

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 223/HOUSE RESOLUTION 172, ENCOURAGING THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO PROCURE GOODS AND SERVICES THAT ARE USED TO SUPPORT HAWAII-BASED UNITED STATES MILITARY PERSONNEL AND FACILITIES FROM HAWAII BUSINESSES AND TO COOPERATE WITH THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF HAWAII TO HOST TRADE SHOWS THAT FEATURE LOCAL BUSINESSES.

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 223/HR 172, Encouraging The United States Department of Defense To Procure Goods And Services That Are Used To Support Hawaii-Based Personnel And Facilities From Hawaii Businesses And To Cooperate With The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii To Host Trade Shows That Feature Local Businesses.

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, of which a significant portion is a result of some \$2.3 billion spent on defense contracting.

The full support and cooperation of the military and its purchasing agencies would contribute greatly to increasing the percentage of goods and services purchased from Hawaii businesses.

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