
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE MILITARY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the military's
2 presence in Hawaii has a significant impact on the State's
3 economy. According to the United States Department of Defense,
4 over forty-two thousand active duty military personnel are
5 assigned to Hawaii as of September 2019. The Hawaii department
6 of education estimates that Hawaii hosts over three hundred
7 thousand military personnel and their families. Although these
8 military personnel and their families engage in direct consumer
9 spending and pay taxes that contribute to Hawaii's economy, the
10 military's presence also impacts other aspects of Hawaii's
11 economy, such as education, housing, and natural resources.

12 According to the department of education, approximately
13 fourteen thousand military dependents, which represent about
14 eight per cent of the State's total student enrollment, attend
15 public schools. The legislature further finds that military
16 personnel stationed in Hawaii often require additional housing
17 near military installments, while the military operations on



1 leased lands require environmental oversight by the State, which
2 uses state resources. Understanding the amount of revenue
3 generated by military spending in Hawaii and the extent of state
4 support afforded to military personnel will help the legislature
5 craft fiscal policy that safeguards the public trust and
6 advances the common good.

7 The purpose of this Act is to establish a task force to
8 evaluate the economic impact of the military's presence in
9 Hawaii.

10 SECTION 2. (a) There is established within the department
11 of business, economic development, and tourism for
12 administrative purposes a task force to study the economic
13 impact of the military's presence in Hawaii. The task force
14 shall consist of the following voting members:

- 15 (1) The director of budget and finance, or the director's
16 designee, who shall serve as the chairperson of the
17 task force;
- 18 (2) The director of business, economic development, and
19 tourism, or the director's designee;
- 20 (3) The chairperson of the board of land and natural
21 resources, or the chairperson's designee;



- 1 (4) The superintendent of education, or the
- 2 superintendent's designee;
- 3 (5) The executive director of the Hawaii housing finance
- 4 and development corporation, or the executive
- 5 director's designee;
- 6 (6) The chief executive officer of the office of Hawaiian
- 7 affairs, or the chief executive officer's designee;
- 8 (7) A representative with military experience as a senior
- 9 official of the United States armed forces;
- 10 (8) A representative from a nonprofit, public interest
- 11 organization specializing in Native Hawaiian rights
- 12 law;
- 13 (9) A representative from a nonprofit, interfaith
- 14 organization in Hawaii; and
- 15 (10) A representative from a nonprofit, public interest
- 16 organization that advocates on behalf of low income
- 17 individuals and families in Hawaii on civil legal
- 18 issues of statewide importance.
- 19 (b) Task force members shall serve without compensation,
- 20 but shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in the
- 21 performance of their duties, including travel expenses.



- 1 (c) The task force shall evaluate the economic impact of
2 the military's presence in Hawaii, including its impact on:
- 3 (1) Funding for public education, including the extent to
4 which federal impact aid reimbursements received by
5 the department of education fulfill the expenditures
6 required to meet the educational needs of federally
7 connected students;
- 8 (2) Hawaii's housing supply, including the availability
9 and cost of housing and the cost of rent in
10 communities located near military installations;
- 11 (3) Land use and environmental considerations, including
12 the cost to the State of monitoring, inspecting, and
13 restoring lands leased by the military to preserve
14 trust lands;
- 15 (4) Consumer spending by military personnel and their
16 families; and
- 17 (5) Any other issues deemed relevant by the task force.
- 18 (d) The task force shall submit a report of its findings
19 and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
20 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
21 the regular session of 2021.



1 (e) The task force shall cease to exist on December 31,
2 2020.

3 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.
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INTRODUCED BY: Amy Peruso

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H.B. NO. 1935

Report Title:

Military; Economic Impact; Task Force

Description:

Establishes a task force to evaluate the economic impact of the military's presence in Hawaii.

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HB HMS 2019-4571

