

Testimony to the House Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs  
Thursday, March 29, 2012  
10:00 AM  
Conference Room 309

RE: HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 217/HOUSE RESOLUTION 168, RELATING TO URGING THE PRESERVATION OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FUNDING IN THE PENTAGON BUDGET.

Chair Aquino, Vice Chair Cullen, 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 support of HCR 217/HR 168, Relating to urging the preservation of research and development funds in the Pentagon budget.

The Chamber's Military Affairs Council serves as the liaison for the state in matters relating to the US military and in providing oversight for the state's \$12.2 billion defense industry. The defense industry includes more than 100 research and development companies based in Hawaii that receive millions of dollars in R&D grants from the federal government.

The US Department of Defense leads the federal government in R&D programs that provide for dual use applications that are the bedrock of American innovations. Strides made in defense R&D programs have contributed greatly to the US maintaining its position as a world leader in R&D and innovations. The announced cutbacks in defense R&D would contribute towards compromising the Nation's leadership in this most important arena.

Moreover, defense R&D funding has enabled the growth of a budding R&D sector in the Hawaii's defense industry. Any reductions in defense R&D funding would impose significant financial burdens that would likely result in forcing business closures or movement out of the state.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of this important resolution.