

SB 2583

RELATING TO THE NATIONAL GUARD

Description:

Prohibits a person from being eligible to serve as an adjutant general unless the person has had at least five years of service as an active commissioned officer in the Hawaii National Guard, whether army, air, or both.

Grandfathers sitting adjutant generals.

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2583
A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE NATIONAL GUARD

PRESENTATION TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS,
AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

BY

MAJOR GENERAL DARRYLL D. M. WONG
ADJUTANT GENERAL

Chair Espero, Vice-Chair Kidani and Committee Members:

We strongly support senate bill 2583. The Adjutant General must be knowledgeable about military matters as they pertain to both the strengths and numerous methods of employing the National Guard. As a "citizen soldier/airman" and effective leader, the Adjutant General must have knowledge and experience in both the Federal and State missions that is unique to the National Guard. This is especially important in light of the increased role of the National Guard in domestic operations and the establishment of the "dual status commander".

Particular to Hawaii, the strategic location of our State, our close association with Pacific Command and the subordinate component headquarters, the relationships developed with state, local and federal law enforcement and first responder leadership, make having the experience in the Hawaii National Guard essential.

Finally, understanding the stresses the numerous changes our Hawaii National Guard Soldiers and Airmen have and will continue to endure, the effect on their families and employers are critical to maintaining a healthy, ready force.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my testimony, are there any questions.

February 1, 2012

Chairman Senator Will Espero
Vice Chair Senator Michelle Kidani
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations, and Military Affairs

SUBJECT: Testimony in support of the bill related to The Adjutant General

Mr. Chairman and distinguished members of the Committee, I thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of the bill related to The Adjutant General of the State of Hawaii.

I'm Dr. Raymond Jardine Jr. and I retired from the Hawaii National Guard after serving my state and country for nearly 33 years, first as an enlisted soldier than as a commissioned officer. I have the distinct honor of being the Deputy Commander of the 29th Enhanced Separate Infantry Brigade when it went from worst to first in the nation in readiness. I was also the Officer-In-Charge full-time when the 103rd Troop Command achieved the highest readiness in its history. I was the president of the National Guard Association Hawaii Insurance Trust and as the president of the Hawaii National Guard Association we achieved 100% membership for the first time in our existence. I am the past Executive Director for the Hawaii National Guard Association, The Hawaii National Guard Enlisted Association, National Guard Association – Hawaii Insurance Trust, Board of Directors for the National Guard Association of the United States and President & CEO of Native Hawaiian Veterans, LLC. I was appointed by the President of the United State to the National Veterans Business Development Corporation and currently serve on the Civil Defense Advisory Board. I mention this to provide you a short background of my service, performance, character, and dedication to duty.

I fully support the criteria requiring The Adjutant General to have at least 5 years of service as an commissioned officer in the National Guard. The position of Adjutant General of Hawaii is an extremely important one, requiring the selection of the best qualified individual. The position requires thorough knowledge of the unique state and federal missions, the status of soldiers and airmen, local and national relationships, and an ability to accomplish these missions, through local leadership, other TAG's, congressional leaders, National Guard Association of the United States, and the National Guard Bureau.

The Adjutant General must have the basic foundation and qualifications to command our unique organization from the first day on the job, and not have to learn the basics. While attending the National Guard Executive Directors Conference it was determined that 7 out of 50 states already got this right and have some sort of provision that requires the Adjutant General to have National Guard experience. In discussion with Lieutenant General (Retired) Russell Davis, the former Chief of the National Guard Bureau, at the conference, he also agrees that you must process National Guard experience in order to properly execute the duties of the Adjutant General.

As a former key leader in state missions, such as, Hurricane Iniki, Green Harvest Operations, Operation Kokua (the flooding on the Leeward Coast), and most recently as the Ground Forces Component Commander for the Security of our Airports throughout our State after the tragedy of 9/11, I cannot see how someone without knowledge and experience in the National Guard State Mission, could lead our state in a crisis be it manmade or a natural disaster.

I submit to you that this bill sets the foundation to provide the State of Hawaii the best possibility to select the right person to lead the Hawaii National Guard and our State Civil Defense.

Mr. Chairman and distinguished members of the Committee, I thank you once again for this opportunity to present my views on this critical bill to safeguard our state and nation.

Colonel Raymond Jardine Jr.
United State Army Retired