

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

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 88
RELATING TO THE HAWAII NATIONAL GUARD
BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

BY

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

MARCH 10, 2025

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice-Chair Iwamoto, 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 SB88.

I strongly support SB88. Passing this bill is vital to guarantee that Hawaii National Guard (HING) servicemembers receive the necessary medical coverage when they are called to serve on State Active Duty over thirty days in support of the state during disasters or times of domestic crisis. Our HING servicemembers make significant sacrifices to protect and selflessly serve our communities, and they deserve this essential safeguard for their health and well-being.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

BG Walter R. Ross, Jr., waltrr.r.ross2.mil@army.mil; 808-844-6087

SB-88

Submitted on: 3/6/2025 4:46:00 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/12/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mike Golojuch, Sr.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB88. Please pass this bill.

Michael Golojuch, Sr., Lt Col, USAF(Ret)

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2025**

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

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SB88 - A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE HAWAII NATIONAL GUARD

Date of Hearing: Wednesday, March 12, 2025, 9:30 AM

Location of Hearing: VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE; Conference Room 411; State Capitol; 415 South Beretania Street

IN SUPPORT of SB88

Aloha, my name is Haleigh Tu'umalo, and I am both a member of the Hawai'i National Guard (HING) and a master's in public health student (Health Policy and Management) at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. I am testifying in favor of SB88, a bill for an act relating to the Hawai'i National Guard.

I strongly support SB88 as it addresses the critical need for healthcare access for HING service members activated for more than thirty days. As a HING service member, I have personally experienced the challenges of accessing healthcare that our Active-Duty counterparts receive. This bill proposes allowances for TRICARE reserve select, TRICARE dental, and vision coverage, ensuring that those serving our state have the necessary healthcare support.

Access to healthcare is a barrier many people face. Promoting access, especially for HING service members activated for thirty days or more, is essential. This bill provides the much-needed coverage for those who serve our state.

As a Health Policy graduate student at UH Mānoa, I fully understand the importance of healthcare access. This bill ensures that HING service members and their families receive the support they need, promoting overall health and well-being. It is our kuleana to ensure that those who dedicate their lives to protecting our great state are assured of the support they need.

In closing, I urge the committee to pass SB88 to ensure that HING service members have the necessary healthcare access when activated. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Very Respectfully,
Haleigh Tu'umalo

SB-88

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 6:58:51 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/12/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Frank Schultz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this initiative.