

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
KA 'OIHANA PILI KAUA
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
3949 DIAMOND HEAD ROAD
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816-4495

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

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

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 3240 SD1
RELATING TO THE MILITARY AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICE
BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

BY

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

February 23, 2026

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Moriwaki, 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 SB3240 SD1.

This important legislation signifies a crucial investment in enhancing intergovernmental coordination for military and defense activities. It allocates funding to the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism for the Military Affairs Community Relations Office (MACRO). MACRO acts as a vital link between Hawaii's military and civilian sectors by promoting mutual respect and understanding through collaboration on issues significant to both the Department of Defense and the State of Hawaii.

By providing essential funding, this legislation will enable MACRO to continue fostering collaboration and communication among military, local, state, and federal entities. This investment will help maintain an environment where trust and understanding can flourish, benefiting Hawaii's residents while supporting national security objectives. Ultimately, this investment will aid MACRO in building a more cohesive relationship between the military and the people of Hawaii—one that honors shared values and advances the interests of our state and our nation.

The Hawaii National Guard, Department of Defense, supports this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget.

For these reasons, I humbly ask for your support with this measure.

Brigadier General Walter R. Ross, Jr., walter.r.ross2.mil@army.mil; 808-844-6087

**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair**

**Wednesday, February 25, 2026, at 10:56AM
Conference Room 211 & Videoconference**

RE: SB3240 SD1 Relating to the Military and Community Relations Office

Aloha e Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Sherry Menor, President and CEO of the Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber"). The Chamber supports Senate Bill 3240 (SB3240), which appropriates funds to the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism for the Military Affairs Community Relations Office (MACRO) to strengthen intergovernmental coordination for military and defense activities.

SB3240 aligns with our 2030 Blueprint for Hawaii: An Economic Action Plan, specifically under the policy pillar for Military & Defense. The military constitutes a significant portion of the State's economic and workforce landscape, supporting thousands of local jobs, small businesses, and education-to-career pathways. Maintaining strong, consistent community relations is essential to ensuring a positive and productive working relationship between the military and the public.

The Chamber supports the mission of MACRO: "... to promote positive relationships between Hawai'i's military and civilian sectors by fostering mutual respect and understanding through collaboration on issues important to both the United States Department of Defense and the State of Hawai'i." Given Hawaii's geopolitical importance, the Chamber believes supporting a positive military-community relationship is especially important as international relations, technologies, and workforce needs continue to evolve. MACRO's dedication to creating opportunities for workforce development, contributing towards emergency preparedness, community leadership through infrastructure improvement, and increasing access to contract opportunities for local businesses makes the Office a powerful agent within the business landscape. Such efforts in community partnership result in improvements in economic resilience and community resilience at large. The Chamber believes that an investment in MACRO is an investment in a more resilient economy marked by military partnership.

We respectfully ask to pass Senate Bill 3240 SD1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii is the state's leading business advocacy organization, dedicated to improving Hawaii's economy and securing Hawaii's future for growth and opportunity. Our mission is to foster a vibrant economic climate. As such, we support initiatives and policies that align with the 2030



Chamber *of* Commerce HAWAII



Blueprint for Hawaii that create opportunities to strengthen overall competitiveness, improve the quantity and skills of available workforce, diversify the economy, and build greater local wealth.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 10:53:22 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2026 10:56:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dave Mulinix	Testifying for Greenpeace Hawaii	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and WAM Committee Members,

My name is Dave Mulinix, Co-Founder & Hawaii State Representative for Greenpeace Hawaii. On behalf of Greenpeace Hawaii's thousands of members and supporters statewide we stand in STRONG OPPOSITION to SB3240 SD1 that Appropriates funds to the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism through the Military and Community Relations Office to strengthen intergovernmental coordination for military and defense activities. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

We find the following section of this legislation focused on indoctrinating our children starting in kindergarten to choose the military as a career path to be particularly egregious and essentially unethical: *“The legislature also believes that strategic coordination is necessary to integrate the exposure of students in grades kindergarten through twelve to early college opportunities, internships, and direct-to-career pathways, and to align workforce development with Hawaii's evolving industrial and defense-related needs.”*

The US military does not need any more help from Hawaii tax payers' tight budgets to recruit students into their services. The US Department of War budget for 2026 is \$1.42 Trillion. The US spends 10 times more on the military then the next 10 countries combined and 8 of which are US allies, and we are not even at war. By comparison, China spends \$247 billion and Russia spends only \$149 billion on their military.

