

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CORRECTIONS, MILITARY AND
VETERANS 03-22-24

Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Chair
Rep. Cory M. Chun, Vice Chair
ON

HCR 216 / HR 196 URGING THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO
DECREASE THE
OVERALL NUMBER OF MILITARY MEMBERS STATIONED IN HAWAII

by
Scott W. Smart

Chairman Hashem and members of the House Committee on CMV:

I am testifying OPPOSING HCR 216 / HR 196

Data from DBEDT here: <https://defenseeconomy.hawaii.gov/> shows that defense is the 2nd largest sector of the Hawaii economy, representing 8.9% of Hawaii GDP and \$8.8 billion in spending. Hawaii receives major benefits from this spending, in addition to the prime requirement to defend Hawaii against all enemies, foreign and domestic.

Of course, in the process of providing this benefit it is necessary to accommodate defense workers, both uniformed and civilian. I note that Hawaii already, unique among the 50 states, denies representation to military members and their families in the legislature by removing them from the reapportionment census.

The cause of Hawaii's residential housing shortage is POLICY ENACTED BY THE STATE AND COUNTIES as regards land use and residential construction. If the legislature is concerned about housing, it should consider measures directly under the control of the legislature, and not attempt to place blame on military members and their families.

/s/

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HCR-216

Submitted on: 3/20/2024 10:51:36 AM

Testimony for CMV on 3/22/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chuck Lyons	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I oppose HCR216, (although I can understand the intent wrt affordable housing), because of the short and long term financial impact to Hawaii.

Now is not the time to decrease revenue in Hawaii. Still recovering after two years of COVID restrictions, although tourism is coming back, it's still not as it once was. Maui fires have a financial impact unlike anything seen before.

Now is simply not the time to encourage a decrease in revenue.

Thanks,

Chuck L

As a resident of the State of Hawaii, I strongly oppose HCR 216/HR 196. Hawaii is the "Aloha" State. Since when do the legislators decide who should be deployed to our State. This bill to urge decrease in overall number of military members stationed in Hawaii and increase the percentage unmarried or have no accompanying dependents is plain outright discriminatory. Having the military here in Hawaii is a great comfort and peace of mind for us as residents in the State.

Why should the married men/women not bring their dependents with them to Hawaii if it is allowed. Would you want to leave your spouse and children for "X" number of years, while you devote your life to serve your country?

As an "Aloha" state, family is Ohana a physical, spiritual and mental bonding between each other. To have the military here without their family would not allow the men and women to have that bonding, especially those with young children.

In addition, I think the military takes good care of their members by providing them with housing, medical, food and education. They also help our state's economy when the families shop outside of the military bases. They also pay for outside housing if military housing is not available thereby providing Hawaii home/apartment owners rental income.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony. I just hope you will remember Hawaii as the "Aloha" State when making your decision on HCR 216/HR 196,

Sincerely,
Melani Wapara
Josephine Malane
Kallie

2/20/2024

3/20/2024

3/20/24