

STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF VETERANS' SERVICES
TESTIMONY ON H.B. No. 668, RELATING TO VETERANS
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY & MILITARY AFFAIRS

February 10, 2011

Good morning Chair Henry Aquino, Vice Chair Ty Cullen, and members of the House Committee on Public Safety & Military Affairs.

The interim Director of the Office of Veterans' Services (OVS), Mr. Mark Moses, appreciates this opportunity to support the intent of HB. No. 668, as long as it does not replace or adversely impact priorities established in the Executive Biennium Budget Request. This measure seeks to establish a working group to explore the feasibility of expanding the present number of specialty license plates. I note that examples of other state's license plate programs were mentioned in the bill. I would like to share that many states have several veteran's nursing homes, education benefits, financial assistance and state bonuses. I believe that veterans would appreciate an opportunity to upgrade their education and obtain short-term financial assistance as a demonstration of Hawaii's tribute to veterans. Presently, there are decals and license plate covers that are available to address identifying branch of service and which war a veteran served. Allowing veterans to place these decals or license plate covers on their vehicles offers the recognition they seek and supports our business community and jobs.

The measure asks the office of veterans' services to provide all administrative, technical, professional and clerical support required by the working group. The OVS has several staff vacancies and cannot offer this type of support without additional resources, including personnel or the ability to contract for services.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak on behalf of Hawaii's veteran community. I will respond to questions from the committee.

DEPARTMENT OF CUSTOMER SERVICES
CITY & COUNTY OF HONOLULU
DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLE, LICENSING AND PERMITS
ADMINISTRATION
P.O. BOX 30300
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96820-0300

PETER B. CARLISLE
MAYOR



GAIL Y. HARAGUCHI
DIRECTOR

DENNIS A. KAMIMURA
LICENSING ADMINISTRATOR

February 8, 2011

The Honorable Henry J.C. Aquino, Chair
and Committee Members
Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs
House of Representatives
State of Hawaii
State Capitol, Room 316
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Aquino and Committee Members:

Subject: H.B. No. 668, Relating to Veterans

The City and County of Honolulu is opposed to H.B. No. 668 which will establish a working group on expanding the number of military specialty license plates.

We are concerned with the impact and proliferation of specialty license plates. The primary purpose of license plates is to identify a vehicle in actual traffic conditions. All military specialty license plates have the numerals which Section 249-9, HRS, requires that it be not less than three inches in height and the strokes not less than three-eighths inch in width. Identity of the vehicle with military specialty requires that a person also determine the words that are printed on the left side of the plates. Currently a police officer or the public has to remember the number and ascertain whether the words printed on the left side of the license plate were one of the currently 8 other military specialty license plates. Due to the difficulty in identifying vehicles with specialty license plates, the International Association of Chiefs of Police has adopted a resolution opposing the continued proliferation of such license plates.

Section 249-9.3, HRS, implements the organizational license plate decal program. This program allows the issuance of decals representing the organization to non-duplicative license plate numbers. Amending this Section by allowing the Office of Veteran Services to issue decals to veterans issued unique organizational license plates would resolve the duplicity issue of the current military specialty license plate program.

The City and County of Honolulu recommends that H.B. No. 462, be amended to implement a veteran decal program.

Sincerely,


for Gail Y. Haraguchi
Director

THE OAHU VETERANS COUNCIL

OAHU VETERANS COUNCIL

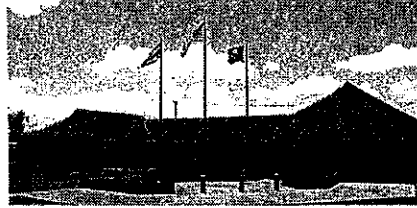
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OAHU VETERANS CENTER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Sandy Ballard

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

5th Regimental Combat Team -
45th Infantry Division Association.
Air Force Assn. - Chapter 138
Air Force Sergeants Association
American Legion Aux. - Dept. of HI
American Legion - Post 32
American Veterans Empowerment & Support -
Community Operations
BPOE VAVS - Hawaii Dist.
China-Burma-India Veterans Association.
Chosin Few - Aloha Chapter
Combat Infantrymen's Association.
Combat Veterans Motorcycle Club
Disabled American Veterans - Chapter 3
Fleet Reserve Association - Branch
and Unit 46
Hawaii Multiple Schools Unit - Jr. ROTC
Korean War Veterans Assn - Chapter 1
Military Officers Assn. of America -
Aloha Chapter
Military Officers Assn. of America -
Hawaii State Chapter
Military Order of the Purple Heart
Military Order of World Wars
National Association. for Atomic Veterans
National Association. of Uniformed Services
National Sojourners - Hawaiian # 9
National Sojourners - Honolulu # 11
National Sojourners - Kamehameha #439
Pearl Harbor Survivors Association
Radiated Veterans
Samoan Providers
Society of Military Widows - Aloha Chapter
Sons & Daughters of Pearl Harbor Survivors
Special Forces Association. - Chapter VIII
State Office of Veterans Services
Veterans of Foreign Wars - Dept. of Hawaii
Veterans of Foreign Wars - Post 970
Vietnam Veterans of America - Chapter 858
Waves National - Unit 131
Women Veterans of America #26



"a gathering place for veterans"
OAHU VETERANS CENTER

January 27, 2011

TESTIMONY REGARDING HOUSE BILL 668 RELATING TO VETERANS

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

HEARING ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH, AT 9AM, IN
CONFERENCE ROOM 309

Aloha Chair Aquino: The Oahu Veterans Council's member organization's identified in the left margin represent the interests of over 80,000 veterans and their families. The Veterans Specialty License Plates/Working Group issue was brought to the full council's attention, in Saturday January 22nd. On Thursday, January 27th, our legislative committee voted to testify, in support of House Bill 668, as follows:

We firmly believe establishing a working group to explore the feasibility of providing specialty license plates for all veterans who desire them, is a good and noble investment in strengthening our relationship with this community. Oahu Veterans Council delegates performed creditable military service under the flag of the United States of America and the State of Hawaii. We honor our Nation and State under these flags, and firmly believe this first step toward establishing this new official recognition tradition will further enhance their relationship with the general public and vice versa.

We thoughtfully and respectfully encourage your committee to remind those who will prohibit this traditional display of patriotism and love of Country and State, of the limitations that can be placed on their sentiments by the US Constitution, in recommending approval of HB668 as written.

Mahalo for allowing us to testify in support of this very important Bill.

Fred Ballard

Fred Ballard; President



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