The US military already has a very robust recruitment system in Hawaii with some 47 military recruiting offices across the state, as well as, access to job fairs at Hawaii High School and College Campuses. The US Department of War will spend over \$640 million on recruitment advertising this year. As our youth sit and wait to see films in our local movie theaters, advertisements flash across the screen prior to the film showing encouraging Hawaii's youth to be all they can be and join the military. It is also very well known that the military will pay for the college education of our youth when they join. Since many low-income youth cannot afford a college education, this is their only way to get a college education, which essentially creates a poverty draft.

As we are all aware, the State has a very tight budget this year, and the federal budget is also being cut putting essential social services at risk of losing funding.

We know that the Hawaii State economy is predominantly based on income from tourism and the military. Legislation like this is siloing our youth into only two career path choice fields. To ensure a robust economic future Hawaii must expand job opportunities into other essential career fields, like teaching, doctoring, nursing, renewable energy, and sustainable agricultural development.

Please VOTE NO on SB3240 SD1, because Hawaii tax payers cannot afford to waste our hard earned money on recruitment for the extremely well funded Department of War.

Mahalo

Dave Mulinix

Co-Founder & Hawaii State Representative

Greenpeace Hawaii



**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 3240 SD1
RELATING TO THE MILITARY AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICE**

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 25, 2026 at 10:56 AM
Conference Room 211 or via Videoconference

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Military Affairs Council ("MAC") supports SB 3240 SD1.

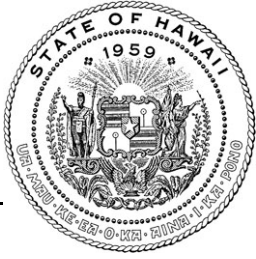
The MAC was established in 1985 when the Chamber was appointed by the State to serve as the liaison to the military. The MAC advocates on behalf of Hawaii's military, and is comprised of business leaders, academic institutions, State and County officials, members of the CODEL, community leaders, labor 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.

Military and Community Relations Office (MACRO) plays an essential role in strengthening coordination between Hawai'i's military commands, state and county agencies, educational institutions, and community partners. As federal investment and defense activity continue to grow, the need for a centralized, trusted point of coordination has become increasingly important to ensure projects advance efficiently and that benefits reach Hawai'i's residents.

MACRO's work directly supports Hawai'i's economic resilience and workforce development. The office helps local companies navigate federal procurement pathways, aligns education and training programs with defense-sector workforce needs, and facilitates communication among agencies during high-impact projects. These efforts translate federal activity into local jobs, contracts, and long-term opportunities for Hawai'i's communities.

SB 3240 SD1 provides the resources needed to expand this work statewide and ensure Hawai'i continues to benefit from its strategic role in the Indo-Pacific. For these reasons, the Hawaii Military Affairs Council respectfully requests your support of this measure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**
KA 'OIHANA HO'OMOHALA PĀ'OIHANA, 'IMI WAIWAI
A HO'OMĀKA'IKA'I

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Statement of
LAURIE MCALLISTER MOORE
Executive Director
Military and Community Relations Office
Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Wednesday, February 25, 2026
10:56 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211
TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB3240
RELATING TO THE MILITARY AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICE.

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee:

The Military and Community Relations Office (MACRO) within the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism respectfully submits testimony in support of SB3240. MACRO serves as the State's day-to-day connector between military commands, state and county agencies, schools, businesses, and community stakeholders helping partners navigate issues that rarely fall within a single agency's lane, from installation infrastructure needs and land coordination to workforce alignment and economic opportunity planning. As defense activity and federal investment in Hawai'i continue, this centralized coordination role has become increasingly essential to keeping projects moving efficiently and ensuring the benefits reach local communities.

In practice, this work is highly operational. MACRO has supported efforts that connect local companies with federal buyers and contracting pathways, helped align community college and training programs with shipyard and industrial workforce needs, coordinated with installations and state agencies to address infrastructure and community interface challenges, and convened cross-sector partners to streamline communication during high-impact projects. These examples demonstrate how targeted capacity within one office can remove barriers, accelerate timelines, and translate federal activity into jobs, contracts, and tangible outcomes for Hawai'i residents. Additional resources would allow us to scale these efforts statewide and respond more proactively as opportunities arise.

