



COMMENTS ON HCR 218 / HR 198

REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO PROVIDE AN ANNUAL REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE ON THE AVAILABILITY AND AFFORDABILITY OF MILITARY HOUSING IN HAWAII

House Committee on Corrections, Military, & Veterans
The Honorable Mark J. Hashem, Chair
The Honorable Cory M. Chun, Vice Chair

Friday, March 22, 2024 at 9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 430 & Videoconference

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Chun, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Military Affairs Council ("MAC") **offers comments** on HCR 218 and HR 198.

The MAC was established in 1985 when the Chamber was appointed by the State to serve as the liaison to the military. The MAC advocates on behalf of Hawaii's military, and is comprised of business leaders, academic institutions, State and County officials, members of the CODEL, community leaders, labor unions and organizations and retired U.S. flag and general officers. The MAC works to support Hawaii's location as a strategic U.S. headquarters in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region which is crucial for U.S. national and homeland security.

Service branches and the MAC have been actively working and discussing with our Congressional Delegation (CODEL) to address accessibility of homes and the high occupancy rates on military bases.

Specifically, the FY 2024 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) makes significant investments in infrastructure projects for military family housing and the replacement of poor and failing unaccompanied housing. It enacts numerous U.S. Government Accountability Office (U.S. GAO) recommendations to improve both family



and unaccompanied housing. Specifically, it authorizes \$1.5 billion in investments for military family housing, adds \$205 million to the barracks replacement fund, and authorizes the investment of \$392 million for construction, planning, and design of barracks and dormitories across the defense enterprise.

Additionally, through our active engagement with our CODEL, Sec. 2874 of the FY 2024 NDAA provides that there be a Joint Housing Requirements and Market Analysis for each covered military installation in Hawaii.

This is a priority for the MAC and we are taking seriously and reviewing the best options to be able to do their part to alleviate the affordable housing strain in Hawaii. We will continue to work with all parties to set forth a plan to increase the military housing inventory for military families and service members.

We will be pleased to keep the Committee informed of our efforts and believe this resolution is not necessary.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments on this matter.