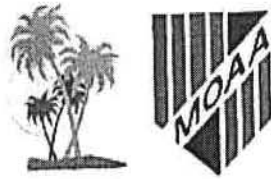


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Hawaii Chapter, MOAA  
P.O. Box 1185  
Kailua, Hawaii 96734-1185

**Testimony of Thomas Smyth**

**Military Officers Association of America, Hawaii Chapter**

**Before the Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations and  
Military Affairs**

**Thursday, March 29, 2012, 2:50 pm, Room 224**

**SCR139/SR75 Encouraging The Military Strategy of Forward-Basing A  
Visible Military Force in Hawaii And Urging the Military Affairs Council of the  
Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii To Continue With Its Work As The Liaison For  
Hawaii In Matters Relating To the Military's Presence in Hawaii**

**Chair Espero, Vice Chair Kidani and Committee Members**

**We strongly support SCR 139 and SR 75 asking National and Hawaii officials to continue to view Hawaii as the best place for a visible force in matters affecting the Asia-Pacific region. We also support continuation of the effective efforts of the Chamber Military Affairs Council in serving as liaison in matters relating to the military presence here.**

**Statements made by senior DOD officials during recent visits to Hawaii indicate strong agreement with Hawaii's military importance. Unfortunately, apparent gridlock in settling disagreements within the Congress and even among some DOD officials as to the impact of future budget issues, there can be no real certainty as to our military value.**

**We do note that contracts continue to be awarded for local military construction projects to expand and modernize facilities across Oahu. We are also very aware of the current end-strength proposals, especially for the Army and Marine Corps, which have little or no effect on units in Hawaii at this time.**

**We need to continue to express our Hawaii government support for the military presence here and the very valuable service they generously give back to our communities.**

**Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.**