

# LATE TESTIMONY

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

# LATE TESTIMONY

## Testimony to the Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations, and Military Affairs

RE: Testimony in Support of Amendments to the Hawaii Revised Statute  
Section 121-7

Chairman Espero and members of the committee Public Safety, Government Operations, and Military Affairs, thank you for this opportunity to provide my endorsement to the proposed changes to Section 121-7 of the Hawaii Revised Statute regarding the appointment of the Adjutant General and Deputy Adjutant General of the State of Hawaii. I believe that this is a very important issue that should have been resolved years ago as in forty-seven of the fifty States of our Union.

The National Guard of the United States is a unique and important organization established by the Constitution of the United States that serves both the State and Federal Government. In peace time, the National Guard serves the State of Hawaii by providing a ready force that is available to the Governor to assist in protecting and assisting the people of this State during and after natural and man made disasters. The National Guard is also available to the Federal in case of war. Though the years the Hawaii National Guard has performed superbly as evidenced by its performance during Hurricane Iniki and deployments of both the Hawaii Army National Guard and the Hawaii Air National Guard to Southeast Asia, the Balkans and the Middle East.

Building an organization that can perform in this exceptional manner requires that its leaders and members are well trained. This includes both officers and non-commissioned officers. The National Guard nation-wide has spent millions providing leadership training for its people and the Hawaii National Guard is no exception. The Hawaii National Guard, in conjunction with the National Guard Bureau and National Guard units from other states participated in years of sessions on strategic and long range planning that allowed our people to network, interact and look into the future. I can truly say that the Hawaii National Guard had prepared and developed leaders that could take the organization into the future. These were proven leaders that have lead large Wing and Brigade sized units successfully for several years.

Recent developments, however, has caused me great concern. Our Hawaii National Guard officers were not selected for top leadership positions in the Hawaii National Guard. In fact I've been told that some of our key officers who applied were not even interviewed or called to let them

know that they were not being considered. This can have damaging effects on morale and upward mobility considerations for the members of the Hawaii National Guard.

It is for this reason that I am strongly in support of Senate Bill related to The Adjutant General of the State of Hawaii. I firmly believe that the Hawaii National Guard is less political than other active and reserve organizations that I have observed. People have been given the opportunity to rise to the highest positions in the Guard regardless of their political beliefs. I have not been pressured by any of the Governors to advance persons of their choosing. For this reason, I believe that there were leadership choices within the Hawaii National Guard that could have maintained the continuity and the vision for the future that so many of us have worked so hard to preserve.

I strongly support the amendment requiring membership in the National Guard for a period of at least five years prior to the appointment as the Adjutant General and Deputy Adjutant General

If there are any questions you can call me or email me at [rickrichardson@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:rickrichardson@hawaii.rr.com) Again, thank you for allowing me to testify in support of Senate Bill related to The Adjutant General of the State of Hawaii.

Sincerely

Major General Edward V. Richardson  
Retired State Adjutant General

# LATE TESTIMONY

Dear Senator Espero:

I hope you will allow me to submit a late testimony supporting Senate Bill relating to the appointment of the Adjutant General of the State of Hawaii. During my career in the administration of the University of Hawaii and the East-West Center, I had to follow very closely the issues being addressed by our State Legislature as well as in Congress. However, since my retirement several years ago, my knowledge of the activities in our State Capitol or our National Capitol has been largely limited to what I gain from printed and electronic media. Thus, I only learned late this afternoon that your committee was considering this bill, as I understand it, amend Section 121-7 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes to require that "the adjutant general (of the State of Hawaii) shall be appointed from those persons who are, or have been, active commissioned officers in the Hawaii national guard, army or air, for a period no less than five years, and who have attained, while serving therein, or in the national guard of the United States, a grade not lower than lieutenant colonel."

In addition to my full-time career as an administrator at the University of Hawaii and the East-West Center, I also had the privilege of serving our State and Country as a member of the active United States Air Force as well as the Hawaii Air National Guard for a period of 38 years. My last two assignments were as Chief of Staff, and subsequently, Commander of the Hawaii Air National Guard. During my tenure in my civilian as well as military positions, I was actively involved for many years in the policy setting and program development process, both in the halls of Congress as well in the executive departments, including the Pentagon. I cite these experiences only to indicate why I feel qualified to offer my comments on this Senate Bill.

One lesson I have learned is that because there is such an ongoing battle for scarce funds and other resources across our nation, one can only be as effective as his or her personal relationships and credibility with the ultimate decision makers in Congress and the executive agencies, and the experience to "work the system" in Washington, D.C.. I can point with pride to the small part I played in the modernization of the Hawaii Air National Guard, including the acquisition of the F-15, C-130 and KC-135 aircraft that put us at the forefront of the reserve forces. And I can tell you that we would not have been as successful if not for the mutual trust and close relationships that we Hawaii National Guard leaders enjoyed not only in Washington, D.C., but across the country. And those relationships and trust were earned through years of working cooperatively with leaders in Congress, the Pentagon and the capitols of the many states that had progressive leadership. Many of the leaders that we befriended at the state level eventually ended up in top leadership positions in the Pentagon, and continued to help and support us.

Another lesson I learned, is that the National Guard is a unique organization, unlike any other national military organization in the country. As you may know, the National Guard as we know today, came out of the state militia of colonial times, and continues today as a state entity, unless and until it is called to active Federal service. The Governor of each state is the respective commander-in-chief, and exercises command and control of the National Guard during peace time. The National Guard is the only military organization with a dual mission - one supporting the state and the other supporting the nation. These facts are well known, but I fear that many do not fully appreciate how such an organization must balance its loyalty and commitment to two sometimes competing masters, the State of Hawaii on one hand, and the Nation on the other.

While the other reserve forces are expected to accept and carry out decisions made by their respective commands as all military organizations do, leaders in the national guard must also carefully consider the needs of their respective states as well as the collective interests of the total national guard. And they must have the knowledge as well as established relationships to maneuver in a complex and sensitive administrative and political system in order to achieve the desired outcomes. There were instances in my experience where our commitment to the needs of our state made it necessary for us to disagree with proposals and plans being made in the active Air Force or the Defense Department, and to fight those decisions. In some instances, we were able to successfully argue our case at the executive level,

and in other cases, we found it necessary to lobby Congress to exert enough influence to seek the desired results.

It is therefore not surprising that most of the states in our union have laws that require their adjutant general to have national guard experience at the senior level. One can argue that an experienced military leader of any kind can lead the national guard. My personal experience compels me to respectfully and strongly disagree. It is not a question of leadership, command and management of the current forces. What we need, particularly here in Hawaii, where we are so far from the national decision process, is an experienced, informed and forward-looking leadership that works to keep us ahead of the curve. And the lack of such leadership will not be evident immediately. By the time we realize that we have allowed ourselves to stand on the side lines in the forward planning and decision making game in Washington, D.C. where National interests prevail, the interests of our state will have fallen by the wayside. And that is why I must express in the strongest terms, the need for an adjutant general that has the experience, long-established relationships and credibility in the national planning and budgeting process to effectively protect the interest of the State of Hawaii.

Senator Espero, I sincerely appreciate this opportunity to convey my thoughts regarding this Senate Bill, and respectfully request that you support the passage of either of these bills. I would welcome the opportunity to answer any question or to provide additional information when I am back home. My telephone number is 261-2270, and my email address is [ksumida@att.net](mailto:ksumida@att.net). Thank you for reading my email testimony.

Kenji Sumida