

STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF VETERANS SERVICES
TESTIMONY ON H.B. No. 1942, HD1 RELATING TO VETERANS COURT
COMMITTEE ON JUDDICIARY

February 11, 2010

Good morning Chair Jon Riki Karamatsu, Vice-Chair Ken Ito, and members of the House Committee on Judiciary.

I am Mark Moses, Director of the Office of Veterans Services (OVS). I appreciate this opportunity to support the concepts in H.B. 1942, HD 1. This measure would provide for the establishment of a temporary Veterans Court in Hawaii. As noted, this concept has been instituted in several States and has proven to be successful in dealing with veterans for various issues, monitoring their progress towards rehabilitation, and reducing the number of veterans who are incarcerated, thereby reducing our overall prison population.

We defer to the agency with direct responsibility for implementation of the Veterans' Court program.

The OVS supports the concepts expressed in this measure as long as its implementation does not use state funds to establish the temporary court and does not impact or replace the priorities set forth in the Executive Supplemental Budget for Fiscal Years 2010-2011.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak on behalf of Hawaii's veteran community.

I will respond to questions from the committee.