STATE OF HAWAII OFFICE OF VETERANS SERVICES TESTIMONY ON H.B. No. 687, HD1, RELATING TO VETERANS

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION, BUSINESS AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

FEBRUARY 17, 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 comment on HB 687, HD1, which provides the Office of Veterans Services with greater access and inputs to the veterans' home's operations.

The OVS supports the intent of HB 687, HD1, as long as its implementation does not impact or replace the priorities set forth in the Executive Biennium Budget for Fiscal Years 2009-2010.

In an effort to more properly facilitate the intent of this measure, I suggest OVS be appointed a full voting member of the East Hawaii Regional Board.

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