

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 559 SD1  
A BILL RELATING TO THE MILITARY

PRESENTATION TO  
THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

BY  
BRIGADIER GENERAL ARTHUR J. LOGAN  
ADJUTANT GENERAL  
AND DIRECTOR OF THE HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY  
March 3, 2015

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

I am Brigadier General Arthur J. Logan, State Adjutant General and the Director of the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency. I am supporting the intent of Senate Bill 559 SD1.

This measure will transform the Office of Veterans Services into the Office of Military Affairs and Veterans Services. There are appropriated funds to support the transformation and new responsibilities.

There is a need to review the additional roles and responsibilities to see if existing facilities and staffing can absorb this transformation. Without this review, this transformation could result in reduced services to our veterans.

Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony supporting the intent Senate Bill 559 SD1.



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Tuesday, March 3, 2015 at 9:05 A.M.  
Conference Room 211, State Capitol**

**RE: SB559, SD1: RELATING TO THE MILITARY**

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kamakana Kaimulua, and I am the Vice President of Military Affairs at The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii (The Chamber). The Chamber **strongly supports** SB559, SD1, which proposes to expand the office of veterans' services to include military affairs, specifies additional responsibilities that would be assumed as a result off such expansion, and appropriates funds for this purpose.

In recognizing how critical the U.S. military presence is to Hawaii's economy, the Chamber officially established a military affairs department in 1985. For 30 years the Chamber, through its Military Affairs Council (MAC), has served as the State's liaison in matters relating to the military and has been steadfast in working to protect and preserve the military's presence in Hawaii, promote public awareness and understanding of issues facing the military locally and nationally, and serve as the advocate for military and their families.

As it is noted in the bill, the defense industry is responsible for generating \$14.7 billion into Hawaii's economy, making it the state's second major source of revenues, next to tourism. Moreover, the industry accounts for creating job opportunities for more than 100,000 Hawaii residents that report annual household earnings topping \$8.7 billion annually. Despite these numbers, the State of Hawaii does not have an organizational entity that can analyze the impact of military spending, develop initiatives to target growth, or identify possible funding sources from the federal government to protect local communities from the economic impact of military downsizing or base closure. Without the ability to perform these basic functions, Hawaii is at a considerable disadvantage when it comes to competing for an ever-shrinking pool of defense dollars.

While the Chamber remains committed to serving in this role, its effectiveness is limited by both funding and its status as a non-profit business organization. Although the Chamber receives some funding from the state through the grant-in-aid program, much of the Chamber's initiatives are self-funded. Additionally, the Chamber is actively searching for grants from federal agencies to fund the possible initiatives listed above, but it would be that State that ultimately would need to develop a formal relationship with said agencies should grant money become available. As it stands, it is unclear, in many cases, which state agency or agencies would be most appropriate to oversee such opportunities.

For all of the reasons above, the Chamber strongly supports this measure.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

**SB559**

Submitted on: 2/28/2015

Testimony for WAM on Mar 3, 2015 09:05AM in Conference Room 211

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Anthony Orozco      | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**SB559**

Submitted on: 3/2/2015

Testimony for WAM on Mar 3, 2015 09:05AM in Conference Room 211

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Christopher Acosta  | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)