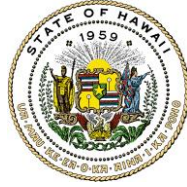


DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



KENNETH S. HARA  
MAJOR GENERAL  
ADJUTANT GENERAL

STEPHEN F. LOGAN  
COLONEL  
DEPUTY ADJUTANT GENERAL

STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**  
**OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL**  
3949 DIAMOND HEAD ROAD  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816-4495

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 290,  
RELATING TO THE HAWAII NATIONAL GUARD

PRESENTATION TO  
THE COMMITTEE ON CORRECTIONS, MILITARY, & VETERANS

By

MAJOR GENERAL KENNETH S. HARA  
ADJUTANT GENERAL  
DIRECTOR OF THE HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY  
AND HOMELAND SECURITY ADVISOR

FEBRUARY 02, 2021

Chair Ohno, Vice Chair Ganaden, and Members of the Committee on CORRECTIONS,  
MILITARY, & VETERANS

I am Major General Kenneth Hara, Adjutant General, Director of the Hawaii Emergency  
Management Agency and Homeland Security Advisor.

The Department of Defense (DOD) provides written testimony in OPPOSITION to HB 290.

The proposal of HB 290 eliminates the exemption of the vehicle weight tax for one  
noncommercial motor vehicle for members of the National Guard, military reserve, or other  
active duty military personnel who claim Hawaii as their residence of record.

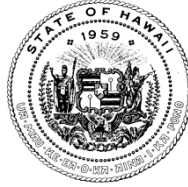
Since 2008, the late Congressman K. Mark Takai, championed this exemption for the Hawaii  
National Guard. This exemption has been an extremely important tool in the recruiting and  
retention of service members for the Hawaii Air and Army National Guard.

Over the past five years, the Hawaii National Guard has been critical to the safety of Hawai'i  
and democracy of our nation. Floods, hurricanes, lava eruptions, a nation-wide COVID-19  
pandemic, and security of our nation's capital required The Hawai'i National Guard to be ready  
for these challenges. This exemption, provides respite to the demands that are placed on our  
Service Members and their families. If passed, this bill could negatively impact our recruiting  
and retention and the number of personnel available to respond to the needs of our State and  
the protection of our citizens.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to HB 290.

MG Kenneth S. Hara: kenneth.s.hara@hawaii.gov; 808-672-1211  
BG Moses Kaiwi Jr.: moses.kaiwi.mil@mail.mil; 808-844-6005

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



**TESTIMONY BY:**

JADE T. BUTAY  
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors  
LYNN A.S. ARAKI-REGAN  
DEREK J. CHOW  
ROSS M. HIGASHI  
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

February 10, 2021  
10:00 A.M.  
State Capitol, Teleconference

**H.B. 290**  
**RELATING TO VEHICLE WEIGHT TAXES**

House Committee on Corrections, Military, & Veterans

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The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports** this bill which proposes to repeal the National Guard, military reserves, and other active duty military personnel claiming Hawaii as their residence of record exemption for vehicle weight taxes.

The DOT recognizes and appreciates the service and dedication the military provides to our nation. In 2019, this exemption resulted in the state highway fund weight tax revenue reduction of approximately \$478,000.00. The DOT generally does not support exemptions as reductions in revenue are detrimental to the state highway fund as we support all users of the state highway system and collected revenues provides safer infrastructure enhancements for all users including pedestrians, bicyclists, transit users and motorists and all funds positively impact the department's ability to qualify state matching funds for the highways federal-aid program.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**HB-290**

Submitted on: 2/8/2021 4:31:59 PM

Testimony for CMV on 2/10/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jacob Wiencek	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly urge the Hawaii House of Representatives to vote for this measure. Infrastructure is a resource all residents in Hawaii use and one all should pay for. Regardless of whether you are a formal resident of this state or not, if you use our infrastructure then you should help maintain it. Equalizing payments on the vehicle weight tax is the right action to take. We need more funds to properly repair and maintain our roads and it is unfair that some of those who use our infrastructure do not pay fairly for it. An increase in funding will result in better infrastructure for us all. I strongly SUPPORT this measure.

**HB-290**

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 9:51:58 AM

Testimony for CMV on 2/10/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
LYNN ARAKI-REGAN	DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION	Support	No

Comments:

I am with the DOT and available for comments.