

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2502 SD1  
A BILL FOR AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE  
HAWAII CIVIL AIR PATROL FOR OPERATING EXPENSES

PRESENTATION TO THE  
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

BY

MAJOR GENERAL ROBERT G. F. LEE  
DIRECTOR OF CIVIL DEFENSE

March 11, 2010

Chair Hanohano and Committee Members:

I am Major General Bob Lee, Director of Civil Defense, State Department of Defense. I am providing written testimony on Senate Bill 2502 SD1.

This proposed bill will appropriate funds out of the general revenues for fiscal year 2010-2011 for the operational expenses of the Hawaii Civil Air Patrol. This proposed bill will enable the Hawaii Civil Air Patrol to continue its operations and training in support of the Hawaii Civil Defense system. These operations are especially crucial to the Civil Defense warning system for tsunami alerts. Additionally, the Hawaii Civil Air Patrol performs other important missions for Civil Defense such as air reconnaissance, aerial damage assessments, inland search and rescue, and small cargo delivery when inter-island transportation is not available.

We support the intent of Senate Bill 2502 SD1 so long as it does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in the Executive Supplemental Budget Request.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on Senate Bill 2502 SD1.



**HEADQUARTERS  
CIVIL AIR PATROL, HAWAII WING**  
United States Air Force Auxiliary  
419 Lele Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96820



**TESTIMONY TO THE  
House Public Safety Committee**

**MAKING APPROPRIATIONS TO THE  
HAWAII WING CIVIL AIR PATROL**

**SENATE BILL 2502**

**Thursday, 11 March 2010  
9:00A.M.  
Conference Room 309**

**FROM**

**Stanley Y. Fernandez, Colonel, CAP  
Director, Government Affairs**

**TO**

**Madam Chair, Hanohano  
Vice Chair, Aquino  
And  
Members of the Committee**

**IN SUPPORT OF SB 2502, Making Appropriations to the Hawaii Wing Civil Air Patrol. On Saturday, 27 February 2010, the Chilean Nation experienced an 8.8 magnitude earthquake. This earthquake created a tsunami which destroyed one of their coastline towns. Upon notification of this earthquake and generation of a tsunami, the Hawaii Wing Civil Air Patrol was immediately called on alert, to ready the aircrews to fly and provide warning to campers, swimmers, surfers, and residents living on low lying inundated areas. At 6:00 A.M., Saturday morning, the Hawaii State Civil Defense launched CAP aircraft. Two single engine aircraft launched in Kauai, one was directed to provide warning to the residents of Niihau, three airplanes launched from Oahu, one aircraft launched from Maui and supplemented by**

**One aircraft from Honolulu. Two airplanes launched from the Big Island, one for coastal patrol warning for Kona and the other for the Hilo side. All together the Hawaii CAP launched nine airplanes. Reports from aircrews indicated campers breaking down their campsites, waving flashlights indicating that they got the tsunami warning message. CAP Aircraft were sent into areas where State provided sirens and public address systems were inoperative. Volunteer CAP aircrews, radio operators, and Command Post personnel provided invaluable assistance to the Hawaii State Civil Defense Agency. Support from CAP volunteers was outstanding. Hawaii was very fortunate in that this tsunami did not cause major damages. Following the "all clear" an assessment was accomplished on our aircraft, aircrews and equipment. Several of our sirens and PA equipment blew fuses and over heated and had to return to their respective bases for repair. Also, had a major tsunami hit Hawaii, many of our airports would had been potentially underwater which would thereby cause our aircraft to look for airports to refuel. One aircraft had to return to base (Honolulu) because of maintenance. Fortunately, the aircraft was quickly repaired and returned to duty. Aircrews were limited due to many members being untrained to fly tsunami missions. Had this tsunami been a prolonged Event, CAP would had run out of qualified aircrew members. Funding is critical to maintain qualified volunteer aircrews to fly tsunami missions. Tsunami training or local disaster training is not funded by the Air Force.**

**Cost to fly a single engine Cessna is \$135 per hour versus the thousands of dollars to fly a F-15 jet, or a helicopter or a C-130 cargo aircraft to provide this coastal warning. URGE YOUR SUPPORT IN PROVIDING FUNDING To provide training and to maintain the Hawaii Wing Civil Air Patrol Tsunami warning operations! Thank you for allowing me to share my views!**

