

STATE OF HAWAII  
OFFICE OF VETERANS SERVICES  
TESTIMONY ON H.B. 464, RELATING TO STATE VETERANS' HOME  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION, BUSINESS &  
MILITARY AFFAIRS

February 19, 2009

Good morning Chair Angus McKelvey, Vice-Chair Isaac Choy, and members of the House Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business and Military Affairs.

I am Mark Moses, Director of the Office of Veterans Services (OVS). I appreciate this opportunity to support H.B. 464, which establishes a veterans' gift account that would be administered by the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation.

I am Mark Moses, Director of the Office of Veterans Services (OVS). I appreciate this opportunity to support the intent of HB 464, which seeks to establish a veteran' gift account to be administered by the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (HHSC). The measure also requires that the account comply with reporting requirements for non-general fund information, as long as its implementation does not impact or replace the priorities set forth in the Executive Biennium Budget for Fiscal Years 2009-2010.

As we support the intent we would ask the committee to consider the following changes to the present measure. The name of the fund should directly relate to the home, therefore the fund should be called the state Veterans' Home Gift Account. This would prevent the public and veterans from assuming that the account was for other purposes.

Another suggestion is to have the account administered by the East Hawaii Regional Board. The Legislature caused HHSC to form regional boards with increased responsibilities for facilities in their area. Since the East Hawaii Regional Board currently has responsibility for many aspects of the Yukio Okutsu State Veterans Home, this board would be better able to respond to the needs of the home.

If however, the Legislature wishes these funds to be used for the benefit of veterans statewide, HRS 363-2 (4) provides that OVS "Administer funds allocated for the office, and apply for, receive, and disburse grants and donations from all sources for veterans programs and services provided under this chapter". HB 687 attempts to further clarify responsibilities of OVS relating to the Home, which was heard on January 30, 2009.

Thank you for allowing me to present the Veterans' perspective. I will respond to any questions.



**HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS**  
C O R P O R A T I O N

*"Touching Lives Every Day"*

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION, BUSINESS, & MILITARY AFFAIRS**  
**Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair**  
**Representative Isaac W. Choy, Vice Chair**

Thursday, February 19, 2009  
9:30 AM  
Conference Room 312  
Hawaii State Capitol

**Written Comments on HB 464 Relating to State Veterans' Home**

*Establishes a Veterans' gift account to be administered by the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation. Also requires account to comply with reporting requirements for non-general fund information*

Thomas M. Driskill, Jr.  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (HHSC)

On behalf of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (HHSC) Board of Directors, thank you for this opportunity to testify on HB 464. We appreciate the intent of this bill to establish a gift account for donations to the State Veterans' Home that is located on the grounds of the Hilo Medical Center.

While the bill is not necessary because law already specifies that donations to HHSC are tax deductible, that HHSC has full authority to establish accounts for the management of funds, including donations, and that donors are likely to donate to separately controlled not-for-profit 501 (3) (c) corporations, we do not object to this bill.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to testify on this matter.

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