

HONOLULU STAR-BULLETIN
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Fong appeals to Johnson for review of Hawaii quota

Sen. Hiram L. Fong has appealed to President Johnson to reconsider the National Guard and Army Reserve call-up announced Thursday because, he thinks the manpower quota for Hawaii is "disproportionate."

Fong's appeal followed by one day a similar plea registered by Rep. Spark M. Matsunaga.

In a telegram addressed to the President, secretary of defense and secretary of the Army, sent out yesterday, Fong said:

"I urgently request a review of the quota of Hawaii National Guardsmen and Army Reservists to be called to active duty in May.

"As you know, Hawaii has one of the most outstanding records of war service.

"The State has always responded to the utmost. The record will show it has suffered disproportionately high fatalities in the Korean Conflict and the war in Vietnam.

"More than 125 men from Hawaii have been killed in Vietnam.

"And according to the Defense Department, Hawaii has the highest ratio of combat deaths in Vietnam.

"Now, in the call-up for May, Hawaii has been asked to supply 4,129 Guardsmen

and reservists of the national total of 24,500 men proposed for active service.

"The 4,129 call-up from Hawaii represents 17 per cent of the national total. While we are eager to carry our share of the nation's burden, it is plain to me that the 17 per cent is a highly disproportionate load for Hawaii.

"Hawaii constitutes less than 1 per cent of the total

population of the United States. To take such a large number of its young men at one time will cause serious damage and dislocation to its economy and welfare.

"As this is most unjust and severe, I earnestly urge for an immediate re-examination of Hawaii's quota and for a more equitable allocation of troops from among the several states," Fong concluded.