

**HAWAI'I NATIONAL GUARD  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE JOINT STAFF  
3949 DIAMOND HEAD ROAD  
HONOLULU, HAWAI'I 96816-4495**

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 1382  
RELATING TO THE NATIONAL GUARD

BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

BY

BRIGADIER GENERAL WALTER R. ROSS, JR.  
DIRECTOR OF THE JOINT STAFF  
HAWAII NATIONAL GUARD

MARCH 18, 2025

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice-Chair Poepoe, and members of the Committee:

I am Brigadier General Walter Ross, Director of the Joint Staff, Hawaii National Guard, State of Hawaii, Department of Defense.

I am presenting this testimony in **SUPPORT** of SB1382.

I strongly support SB1382. It is imperative that you pass this vital bill to provide National Guard servicemembers with the legal protection they need and rightfully deserve. These brave individuals selflessly serve our communities under high-pressure and stressful conditions during state emergencies and urgent domestic response situations, demonstrating exceptional courage and dedication. They often put their lives on the line to serve our communities in moments of crisis, such as natural disasters and other emergencies, to save lives, prevent human suffering, and mitigate great property damage. Establishing this crucial legal safeguard will protect them while they carry out their duties, ensuring they can effectively fulfill their responsibilities in service to the State of Hawaii.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

BG Walter R. Ross, Jr., [waltre.r.ross2.mil@army.mil](mailto:waltre.r.ross2.mil@army.mil); 808-844-6087

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
GOVERNOR  
KE KIA'ĀINA



**STEPHEN F. LOGAN**  
MAJOR GENERAL  
ADJUTANT GENERAL  
KA 'AKUKANA KENELALA

**PHILLIP L. MALLORY**  
BRIGADIER GENERAL  
DEPUTY ADJUTANT GENERAL  
KA HOPE 'AKUKANA KENELALA

STATE OF HAWAII  
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I  
**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**  
**KA 'OIHANA PILI KAUA**  
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL  
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HONOLULU, HAWAI'I 96816-4495

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 1382  
RELATING TO THE NATIONAL GUARD

BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

BY

MAJOR GENERAL STEPHEN F. LOGAN  
ADJUTANT GENERAL  
AND DIRECTOR OF HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

MARCH 19, 2025

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice-Chair Poepoe, and members of the committee:

I am Major General Stephen Logan, Adjutant General and Director of the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency, State of Hawaii, Department of Defense.

The Department of Defense provides testimony in **SUPPORT** of SB1382. This measure amends the Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS), Chapter 707-711 and authorizes greater protection for Hawaii National Guard (HING) servicemembers while performing their duty in service to the State. If passed, the bill will authorize any intentional or deliberate act resulting in injury to National Guard members to be classified as a Class C felony, ensuring their service and sacrifices are honored and protected.

The HING places significant emphasis on selflessly serving the State of Hawai'i, but we also want to ensure the welfare of the dedicated women and men who support the State during disasters and emergencies. HING personnel and members from other states on Emergency Management Agreement Compacts (EMAC) serving the State deserve a level of respect and protection when faced with aggressive individuals.

During the 2023 Maui wildfires, HING servicemembers were called upon to secure the impact zones and traffic control points. This support by the HING allowed local law enforcement to focus on their primary duties and other law enforcement responsibilities throughout the county. While most interactions with the HING at these zones and points were very peaceful and without incident, our servicemembers encountered several belligerent individuals, one of whom resorted to violence against a HING servicemember.

As local law enforcement confronts capacity challenges, National Guard members will continue to be called to provide additional support during state disasters and civil disturbances, especially in critical state emergencies. Currently, the legal protections afforded to our National Guard servicemembers are inadequate, as typically assailants who cause bodily harm are only charged with a misdemeanor.

We ask that you please support the safety of our dedicated women and men of the National Guard. They serve a vital role in upholding law and order during times of crisis and should receive protections equal to those granted to other public servants such as fire fighters, emergency medical service providers and law enforcement officers.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

MG Stephen F. Logan, [Stephen.f.logan@hawaii.gov](mailto:Stephen.f.logan@hawaii.gov); 808-672-1001

HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT  
KA 'OIHANA MĀKA'I O HONOLULU  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

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HOPE LUNA NUI MĀKA'I

OUR REFERENCE TC-KK

March 20, 2025

The Honorable David A. Tarnas, Chair  
and Members  
Committee on Judiciary  
and Hawaiian Affairs  
House of Representatives  
415 South Beretania Street, Room 325  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Tarnas and Members:

SUBJECT: Senate Bill No. 1382, Relating to the National Guard

I am Thomas Chang, Captain of the Criminal Investigation Division of the Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu.

The HPD supports Senate Bill No. 1382, Relating to the National Guard.

This bill will provide a crucial safeguard for our National Guard members, shielding them from assaults while they carry out their essential duties. The National Guard members play a pivotal role in maintaining the safety of our communities and country. Signing these measures into law will significantly enhance the protection of National Guard members from potential threats and harm.

The HPD urges you to support Senate Bill No. 1382, Relating to the National Guard.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

APPROVED:

Sincerely,

  
Arthur J. Logan  
Chief of Police

  
Thomas Chang, Captain  
Criminal Investigation Division