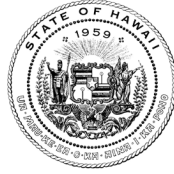


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



THOMAS WILLIAMS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

KANOE MARGOL
DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**STATE OF HAWAII
EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM**

**TESTIMONY BY THOMAS WILLIAMS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
STATE OF HAWAII**

**TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT
ON**

HOUSE BILL NO. 2485

**February 13, 2020
9:00 A.M.
Conference Room 309**

RELATING TO HAWAII NATIONAL GUARD RETIREMENT BENEFITS.

Chair Johanson, Vice Chair Eli, and Members of the Committee,

H.B. 2485 requires the Board of Trustees of the Employees' Retirement System of the State of Hawaii (ERS) to conduct a study and recommend State retirement benefits for Hawaii national guard personnel who are activated under State active duty orders. Although the ERS Board recognizes the supportive intent of the bill to research possible retirement programs for the national guard program, the Board must respectfully oppose the bill's directive regarding its involvement in this study.

Currently, when active members of the ERS are required to take a military leave without pay due to activation by the national guard, all or a portion of the leave period may be credited by the ERS upon certification and payment of all required contributions by the member's employer. This provision, under section 88-132, HRS, applies to ERS members only, and does not apply to non-eligible employees. The duties of the ERS board, as fiduciaries of the trust, should be focused exclusively on the benefits of its members and beneficiaries. H.B. 2485 addresses an activated national guard population who are not employees of the State or county and are not members of the ERS.

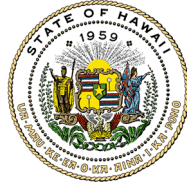


Employees' Retirement System
of the State of Hawaii

If the legislature wishes to pursue a possible retirement program for activated national guard personnel, perhaps the Department of Human Resources Development (DHRD) would be best equipped to research and provide the legislature with information on a program for these part-time employees. DHRD currently administers the PTS Deferred Compensation Retirement Plan for part-time, temporary, seasonal/casual employees of the State and a similar retirement program appears to be best suited for this group of employees.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on H.B. 2485.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



KENNETH S. HARA
MAJOR GENERAL
ADJUTANT GENERAL

STEPHEN F. LOGAN
COLONEL
DEPUTY ADJUTANT GENERAL

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
3949 DIAMOND HEAD ROAD
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816-4495

TESTIMONY ON
HOUSE BILL 2485, RELATING TO

PRESENTATION TO:
THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

By

BRIGADIER GENERAL MOSES KAOIWI JR.
DIRECTOR OF JOINT STAFF, HAWAII NATIONAL GUARD
LAND COMPONENT COMMANDER, HAWAII ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

February 13, 2020

Good morning Chairperson Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair Stacelynn K.M. Eli, and members of the Committee on Labor & Public Employment.

I am Brigadier General Moses Kaiwi. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony of HB 2485.

The Hawaii National Guard supports the intent expressed in this measure provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget.

Currently Hawaii National Guard Members do not have state retirement benefits when placed on State Active Duty. A study could determine whether state retirement benefits for State Active Duty service is feasible for the State of Hawaii. A state retirement for State Active Duty service may also provide added incentives for Hawaii residents to join the Hawaii National Guard.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony to support the intent of HB 2485 with comments.

BG Moses Kaiwi Jr.: moses.kaiwi.mil@mail.mil; 808-844-6005

HB-2485

Submitted on: 2/12/2020 12:26:23 PM

Testimony for LAB on 2/13/2020 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sophia L. Hensz	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB2485

Late Testimonies

HB-2485

Submitted on: 2/12/2020 4:12:09 PM

Testimony for LAB on 2/13/2020 9:00:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ramon Quizon	Hawaii Air National Guard Enlisted Association	Support	No

Comments:

As President of the Hawaii National Guard Enlisted Association, a non-profit veterans association advocating on behalf the 4,600 enlisted soldiers and airmen of the Hawaii National Guard, urge support of HB 2485.

Respectfully,

R.MAUI QUIZON, SMSgt (retired), HIANG

President, HNGEA

BENEFITS.

