 70.

However, our research shows that since baggage fees were first instituted by major airlines in June, 2008, military personnel and their families, traveling on military orders, are not charged the usual fees for the first, or even additional bags. Some airlines even allow up to eight bags. The fee waivers for overweight bags are not as comprehensive and vary somewhat among the major air carriers.

It should be noted that military members and their families traveling on "leave" are not on government orders and they would be charged baggage fees by most airlines. Some airlines do not charge baggage fees for uniformed military personnel, regardless of their travel status.

We feel that these resolutions are not necessary at this time as the major air carriers have stepped up to recognize the service and sacrifices made by our currently serving service members and their families.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.