

# Hawaii reservists must stay

10/9/68

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The Defense Department today rejected a request to release more than 4,000 Hawaii army reservists and national guardsmen from active duty.

Prospects of an early change in their status were seen as dim.

Sen. Hiram L. Fong, R.

Hawaii, last week wrote Secretary of Defense Clark Clifford to ask for the immediate release of the 4,070 men called up from Hawaii in May.

Ernest L. Massad, deputy assistant secretary for reserve affairs, told Fong in a letter that the May "calls to active duty of some 20,000 Army national guardsmen and Army reservists, including those from Hawaii, were issued in order to balance our ground forces in Southeast Asia — as between combat and combat support units — and to strengthen the active duty forces in reserve in the United States."

Fong said the Navy planned to release about 40,000 men and there was in the works an Air Force review of manpower requirements which might lead to an early release of men.

"It is true that the Navy is currently processing six Naval Air Reserve squadrons for deactivation, while the Air Force has just announced a series of actions which will return all the Air National Guard and Air Force reserve units, and personnel mobilized earlier this year to reserve status by June 30, 1969," the Pentagon reply said.

But the Hawaii units, Massad said, "were ordered to active duty since our added requirement for more units could not be met by increased draft calls. The recalled units had assigned more than a thousand officers and a much larger number of non-commissioned officers as well as trained enlisted men.

These personnel have trained together over a period of time in the accomplishment of a needed military mission. The selective recall of these units was required to improve the readiness posture of the United States — something that could not be accomplished solely by increasing draft calls.