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Fong assails Isles' 'unfair' call-up quota

By Frank Hewlett
Star-Bulletin Bureau

WASHINGTON — A second protest was lodged today by Sen. Hiram L. Fong over the Army's recent heavy call-up of Hawaii national guardsmen and reservists.

In a letter to Lt. Gen. C. W. G. Rich, chief of reserve components, Fong said he thinks Hawaii is "still entitled to a reconsideration of its share of troops to be mobilized."

Earlier he protested Hawaii's heavy allotment in telegrams to the President, the secretary of defense and the secretary of the Army.

Fong said the 4,070 Islanders represent 17 per cent of the national total of 24,500 reserve forces to be pressed into active service next month.

He complained that the 17 percent is disproportionately high for a state with less than one percent of the total U.S. population and a state which has suffered disproportionately high fatalities in the Korean conflict and the Vietnam war.

Fong held that if Hawaii were to be treated fairly on a population basis, it would need to supply only 89 men of the 24,500 proposed for active duty. Instead, it has been asked to provide 4,070, or a burden 45 times larger than its share.

Rich replied by saying "unfortunately, units are not

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spread evenly across the length and breadth of the nation so that a callup can be made that impacts uniformly on all states and cities."

The general also pointed out that the 29th Infantry Brigade in Hawaii was designated as an element in the selected reserve force and was given special priority for personnel, equipment and training.

"As such," he said, "it has become one of the best units in the National Guard."

The 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry, USAR, although not a part of the selected reserve force was designated for attachment to the 29th Brigade after reorganization and enjoys a reputation as one of the best units in the Army Reserve," he added.

Fong refused to accept the Army explanation.

"The result of an unbalanced ratio in this case is so large in contrast to the size of our population that I feel Hawaii has been dealt with unfairly," said Fong.

Drain on manpower

"This is without doubt a severe drain on the State's manpower . . . the situation stands to do devastating injury to the economy and welfare of the Islands.

"I find it difficult to understand why there can not be a downward readjustment in the mobilization of Hawaii's reserve units.

"As you have pointed out in your letter, the reserve call-up for Hawaii includes 3,288 Army National Guardsmen and 782 Army Reservists . . . These number approximately 76 per cent of the Army National Guard

a view aimed at a reduction in the allotment of reserve troops from Hawaii."

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"As you have pointed out in your letter, the reserve call-up for Hawaii includes 3,288 Army National Guardsmen and 782 Army Reservists . . . These number approximately 76 per cent of the Army National Guard and 29 per cent of the Army Reserve in Hawaii."

"On the face of it, the percentages appear extremely high. I respectfully urge a re-analysis of the quota with