



**Levi K. Hookano**

Senate District 13

House District 27

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Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Hearing: Wednesday, April 3, 2019

Testimony in Support of HB991, HD1, SD1, Relating to State Military Forces

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I am a registered voter of Senate District 13 and House District 27. I strongly support the passage of HB991, HD1, SD1, with an immediate effective date so that our Hawaii National Guard servicemembers on full time orders can devote their undivided attention to serving our State. As a judge advocate, I have assisted many servicemembers to navigate the SCRA, however, I could not assist those serving on full time National Guard orders. This would help me and other judge advocates to do so.

The current wording of Chapter 651D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, does not protect the hundreds of Hawaii National Guard servicemembers currently serving on full time National Guard duty under Title 32, United States Code. These Soldiers and Airmen are currently excluded from civil relief protections, and they deserve this support.

The best reason for passage of this Bill is stated in the purpose of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (50, U.S.C. § 3902):

(1) to provide for, strengthen, and expedite the national defense through protection extended by [the SCRA] to servicemembers of the United States to enable such persons to devote their entire energy to the defense needs of the Nation; and

(2) to provide for the temporary suspension of judicial and administrative proceedings and transactions that may adversely affect the civil rights of servicemembers during their military service.

Passage of this Bill will support more than 600 full time Hawaii National Guard servicemembers, and many more in the future. It is for this reason that I strongly support passage, and immediate implementation, of HB991. I humbly request your support of the Hawaii National Guard.

Sincerely,

Levi K. Hookano