

## Honolulu Star-Bulletin

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# 1 in D.C. to seek 29th deactivation

Sergeant Henry H. Peters of Waianae left last night for Washington D.C., where he plans to "lobby" to get the 29th Brigade deactivated.

Peters, who led in organizing and circulating a petition for deactivation signed by some 1,400 soldiers last November, said he will visit all four of Hawaii's congressional representatives.

He said he has asked Senator Hiram L. Fong to try to arrange meetings for him with Secretary of Defense Melvin Laird and President Nixon.

Peters said some Brigade members are already in Washington working on arrangements for him.

"Three of our representatives have come out and said that the petitioners have a legitimate gripe," Peters said. "If this is the case, then we want to know what definite steps they are taking to do something about it."

PETERS SAID he will visit Sen. Daniel K. Inouye, although he is the only Hawaii representative to Congress who has not come out in support of the petitioners.

Peters criticized Inouye and said the senator "has lost a lot of prestige as far as the brigade members are concerned."

Peters said he also plans to take up several other grievances of 29th Brigade members with government officials in Washington.

"One matter is that the men in command of the brigade are using their power to influence the decisions of lower ranking officers in courtmartial cases," Peters said.

"ANOTHER MATTER is that men complain they are being sent to Vietnam to do jobs they are not trained to handle," he said. "This should be investigated."

Also, Peters said, "many Regular Army men have asked me to find out what is the logic behind turning down their requests to go to Vietnam and sending reservists who don't want to go."

Peters said he would like to answer in advance the critics who will say the petition and his present mission are unpatriotic acts.

"We're trying to solve our problems as mature, responsible citizens of the United States. We're not running away from them.

"The people of Hawaii can rest assured that if we are called on to go to Vietnam, we will go.

"Actually, I believe that our critics who are sitting back and permitting one generation of our youth to die in Vietnam are the ones who are behaving shamefully."

Peters' trip was paid for by the Citizens Committee for Deactivation of the 29th Brigade and a collection taken up within the brigade.

Peters said his own military company contributed \$200.