**STANLEY Y. FERNANDEZ, Colonel, CAP  
Director, Government Affairs**



**KONA COMPOSITE SQUADRON  
HAWAII WING - CIVIL AIR PATROL  
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AUXILIARY  
P.O. Box 2427  
Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96740**

**TESTIMONY TO THE  
House Public Safety Committee**

**MAKING APPROPRIATIONS TO THE  
HAWAII WING CIVIL AIR PATROL**

**SENATE BILL 2502**

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**Stanley Y. Fernandez, Colonel, CAP  
Director, Government Affairs**

**TO**

**Madam Chair, Hanohano  
Vice Chair, Aquino**

**And**

**Members of the Committee**

**IN SUPPORT OF SB 2502, Making Appropriations to the Hawaii Wing Civil Air Patrol. I am the commander of the Kona composite Squadron of Civil Air Patrol. Due to lack of funding, I do not believe that we are at the level of readiness that I would like to see. As you know, we perform the task of Tsunami Warning for Hawaii State Civil Defense. This may have been critical to our state on February 27, 2010, when Chile experienced an 8.8 magnitude earthquake which produced a tsunami which destroyed one of their**

coastline towns. Upon notification of this earthquake and generation of a tsunami, the Hawaii Wing of Civil Air Patrol was immediately called on alert, to ready the aircrews to fly and provide warning to campers, swimmers, surfers, and residents living on low lying inundation areas. All together the Hawaii CAP launched nine airplanes. They did this with our all Volunteer CAP aircrews, radio operators, and Command Post personnel providing invaluable assistance to the Hawaii State Civil Defense Agency. Support from CAP volunteers was outstanding. Cost to fly a single engine Cessna is \$135 per hour versus thousands of dollars an hour to fly a F-15 jet, a helicopter or a C-130 cargo aircraft to provide this coastal warning. **I URGE YOUR SUPPORT IN PROVIDING FUNDING** to provide training and to maintain the Hawaii Wing Civil Air Patrol Tsunami Warning operations! Thank you for allowing me to share my views!

Thank you,



Paul W Rollman Jr

Lt Col CAP

Commander

Kona Composite Sqdn.

## aquino1-Ruffalyne

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**From:** dchoy@usa.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 09, 2010 1:11 AM  
**To:** PBStestimony  
**Cc:** emailtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Subject:** SB2502- Making An Appropriation to Hawaii Civil Air Patrol for Operating Expenses

Honorable Representative Faye Hanohano  
Chair, Public Safety Committee  
Hawaii State House  
Hawaii State Capitol  
413 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Representative Hanohano,

**IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 2502 - Making an Appropriation to the Hawaii Civil Air Patrol for Operating Expenses.** The Civil Air Patrol is an important aircraft warning asset for the State of Hawaii for providing airborne tsunami warning to swimmers, surfers, and to residents living in tsunami inundated areas without State provided siren/public address warning systems. Upon initial notification by the Hawaii State Civil Defense of an impending tsunami, Civil Air Patrol has nine single engine Cessna aircraft equipped with siren and public address system on stand-by alert, ready to launch in an hour, to provide airborne warning for all of the Hawaiian Islands. The Air Force provides funding to CAP to fly search and rescue missions for the Air Force and Coast Guard searches. However, **for state and local tsunami missions** and support for the State of Hawaii disaster preparedness missions i.e., hurricanes, other natural disasters in Hawaii, the **CAP is "not funded"** by the Air Force. It **cost \$135 per hour** to fly a Cessna aircraft versus the thousands of dollars to fly helicopters, C-130 cargo aircraft or F-15 fighter aircraft to provide coastal warning to our residents, swimmers, and surfers. The Hawaii CAP is not funded for oil, gas, maintenance, nor for the required training to support the Tsunami warning mission. All pilots, aircrews, operations personnel, radio operators, administrative personnel in **CAP are "non-paid volunteers."** **We have 551 volunteer personnel** located throughout the State of Hawaii. This past year, there were **"three" actual** tsunami warnings for the State of Hawaii. In all three incidents, the Hawaii Wing CAP was called upon by the Hawaii State Civil Defense to prepare our airplanes to fly airborne tsunami warning flights. In all three cases, CAP responded with their nine airplanes and crews ready to launch. Fortunately, no major tsunami occurred and all aircrews were ordered to stand down by the Hawaii State Civil Defense. Many of our CAP volunteers utilized their personal time, talents, and personal treasure to support this mission. CAP has not received full legislative funding since 1996. Prior to that time frame CAP was being funded \$190,000 annually. No legislative or state funding from 1996 to 2003. In 2003, CAP received \$50,000 from the Legislature with matching funds of \$50,000 from the Hawaii State Civil Defense, which took it from the Federal Homeland Security Fund. In 2004, the CAP again did not receive any Legislative funding. In 2005, CAP received \$50,000 from the State Civil Defense from the Homeland Security fund. This funding is not guaranteed annually and due to the current economy in our National government CAP may not receive future funds. To fully support the Hawaii CAP would approximate \$238,000 annually. Airborne tsunami warning training and disaster preparedness training has been severely curtailed due to lack of funding. Aircrews and operations personnel need to train and coordinate simultaneously with local agencies i.e., police, fire department, civil defense, and military to provide maximum protection for the citizens of Hawaii. Urge your support for SB 2502. Thank you for allowing me to express my views on this matter. Your understanding and cooperation is greatly appreciated.

