

# **SB 559**

## **RELATING TO THE MILITARY**

Expands the office of veterans' services to include military affairs and appropriates funds. Effective 1/1/16

PSM, WAM

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 559  
A BILL RELATING TO THE MILITARY

PRESENTATION TO  
THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY,  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS.

BY  
BRIGADIER GENERAL ARTHUR J. LOGAN  
ADJUTANT GENERAL  
AND DIRECTOR OF THE HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY  
February 5, 2015

Chair Espero, Vice Chair Baker and Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety,  
Intergovernmental and Military Affairs:

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.

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.

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 559, RELATING TO THE MILITARY  
PRESENTATION TO THE  
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY  
AFFAIRS

BY

MR. RONALD P. HAN  
DIRECTOR OF STATE OFFICE OF VETERANS SERVICES

February 5, 2015

Chair Espero, Vice Chair Baker and Committee members:

I'm Ron Han, Director of the State Office of Veterans Services (OVS). I appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony in support of the concepts in Senate Bill 559.

This measure seeks to expand the State Office of Veterans Services to include a military affairs function and the appropriate funds needed for the increase in responsibilities and roles for those purposes. The newly named; State Office of Military Affairs and Veterans Services, will need to have clearly defined roles and responsibilities and must not be quick to take on or absorb this additional mission unless additional full-time positions and funding are included. Additionally the OVS will need to work with Human Resource staff to determine the function of these added position and the level of compensation. In foresight, this function and position(s) could serve as a catalyst for interacting and collaborating with the respective military service components, to explore existing and future issues between the State and military, and to serve as a liaison on subjects requiring coordination with State and military agencies.

The OVS supports the intent expressed in this measure as long as its implementation does not impact or replace the priorities set forth in the Executive Budget for Fiscal Biennium 2015-2017.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of Hawaii's Veterans and their families.



Chamber of Commerce HAWAII  
*The Voice of Business*

**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Public Safety,  
Intergovernmental and Military Affairs  
Thursday, February 5, 2015 at 1:15 P.M.  
Conference Room 229, State Capitol**

**RE: SENATE BILL 559 RELATING TO THE MILITARY**

Chair Espero, Vice Chair Baker, 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). I am here to state that The Chamber **supports the intent of** SB 559, which proposes to expand the office of veterans' services to include military affairs and appropriate funds for such a 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 challenging the military locally and nationally, and serve as the advocate for military and their families.

While this legislation does not specifically address what additional functions the office will assume as a result of the proposed expansion and what impact this would have on current priorities and staffing needs, the importance of this legislation is that it starts a conversation about what role the State government needs to play in developing partnerships to better compete for an ever-shrinking pool of military dollars.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.