Specifically, this funding would support:

- (1) business readiness and compliance assistance to help Hawai'i companies navigate federal procurement and cybersecurity requirements;
 - (2) strengthened education-to-career pathways through partnerships with schools, community colleges, and training providers that connect residents to internships, apprenticeships, and direct placement in defense and industrial base careers; and
 - (3) targeted initiatives that grow in-state manufacturing, repair, and sustainment capacity, reducing reliance on off-island supply chains and keeping federal dollars circulating locally.
- We are grateful for any support in MACRO's coordination and workforce capacities, as this

measure would improve public service, economic resilience, and Hawai'i's ability to capture and retain federal opportunities that benefit our communities statewide. Mahalo for your consideration and for your continued support of efforts that strengthen both our readiness and local economy.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 3:13:38 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2026 10:56:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support SB3240. Please pass this bill.

Mike Golojuch, Sr, Lt Col, USAF(Ret)

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 6:44:58 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2026 10:56:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L.Perry, Support the INTENT OF THE SB

3240 SB RELATING TO THE MILITARY AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICE.

60% WORKERS FROM THE 808, 5 YEARS RESIDENTENCE

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 7:53:13 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2026 10:56:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carlos A. Santana	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support SB3240.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 8:00:51 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2026 10:56:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sherry Pollack	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As if this year, the Department of War has **\$1.42 Trillion** in budgetary resources, while at the same time States are facing deep cuts in federal funding for Medicaid and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), amounting to hundreds of billions in cuts.

This bill notes what the military has been telling our communities for years, that Hawai‘i is important to the military due to “its strategic location.” Hawai‘i is so important, yet we need to use \$1,300,000, or even \$1 from what’s left of our tax dollars to court them?

I strongly oppose this measure that would lead to further militarization of Hawai‘i. We have to envision a future that does not revolve around U.S. military dominance and control. Instead, we need to support workforce development and opportunities that will **improve** life here.

Our funds should be allocated to build and bolster sectors that our residents desperately need—research and development on clean transportation, building materials, energy autonomy, food sovereignty, and climate change resilience. The military is touted as an economic boon in Hawai‘i, but that viewpoint overlooks the military's extractive presence, environmental damage, and other harmful behaviors. Investing in the “defense” sector only seems like a valuable opportunity because the State is not investing enough in creating other opportunities.

The State should not be directing its limited funds to feed into the most well-funded agency in the U.S. **Period.** I urge the committee to oppose SB3240 SD1 and use our taxpayer dollars to support real economic opportunities that actually benefit our communities.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 9:21:27 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2026 10:56:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan B Roberts Emery	Testifying for Green Party of Hawai'i	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and honorable members of Committee,

My name is Susan RobertsEmery, co chair of the Green Party of Hawai'i , I write to you today on behalf of our principaled members. We are in VERY STRONG OPPOSITION to SB3240 SD1. As a military family member, I can testify that the Military is NOT a good Steward of the Land. the Military is not a good Steward to Military Families. The Military is NOT a good steward for the communities they pollute. We should NEVER offer our children to the military in any capacity. What exactly are Hawaii's evolving industrial and defense-related needs ?? sounds like the Governor is making more back room deals with the military.

Lets provide lunch , houses, free buses, healthcare for our keiki, instead of brainwashing them into the military industrial complex. It is a killer, trust me. Many young men and women are maimed for life as they go to "protect their country " and their country is not protecting them.

We , the people of Hawai'i, do not want to be the hub for Pacific arms manufacturing! Full Stop. Please catch Abby Martins film "Earths Greatest Enemy" , this Friday night in Hilo or Saturday night in Honolulu, to fully understand the Military Industrial Complexes long term plans to keep us in perpetual wars.

With Great respect the Green Party of Hawai'i urges the Committee to HOLD this very bad measure.

Mahalo ,

Susan RobertsEmery

Green Party of Hawai'i

Paauilo

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 11:43:06 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2026 10:56:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ramona Hussey	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly oppose SB3240 SD1 which would provide funding for military-related "education" for our children. This is not a proper use of State funds to encourage our young people to go into the military. Hawai'i cannot become a center for war-related manufacturing. Use those funds for other, more sustainable work force development, in fields that actually help us care for each, not KILL each other.

Thank you,

Ramona Hussey

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 2:13:18 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2026 10:56:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Thomas Brandt	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

OPPOSE!

Eileen Cain
720 Mahi'ai St., Apt. E
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96826-5635
eileencaïn808@gmail.com
February 24, 2026

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair, Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice-Chair, and
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

I strongly **oppose this bill, SB3240 SD1 "Relating to the Military and Community Relations Office."** I urge you to vote against it.

Our children and adolescents, even adults, must never be led to think that killing is normal or that war is normal.

