

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 218/HOUSE RESOLUTION 169 URGING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, CHAIRPERSON OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF, SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, HAWAII CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION, GOVERNOR, AND THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF HAWAII – MILITARY AFFAIRS COUNCIL, TO DO EVERYTHING WITHIN THEIR POWER AND INFLUENCE TO RETAIN MILITARY AND DEFENSE-RELATED JOBS IN HAWAII.

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 218/HR 169, Urging the President of the United States, Chairperson of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Secretary of Defense, Congressional Delegation, Governor, The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii – Military Affairs Council, to do everything within their power and influence to retain military and defense-related jobs in Hawaii.

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 US Department of Defense employs about 17,000 civilians in Hawaii that work with the US Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard. Additionally, there are hundreds of private sector jobs that are related to the military's presence in Hawaii and the Asia Pacific that could also be affected by cutbacks in defense civilian jobs.

Many of these jobs are held in key management, technical, and highly skilled positions that provide for excellent pay and stimulating careers. The loss of these jobs would be irreplaceable and result in adding to Hawaii's growing unemployment problem.

Any measure that provides for protecting against the loss of these jobs should be supported by the legislature.

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