

# LATE TESTIMONY

## **Testimony to the House Committee on consumer protection and Commerce and Committee on Judiciary**

**Monday, February 13, 2012**

**2:15 AM**

**Conference Room 325**

**RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 2409, RELATING TO CONSUMER PROTECTION**

**Chair Herkes, Vice Chair Yamane and Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Rhoads, and members of the committee.**

My name is Charles Ota and I am the Vice President for Military Affairs at The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii (The Chamber). I am here to state The Chamber's strong support of House Bill No. 2409, Relating to Consumer Protection.

The measure proposes to authorize the Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs to enforce certain federal laws to protect military members and their families from abusive lending practices.

We concur with the comments stated in Section 1 of the proposed bill. Military members have long been vulnerable to abusive lending practices. Most are young service members aged 18-24 who are away from home for the very first time and have no experience in making major purchases. All too often they are victimized by sales people who take advantage of their inexperience.

The US Department of Defense has declared that abusive lending practices are a serious quality of life concern for service members and their families, and recommended that states act to adopt protective programs. This concern was especially prevalent over the past 10 years because of the high deployment rates faced by service members due the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

In light of the above, we recommend the proposal be approved.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.