With Every Best Wishes

Lt Col Darryl Choy, CAP  
Director of Personnel  
Civil Air Patrol, Hawaii Wing HQ

**From:** Judy Ann Williams [judyann\_williams@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 09, 2010 12:27 PM  
**To:** PBStestimony  
**Subject:** SB 2502

IN SUPPORT OF SB 2502, Making Appropriations to the Hawaii Wing

Civil Air Patrol. On Saturday, 27 February 2010, the Chilean Nation experienced an 8.8 magnitude earthquake. This earthquake created a tsunami which destroyed one of their coastline towns. Upon notification of this earthquake and generation of a tsunami, the Hawaii Wing Civil Air Patrol was immediately called on alert, to ready the aircrews to fly and provide warning to campers, swimmers, surfers, and residents living on low lying inundated areas. At 6:00 A.M., Saturday morning, the Hawaii State Civil Defense launched CAP aircraft. Two single engine aircraft launched in Kauai, one was directed to provide warning to the residents of Niihau, three airplanes launched from Oahu, one aircraft launched from Maui and supplemented by One aircraft from Honolulu. Two airplanes launched from the Big Island, one for coastal patrol warning for Kona and the other for the Hilo side. All together the Hawaii CAP launched nine airplanes. Reports from aircrews indicated campers breaking down their campsites, waving flashlights indicating that they got the tsunami warning message. CAP Aircraft were sent into areas where State provided sirens and public address systems were inoperative. Volunteer CAP aircrews, radio operators, and Command Post personnel provided invaluable assistance to the Hawaii State Civil Defense Agency. Support from CAP volunteers was outstanding. Hawaii was very fortunate in that this tsunami did not cause major damages. Following the "all clear" an assessment was accomplished on our aircraft, aircrews and equipment. Several of our sirens and PA equipment blew fuses and over heated and had to return to their respective bases for repair. Also, had a major tsunami hit Hawaii, many of our airports would had been potentially underwater which would thereby cause our aircraft to look for airports to refuel. One aircraft had to return to base (Honolulu) because of maintenance. Fortunately, the aircraft was quickly repaired and returned to duty. Aircrews were limited due to many members being untrained to fly tsunami missions. Had this tsunami been a prolonged Event, CAP would had run out of qualified aircrew members. Funding is critical to maintain qualified volunteer aircrews to fly tsunami missions. Tsunami training or local disaster training is not funded by the Air Force. Cost to fly a single engine Cessna is \$135 per hour versus the thousands of dollars to fly a F-15 jet, or a helicopter or a C-130 cargo aircraft to provide this coastal warning.

URGE YOUR SUPPORT IN PROVIDING FUNDING

To provide training and to maintain the Hawaii Wing Civil Air Patrol Tsunami warning operations! Thank you for allowing me to share my views!

Judy Ann Williams  
POB 3480  
Kailua Kona, HI 96745  
8082692408  
[judyann\\_williams@hotmail.com](mailto:judyann_williams@hotmail.com)

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