Our islands must not be turned into a "hub" for military armaments. This attempt to prostitute Hawai'i nei and make it a servant of military operations must be stopped.

I strongly oppose any attempt to brainwash our children and adolescents into thinking of our island home as a hub for military operations. The attempt to do so is atrocious.

We need to teach our young people to live in aloha and peace.

All people of the islands need to be free from the reach of death and destruction that is embodied in this bill and its intent.

Please vote against **SB3240 SD1.**

Mahalo for helping our young people to be free from violence.

Eileen Cain,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eileen Cain".

Mō'ili'ili, Honolulu, Hawai'i

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 2:56:41 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2026 10:56:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gary Hooser	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please kill this bill. Spending state taxpayer funds to indoctrinate kindergarten kids and high schoolers to support the department of war's mission and objective of "killing people and breaking things" (as per the Secretary of War's many public statements) is totally wrong. Even in "normal times" the question of choosing between war, diplomacy, and peace - and the morality of such decisions - must be approached with sensitivity and not simply with a mission to "align" or "integrate" - AND we should not be using state taxpayer funds to do the "communications" need to sell the public on the militaries mission in Hawaii and around the globe. Why not fund and align and integrate our public school students with the principles taught at the Spark Matsunaga Institute of Peace?

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 3:17:10 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2026 10:56:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
shantee brown	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

i oppose this bil. we should not be promoting war at any level of hawai'i education. the dept of war has a 1.42 trillion dollar budget. we should not spend a single cent of hawai'i taxpayer money on war. there are many valuable industries that could use a tax payer boost, this is not one of them.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 4:22:32 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2026 10:56:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marion McHenry	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Members of this committee,

Please do not support or advance this bill! This is a horrifying and disgusting concept! We do not want this in our state!

Sincerely,

Marion McHenry

Princeville

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 5:03:20 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2026 10:56:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Greg Crawford	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We should not be brainwashing our children to believe in propaganda from the Department of War.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 5:58:20 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2026 10:56:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Richard E. Duggan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I don't want the Department of Defense to brainwash our kids to align them with the Department of War, nor do I support paying the military community relations office to do so.

If you allow this to happen you will make Hawaii a hotter target than it already is, while only providing low level service jobs. This is not the Hawaii any of us want.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 7:12:54 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2026 10:56:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sharon willeford	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

PROTECT our precious KEIKI !!! Don't you think this world is creating too much trauma already?!

I taught 3rd grade DOE for 35+ years! Please demonstrate your 💜 heartfelt compassion and support for their Future and happiness! NOT FEAR and Violence 🌱

🌱 NO MORE WAR 🌱

"...any partnerships with the military in Hawai‘i “must be based on the foundational premise that the moral integrity of our community, and the health of our people and natural environment is not for sale or trade — not for jobs, not for funding of other projects, and certainly not for political favors.” Gary Hooser

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 8:40:51 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2026 10:56:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stacey Alapai	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please OPPOSE this proposal to put military recruiters in K-12 classrooms. KINDERGARTEN is a little early to start recruitment for military service, don't you think? Can we please just let the kids learn in school and leave the push for enlistment for after they turn 18? I don't support or consent to the the state-funding grooming of my child to sign their life away to the American Military at any age, let alone 5 years old.

As a parent of a young child, I am appalled this is even being proposed (and I'm a Granddaughter of two decorated war veterans). If this passes and becomes common practice in Hawaii public schools, I may have to rethink enrolling in Kindergarten and look for other options.

Our schools, teachers, and students need funding, but not for a pipeline to join the war department. Please dream bigger for our keiki and just fund their EDUCATION and oppose SB 3240.

Mahalo,

Stacey Alapai

Makawao, Maui. Mother of a 3 year old.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 9:42:07 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2026 10:56:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

OPPOSE

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 10:04:44 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2026 10:56:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sheena Lopes	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

AOLE LOA! HEWA LOA KEIA! Hawaii should not be bending at the knee for military propaganda! We must continue to prioritize the health and wellness of our aina and the people. The military's long over due occupation here needs to end and we cannot give up our sovereignty over fear of the unknown. The more heavily the military presence gets in Hawaii no longer makes Hawaii, Hawaii. We do not need to be allocating monies, nor brainwashing our children to believe the military presence is here for our safety and benefit, they have always been for themselves. They can't even clean up their contamination !! Please kill this bill. We need to find other avenues to sustain Hawaii and better take care of her. Enough of this military presence already. Please listen to us!! This is not something we need to be entertaining when they cannot even clean up and keep us safe. The military are the number one human traffickers and women and children abusers, this bill only shows us how little we care about the health and wellness of our people. This is not it, demilitarize Hawaii now before we no longer are Hawaii. If they cannot even sit down at the table for kapukaki discussions and take accountability for their hewa, then they absolutely do not deserve anymore of our mana. They have never been good stewards, they have always treated Hawaii and her people as trash. If you care about Hawaii and her future then do the right thing and kill this bill!

