

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HR56 REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF VETERANS
SERVICES TO CONVENE A VETERANS' SUMMIT IN EACH OF THE
VARIOUS COUNTIES AND A STATEWIDE SUMMIT TO DEVELOP AND
PROMOTE COLLABORATION AMONG THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ENTITIES
THAT PROVIDE SERVICES TO VETERANS

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

BY

MR. RONALD P. HAN, JR.
DIRECTOR OF OFFICE OF VETERANS SERVICES

March 29, 2012

Chair Aquino, Vice Chair Cullen and Committee members:

I am Ron Han, Director of the Office of Veterans Services (OVS). I appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony in support of the concepts on House Concurrent Resolution House Resolution 56.

In response to the Resolution, the OVS in full partnership with the VA, Federal, State, Counties, public and private entities recognizes an important need to bring all of these agencies together to highlight issues affecting our 120,000 Veterans in the State of Hawaii. This Veterans Summit comprised of over 100 Veterans Service Organizations can be the impetus for special topics to be highlighted, like Veteran Homelessness, Women Military/Veterans issues, Wounded Warrior issues, transition assistance programs, and employment opportunities just to name a few. The ability to caucus and bring forth root issues and solutions are important goals this Veterans Summit can address, and more importantly, achieve. Incorporating our neighbor islands and their respective Veteran Councils, their Veterans Service Organizations, and employers will also bring to light specific challenges affecting our island counties.

The OVS and VA recognizes the strong need to develop programs and to address pertinent issues affecting our Veterans. This resolution will be a tremendous first step.

We fully support these initiatives.

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