

Written Testimony
The Honorable Colleen Hanabusa (HI-01)
U.S. House of Representatives
House Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Defense
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Chairwoman Granger, Ranking Member Visclosky, and distinguished Members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today. My testimony highlights several Defense programs and initiatives that are vital to our military readiness and continued engagement with the Asia-Pacific region.

Last week, the Administration released a budget blueprint calling for \$54 billion in unspecified increases to defense spending. While there are areas in the Department of Defense (DOD) where investment is needed, the key is to invest wisely to maintain our global operational presence and technological advantage, counteract Russia's and China's growing maritime forces and confront increasingly complex threats including, but not limited to, North Korea, Iran, Iraq and Syria.

Our first priority should be to end the federal hiring freeze on the DOD civilian workforce. Our DOD civilians are critical to our warfighting efforts and our military readiness depends on them.

DOD civilians play an especially critical role in our four public shipyards, where significant investments are needed. The Navy's proposed fleet buildup to 355 ships will likely generate a healthy debate in this subcommittee and in the House Committee on Armed Services (HASC). However, it does us no good to have more ships if the fleet cannot be properly serviced and maintained according to schedule. If our shipyards are not fully staffed, equipped and functioning, our fleet readiness will suffer and our ability to restore and improve our operational readiness around the world will be compromised.

As important as our investments in shipbuilding will be, they must be matched by commensurate investments in our shipyards and maintenance facilities. New technologies present new opportunities to reduce costs (material and labor) and respond more quickly to operational needs on a 24/7 basis. For example, additive manufacturing, commonly known as 3-D printing, is changing the way industry thinks about manufacturing, with alternatives to traditional casting and machining on the horizon. These new technologies should be explored and, where appropriate, incorporated into our shipyards and bases for depot-level maintenance and repair. Thus, I request this committee allocate robust funding to Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy, as well as Operations and Maintenance, Navy, at a level sufficient to meet the full operational needs of our four public shipyards: Pearl Harbor, Puget Sound, Portsmouth, and Norfolk. I would also like to restate the importance of lifting the federal hiring freeze for all civilians at our four public shipyards. Finally, I would urge this subcommittee to leverage federal funds by strongly considering public-private partnerships that would achieve the operational needs of our shipyards in a manner that is responsive and fiscally prudent. For example, public-private partnerships could be used to construct and operate shipyard dry docks for submarines and other surface ships, including those dry docks with forward deployment capabilities.

Consistent with the Navy's most recent Force Structure Assessment, maintaining a maritime focus on the Asia-Pacific region should continue to be a top priority. Currently, sixty percent (60%) of the Navy's fleet is assigned to the Pacific and a similar or greater proportion of new ships should be assigned to the Pacific as well. I respectfully urge this subcommittee to support keeping the Pacific Fleet's Budget Support Office separate and apart from the Fleet Forces Command Budget Support Office, so the Pacific Fleet retains the flexibility to respond

rapidly to changing events in the Asia-Pacific region. This high level of readiness will enable the Pacific Fleet to project force in support of our many allies in the region and maintain the free flow of commerce in Southeast Asia and the freedom of navigation in the South China Sea.

As we continue our diplomatic, economic and military rebalance in the Asia-Pacific, our military partners are anticipating that additional investments will be needed to maximize troop readiness and to help counter the regional threats posed by China and North Korea. Pacific Command, which is headquartered in my district, has highlighted several priority areas. These include procurement of advanced munitions to make up for critical shortfalls; maintaining air superiority through Fourth Generation and Fifth Generation fighter integration and advanced missile defense capabilities; continuing to upgrade and harden our cybersecurity investments; improving the digital communications capabilities of our allies and partners; and upgrading our fleet of attack submarines to further our undersea dominance and improve Anti-Access/Area Denial strategies. We must also continue to develop and integrate new technologies so that the advantage over our adversaries remains qualitative as well as quantitative. One of the best ways to do this is to maintain our commitment to the Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF), the world's largest instrumented multi-environmental range capable of supported surface, subsurface, air and space operations on a simultaneous basis. The training, test and evaluation missions that take place at PMRF are critical to our worldwide missile defense efforts, from the Korean Peninsula to Eastern Europe.

In order to continue developing our partnerships in the Pacific, we also need to increase investments in joint and multi-national interoperability efforts and systems. We should also increase cross-cultural educational opportunities for our officers in all services. I urge this subcommittee to continue to support U.S. Army Pacific (USARPAC)'s Pacific Pathways

program, in which Army, Army Reserve and Army National Guard soldiers conduct training exercises with military partners from across Southeast Asia. A similar program, Pacific Partnership--a multilateral, multi-service mission--, focuses on humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR). Born out of the aftermath of the 2004 tsunami that devastated Southeast Asia, Pacific Partnership both builds local capacity in the region and improves PACOM's readiness and HADR expertise.

I also highlight the importance of maintaining U.S. Army Pacific Headquarters at the 4 Star Level. In order for the rebalance to be successful, our partners must know we are committed to the future of the region. In a region where rank and prestige are culturally significant, changing USARPAC from a 4 Star Command to a 3 Star Command would send the wrong signal. Similarly, we must be responsive to our allies' concerns and help share responsibilities wherever we can. In response to Okinawan protests against Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, the U.S. and Japan reached an agreement to relocate the base to the less-populated Henoko area. The Marine Corps also plans to move 4,000 marines from Okinawa to Guam, to move 2,700 marines from Okinawa to Hawaii and to move 2,500 marines to Darwin, Australia, by 2020. This rotational force structure, which I strongly urge this subcommittee to support, both broadens our presence in the Pacific and strengthens our relationship with two of our key treaty allies.

Additionally, I support robust defense funding for much-needed environmental remediation projects. In January 2014, Oahu experienced a fuel leak at the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility, which has a capacity of 250 million gallons of fuel and serves as the "last gas station" for Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard operations in the Western Pacific. According to the Navy, approximately 27,000 gallons of jet fuel was released from one

of the underground tanks, in close proximity to local aquifers used by both the civilian and military communities. Thankfully, vigorous testing continues to show that drinking water remains safe. However, this incident demonstrates the need for extreme environmental vigilance around our national strategic assets, especially those that date from the World War II era and before, like Red Hill. While the cost of upgrading and modernizing the Red Hill facility will be high, it pales in comparison to the cost of a catastrophic fuel leak into Oahu's water supply. Our Navy partners are committed to ensuring the best practicable solution that keeps our drinking water safe, our environment protected and our armed forces ready to fight.

I similarly urge this subcommittee to continue supporting the Readiness and Environmental Protection Initiative (REPI). Encroachment on military installations, ranges, and airspace as a result of urban growth and loss of habitat continues to be a major and growing threat to military readiness. REPI funding, combined with funding from state and NGO partners, prevents this encroachment through acquisition of interests in real property from willing landowners, thereby ensuring the continued viability of key installations and training operations while also conserving important habitat. By supporting this initiative, we can empower our Armed Forces to continue to be good stewards of the land and good neighbors to local communities.

In conclusion, the resources allocated by this subcommittee will be vital to ensuring the readiness of our military, to defending our national interests and to promoting regional and global stability. Thank you again for the opportunity to submit testimony and I look forward to working with you in support of our nation's defense priorities.