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 1:57:49 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2026 10:56:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Scott Valkenaar	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To all of the honorable Representatives sitting in this chamber ruling on this Bill,

I oppose this bill because I do not believe that we should steer our children towards the buildup of the military industrial complex which has an unlimited budget and has never been audited. I believe that our tax dollars should not be spent on steering the keiki here on the islands towards a career in the military.

It is obvious that the current national government, as well as the Director of the Department of Defense or as they temporarily changed it to *Department of War*, is not acting in the best interest of this country, this state, or its citizens. To give them the green light by passing this bill is indicating that you approve of the direction that this country is going. I for one do not.

Thank you for your time.

Scott Valkenaar

Moloaa, Kauai

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 4:34:58 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2026 10:56:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Vickery	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

No to Bill SB4240. Less U.S. military presence, the better.

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 7:07:16 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2026 10:56:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ronnie N Inagaki	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

TO: Senate Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

RE: SB3240, SD1 – Relating to the Military and Community Relations Office

POSITION: STRONGLY OPPOSE

HEARING DATE: February 25, 2026, at 10:56 AM (Conference Room 211)

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Ronnie Inagaki, and I am a resident of O'ahu, I am writing to express my strong opposition to SB3240. While the bill is framed as a measure for "economic resilience," it contains deeply concerning language that prioritizes military-industrial alignment over the holistic well-being and neutral education of our children.

Factual Grounds for Opposition:

1. Inappropriate Military Influence in K-12 Education

SB3240 explicitly seeks to "integrate the exposure of students in grades kindergarten through twelve" to "defense-related needs." Public education should remain a space for neutral, broad-based learning. Targeting children as young as five years old for "alignment" with the defense industry's "evolving industrial needs" is an overreach that prioritizes federal military interests over a diverse and community-centered curriculum.

2. Misallocation of State Taxpayer Funds

The bill proposes an appropriation of \$1,300,000 for the 2026-2027 fiscal year to the Military and Community Relations Office. At a time when Hawai'i's public schools face chronic underfunding and critical needs in teacher recruitment, these state funds should be directed toward our public education system rather than a defense-liaison office.

3. Systemic Environmental and Cultural Mismanagement Across All Islands

The state should not be "aligning" our youth with an industry that has a documented history of mismanaging Hawai'i's vital resources. Beyond the Red Hill fuel spill which contaminated O'ahu's primary aquifer, we see a statewide pattern of neglect. This includes the presence of "forever chemicals" (PFOS) at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, the desecration of sacred sites and endangered species habitats at Mākuā Military Reservation, and the use of white phosphorus and depleted uranium at the Pōhakuloa Training Area on Hawai'i Island. Furthering this

partnership ignores the grave ecological and cultural toll these installations have taken on our 'āina.

4. Concerns Over "Arms Manufacturing" and Statewide Militarization

The bill's focus on "in-state manufacturing and sustainment capacity" signals a long-term goal of making Hawai'i a hub for military industrialization. With major installations already dominating the landscape, including Schofield Barracks and Marine Corps Base Hawai'i on O'ahu, and PMRF Barking Sands on Kaua'i, this bill seeks to deepen our economic dependency on the military-industrial complex. Hawai'i should instead be investing in a diversified, sustainable economy that addresses the high cost of living and climate change, rather than training our children to serve an expanding military footprint.

Conclusion

I urge this committee to HELD or VOTE NO on SB3240. We must protect our children from industry-specific "alignment" starting in kindergarten and ensure our taxpayer dollars serve the community's most pressing social and environmental needs first.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Ronnie Inagaki

SB-3240-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 8:59:29 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2026 10:56:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathy Shimata	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Kathy Shimata & I live in Honolulu. I have serious concerens with the idea that our state wants to influence our school children to plan to join the military. Our state embraces being "pono." War is the opposite.

Military recruiters are a part of the various branches of our military. We do not need to spend our taxes to supplement their efforts. I urge you to oppose SB3240.

Mahalo,

Kathy Shimata