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HB1136

Submitted on: 2/6/2013

Testimony for PBS/VMI on Feb 7, 2013 11:15AM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
neilokuna	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill. I apologize for the late submission and I hope that this does get to the committee prior to the hearing. I am writing to strongly support the expenditure of funds to boost the Civil Air Patrol's mission in Hawaii. They provide an invaluable service as an extension of the State's Civil Defense mission in their ability to use their aircraft to reach areas in the State that cannot be covered by any of the normal warning systems. This capability is vital to reduce or prevent the loss of life in the event of an approaching tsunami or hurricane that could affect the shoreline and other low-lying areas. They are an auxiliary of the United States Air Force and are Federally funded, but I am sure that the local Squadrons could make good use of any additional funding provided by the State for their various activities. In addition to their Civil Defense-related function, the CAP also has their Cadet program which helps develop leadership skills in youth and young adults. I was a Cadet with the Kona Composite Squadron many decades ago, and while I am no longer affiliated with the CAP, the various activities and drills are still pleasant memories and the leadership skills learned also remain with me. Most recently, I, along with some of my co-workers at the FAA Honolulu Control Facility had an opportunity to host the CAP Squadron based at Hickam Air Force Base for a tour of our facility. There were approximately 30 cadets along with their adult leaders and we all felt they exemplified the best of what the youth of today can be. They were all very bright, poised and exhibited a discipline and sense of responsibility that is not often seen. In closing, I believe that any funding that the State could provide to the various Squadrons in Hawaii would be put to good use. Whether it would be used for fuel and maintenance to ensure their aircraft are always available to support the Shoreline Patrol mission and provide more opportunities for the Cadets to take flying lessons, or to put toward other leadership or educational experiences; I see the funding as an additional layer on a shield to protect the citizens of Hawaii as well as a tool to help build the leaders of tomorrow. Thank you for kind attention.

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