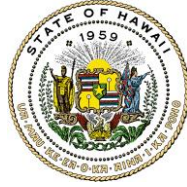


DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



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 SENATE BILL 1112 SD2 HD1  
RELATING TO THE HAWAII NATIONAL GUARD

PRESENTATION TO THE  
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

BY

MAJOR GENERAL KENNETH S. HARA  
ADJUTANT GENERAL  
DIRECTOR OF THE HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY  
AND HOMELAND SECURITY ADVISOR

April 6, 2022

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and Members of the Committee on Finance.

I am Major General Kenneth Hara, Adjutant General, Director of the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency and Homeland Security Advisor.

The Department of Defense (DOD) provides written testimony in SUPPORT of SB 1112 SD2 HD1.

This bill changes the current rank requirement to become the Adjutant General from the minimum rank of a field grade officer (Major at the grade of O4) to a federally recognized Colonel at the grade of O6 in the Army or Air Force. Furthermore, it also requires that the selected Colonel has the ability to be promoted into the rank of Brigadier General.

In today's strategic environment, the rank of Major does not have the military education and experience to operate at the level of Senior Colonels and General Officers. Yet the position of Adjutant General for the State of Hawai'i requires the Adjutant General to operate and make decisions with military education and experience commensurate of a Senior Colonel. An education and experience gap of approximately ten years exist between the rank of Major and Colonel. In order for the State of Hawaii to maintain credibility among its National and International counterparts, and have the best person possible to lead the National Guard in a natural or manmade disaster, Hawai'i needs an Adjutant General with the military education and experience that a Senior Colonel has as well as the ability to be promoted and federally recognized as a General Officer within the Army National Guard or Air National Guard.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony to support of SB 1112 SD2 HD1.

MG Kenneth S. Hara: kenneth.s.hara@hawaii.gov; 808-672-1211  
BG Moses Kaoiwi Jr.: moses.kaoiwi.mil@mail.mil; 808-844-6005