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Hawaii's Week in Review

It's 17 Pct. Again for Isles in Call-Up

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As in the Korean War, tiny Hawaii is believed to have suffered one of the highest death rates of any state in the Vietnam fighting. Of the 20,096 killed in Vietnam, 132 were from Hawaii; on the basis of population that is 17.7 per 100,000.

These figures form a grim backdrop for yet another contribution the people of Hawaii are now asked to make — the call to Federal service of 4,129 Guardsmen and reservists.

Ordered to duty by May 13, the Hawaii contingent represents more than 17 per cent of the total called nationally. When the news hit the Islands early last Thursday morning, protest welled up immediately.

Rep. Spark Matsunaga and Sen. Hiram Fong, asked the White House for a review on grounds that the demand on Hawaii was disproportionate. On the other hand, Sen. Daniel K. Inouye said the "determination was not made on a geographical basis" but on combat-readiness.

More disturbing to some than the percentages, however, was the prospect that Isle guardsmen might be posted to riot control duty on the Mainland.

At the University, one student-guardsmen said he would refuse "to suppress any people of any color."

Only the day before, students had marched to Iolani Palace to demand, with a tinge of moralistic arrogance, that Governor Burns personally guarantee to them that he would not permit such use of the Hawaii Guard.

The Governor said he would oppose such duty but that if the Guard were federalized it would be out of his hands. He added that he did not expect the Guard to be federalized — which it was, a few hours later.

The opposition to riot control duty stems from Hawaii's climate of multi-racial harmony and from sympathy for Black America's striving not only for jobs, homes and voting rights but also for genuine and total acceptance.

("I Am A Man" is the latest slogan in Black America, and it strikes a responsive chord in Hawaii.)

What Is Suppression?

Yet to characterize riot control as "suppression" in the context of civil rights may not be correct. It is suppression in the sense that it restrains civil disorder, death and destruction, but it does not seem to be suppression in the sense of thwarting legitimate aspirations. The tragedy is that among many Negroes now, however, there is a deep conviction that violence is the

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But the Constitution is not a scrap of paper in most minds, and to loot, to burn and to kill are not rights inscribed in that document.

Further, America cannot do the things she must if her cities are out of control.

In the week following the slaying of Martin Luther King nearly 50 persons were killed in Mainland riots and millions of dollars lost in destruction and looting.

More than a full division was required to restore order in Washington, D.C., alone — and the toll undoubtedly would have been far greater had it not been for the troops, who acted with restraint.

The debate locally, however, may well be moot. Senator Inouye said he understands the Hawaii Guard will serve in "this vicinity" and Governor Burns said he doubts it will be sent to the Mainland.

Meantime, the callup posed serious problems. The Honolulu Police Department stands to lose the services of 40 experienced officers and on the Big Island 900 men will be yanked out of jobs across the entire spectrum of the economy.