



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
HEADQUARTERS HAWAII AIR NATIONAL GUARD  
FORT RUGER, HONOLULU HAWAII

28 January 2025

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 1381  
RELATING TO THE HAWAII NATIONAL GUARD

BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON  
PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

BY

MAJOR GENERAL JOSEPH R. HARRIS II  
CHIEF OF STAFF, HAWAII AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Aloha Chair Elefante, Vice Chair Wakai, and members of the committee:

I am Major General Joseph Harris, Chief of Staff, Hawaii Air National Guard, State of Hawaii, Department of Defense.

I am providing written testimony in **SUPPORT** of SB1381.

This measure amends Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS), Chapter 121 and authorizes the department to appoint either the Chief of Staff or Assistant Adjutant General-Air to command the Hawaii Air National Guard as a Major General. Currently this isn't possible due to the Brigadier General rank ceiling on the Assistant Adjutant General-Air position.

Most states are only authorized a Brigadier General to lead their Air National Guard, and that Brigadier General is assigned as the Assistant Adjutant General-Air. In 2016, the Department of the Air Force authorized Hawaii a Major General to lead the Hawaii Air National Guard, due to the size and complexity of the Hawaii Air National Guard. This higher-grade authorization should have been assigned to the Assistant Adjutant General-Air position, but could only be assigned to the Chief of Staff position because of the HRS rank ceiling on the Assistant Adjutant General-Air position.

Most Air National Guard instructions refer to the Assistant Adjutant General-Air as the leader of the State's Air National Guard. However, due to the Assistant Adjutant General-Air rank ceiling of Brigadier General in the State of Hawaii, the Chief of Staff leads our organization as a Major General. This incongruity currently leads to

confusion in the chain of command and could lead to missteps in administrative and operational taskings.

We support this change to clarify and align the Air National Guard chain of command in Hawaii with applicable Air National Guard instructions and the other 53 states and territories.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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KA HOPE 'AKUKANA KENELALA

STATE OF HAWAII  
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I  
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STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 1381  
RELATING TO THE HAWAII NATIONAL GUARD

BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON  
PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

BY

MAJOR GENERAL STEPHEN F. LOGAN  
ADJUTANT GENERAL, HAWAII NATIONAL GUARD  
AND DIRECTOR OF THE HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

JANUARY 30, 2025

Aloha Chair Elefante, Vice-Chair Wakai and members of the committee:

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

The Department of Defense (DEF) provides written testimony in **SUPPORT** of SB1381.

This measure amends Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS), Chapter 121 and authorizes the department to appoint either the Chief of Staff or Assistant Adjutant General-Air to head the Hawaii Air National Guard. The chief of staff position authorized rank is Major General, while the Assistant Adjutant General-Air has an authorized rank of Brigadier General.

Most states are only authorized a Brigadier General to serve as the highest rank in the State's Air National Guard. However, the Department of the Air Force authorized Hawaii to have a Major General for the air component, due to the size and complexity of the Hawaii Air National Guard. Under current Hawaii law, the Assistant Adjutant General-Air, is the head of the air division and as such is the only one who can sign

orders related to that designation. Because of this statute limitation, the Major General authorization was assigned to the Chief of Staff position.

Most of the Air National Guard instructions refer to Assistant Adjutant General-Air as the leader of the State's Air National Guard. However, due to the Assistant Adjutant General-Air rank ceiling of Brigadier General in the State of Hawaii, the Chief of Staff leads Hawaii Air National Guard as a Major General. The incongruency leads to confusion in the chain of command and could lead to missteps in administrative and operational taskings.

We support this change to streamline the chain of command and provide the Adjutant General the flexibility of appointing either the Chief of Staff or the Assistant Adjutant General-Air to head the Hawaii Air National Guard. The change would allow the flexibility in the appointment of the senior Air Guard officer to head the Hawaii Air National Guard.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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