

United States Senate

July 11, 2019

The Honorable Richard V. Spencer
Secretary of the Navy
Department of the Navy
1000 Navy Pentagon
Washington, DC 20350

Dear Secretary Spencer,

I write to follow up on our July 10, 2019, meeting regarding the additional \$1.5 million that Congress appropriated in the fiscal year (FY) 2019 Department of Defense Appropriations Act to support the establishment of a Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) unit at the University of Hawaii.

I appreciate your commitment to establish a Navy ROTC unit at the University of Hawaii using the funding that Congress appropriated in FY2019. Senior Navy leaders in Hawaii have long spoken to the university's potential to commission a significant number of high quality cadets with critical language and technical skills from among an ethnically and racially diverse student body that will help the Navy strengthen its diversity and representation of the American public.

I recognize that your staff has further work to do to combine the additional \$1.5 million that Congress appropriated to the Navy's operations and maintenance account with existing funding in the Navy's military personnel account to meet the precise requirements of establishing a Navy ROTC unit at the University of Hawaii. As we discussed, that should not be an insurmountable effort. I look forward to collaborating with you to finalize a plan to use the funds as Congress appropriated in FY2019 to establish a Navy ROTC unit at the university as soon as possible.

Please know that as the Senate continues to deliberate the FY2020 Department of Defense Appropriations Act, I remain committed to providing enduring support to a Navy ROTC unit at the University of Hawaii and exploring ways to strengthen your effort to make the whole ROTC enterprise more effective, efficient, and responsive to the Navy's commissioning goals.

Thank you for your continued partnership and collaboration in support of the people of Hawaii and for your continued leadership of our sailors and Marines. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



BRIAN SCHATZ
U.S. Senator