Report Title: ERS Board of Trustees; Study; National Guard; Appropriation (\$)

Description: Requires the board of trustees of the employees' retirement system to conduct a study and recommend state retirement benefits for Hawaii national guard members who are activated under state active duty orders. Appropriates funds.

Companion:

BENEFITS.

Report Title: ERS Board of Trustees; Study; National Guard; Appropriation (\$)

Description: Requires the board of trustees of the employees' retirement system to conduct a study and recommend state retirement benefits for Hawaii national guard members who are activated under state active duty orders. Appropriates funds.

Companion:

LATE

HB-2485

Submitted on: 2/13/2020 8:52:51 AM
Testimony for LAB on 2/13/2020 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marco Mendez	Hawaii National Guard Enlisted Association	Support	No

Comments:

It is with great pleasure to support HB2485 on behalf of the Soldiers and Airman on the Hawaii National Guard.

Our Soldiers and Airman maintain a level of readiness in order to be ready to respond to state emergencies. When our members are put into State Active Duty (SAD) in order to respond to emergencies across our state our members are making a great sacrifice, this study will demonstrate that while our members are in SAD orders since they are not getting any of the benefits that Federal Active Duty orders comes with (which includes retirement) it would make complete sense to at the least give our members equal benefits to include retirement while serving our great Aloha State across the spectrum of emergencies we face and will continue to face.

Carswell J. Ross, Jr. MA, CMSgt USAF (Ret.)
Waipahu Hawaii

LATE

12 February 2020

TO

THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2020

COMMITTEE ON LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

Rep. Aaron Ling Johnson, Chair

Rep. Stacelynn K.M. Eli, Vice Chair

Good morning Chair Johnson and Vice Chair Eli and members of the Committee on Labor and Public Employment. I am testifying in support of HB 2485, Relating to Hawaii National Guard Retirement.

I served in and retired from the Hawaii Air National Guard. During my service I had the opportunity to travel to various locations within the United States and foreign countries. I served in Hawaii during Hurricane Iniki and witnessed firsthand the devastation caused by wind and rain to homes on Oahu. I spoke with families whose homes and lives were forever changed by the loss of their lifestyle. Several of these individuals were members of the Guard who had been called to State Active duty to support these relief efforts. In previous years Hawaii National Guard members were called to State active duty of relatively short periods, however due to climate change individuals can and have been called to serve in a State capacity for months. The need to determine if these individuals will be fairly compensated during state duty should be known. Additionally the type of benefits that they accrue should also be known.

The purpose of this measure is to require the board of trustees of the employee' retirement system to conduct a study and recommend if a retirement system should be developed for Hawaii National Guard members who are activated under State active duty orders.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of this measure.

LATE

From: RANGLES, MOSES L MSgt USAF ANG 297 ATCS/CCF [<mailto:moses.randles@us.af.mil>]

Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2020 4:51 PM

To: Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson <repjohanson@capitol.hawaii.gov>; Rep. Gregg Takayama <reptakayama@capitol.hawaii.gov>

Subject: Supporting HB 2485

Hello,

The Guardsman is always around to support the State in times of emergency/unrest.

We should not only be paid in a timely manner, but we deserve our service to be counted towards our retirement as well.

I strongly support HB 2485, and I'm requesting a study to recommend state retirement benefits for Hawaii National Guard members who are activated under State Active Duty orders. I urge the LAB/PVM Committees to support and pass HB 2485.

//SIGNED//

Moses L. Randles, MSgt, HIANG

First Sergeant

297th Air Traffic Control Squadron

Guard all the way...

LATE

From: HEMA, GARY K CMSgt NG ANG 154 MXS/MXM2 [<mailto:gary.hema.1@us.af.mil>]

Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2020 11:50 AM

To: Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson <repjohanson@capitol.hawaii.gov>; Rep. Gregg Takayama <reptakayama@capitol.hawaii.gov>

Subject: HB2485

I strongly support HB 2485, requesting a study to recommend state retirement benefits for Hawaii National Guard members who are activated under State Active Duty orders, and urge the LAB/PVM Committees to support and pass HB 2485.

Gary K. Hema, CMSgt
Hawaii Air National Guard
KC-135 MXS Superintendent
COMM (808) 789-1030
DSN (315) 447-1030