

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 160, RELATING TO VETERANS

PRESENTATION TO THE

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS, MILITARY, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, &  
CULTURE AND THE ARTS

BY

MR. RONALD P. HAN  
DIRECTOR OF STATE OFFICE OF VETERANS SERVICES

February 6, 2013

Chair Takai, Vice Chair Ito, 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 in House Bill 160.

This measure makes permanent provisions relating to residency requirements for the burial in veterans cemeteries of Armed Forces service members and their dependents. It also ensures Hawaii's eligibility requirements for the burial of members of the United States Armed Forces and their dependents conform to the criteria established by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs regarding eligibility for burial in a national or state cemetery.

The OVS supports the concepts and intent of this bill as long as its implementation does not impact or replace the priorities set forth in the Executive Supplemental Budget for Fiscal Years 2013-2015.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of Hawaii's Veterans and their families in support of HB 160.



February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2013

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 160  
RELATING TO VETERANS.**

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS MILITARY AND INTERNATIONAL  
AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS**

**HEARING ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6<sup>TH</sup> AT 8:30 AM, IN CONFERENCE  
ROOM 312**

Aloha Chair Takai: The Oahu Veterans Council is honored to serve at the pleasure of our veterans and their families. On February 2<sup>nd</sup>, our committee reviewed and voted unanimously to support House Bill 160.

We are extremely grateful for your efforts to make permanent provisions relating to residency requirements for the burial in veterans cemeteries of armed service members and their dependents.

Providing this is death benefit much appreciated by our veterans and their dependents. They served selflessly and ask for no more recognition than we would expect for ourselves.

The Oahu Veterans Council respectfully urges your committee to consider passing House Bill 160 as written. Mahalo, for allowing us to testify, regarding this extremely important issue.

*Dennis Egge*

Dennis Egge; Chairman, Legislative Committee



1298 Kukila Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96818

Email: [sballard@oahuveternascenter.com](mailto:sballard@oahuveternascenter.com); Phone: 808-422-4000; Fax: 808-422-4001

[www.oahuveternascenter.com](http://www.oahuveternascenter.com)



Hawaii Chapter, MOAA  
P.O. Box 1185  
Kailua, Hawaii 96734-1185

**Testimony of  
Thomas Smyth  
Military Officers Association of America, Hawaii Chapter  
Before the  
Committee on Veterans, Military, & International Affairs, &  
Culture and the Arts  
Wednesday, February 6, 2013, 8:30 am, Room 312  
HB 160 Relating to Veterans**

**Chair Takai, Vice Chair Ito and Committee Members**

**Our chapter of 500 retired and currently serving officers of the Uniformed Services strongly supports HB 160, which removes the 2015 sunset date of Act 307, SLH 2012 relating to burial in state veteran's cemeteries.**

**Now that the Office of Veteran's Affairs has had the opportunity to use this important provision, it is clearly time to make the provision permanent to remove any future burial uncertainty for our veterans and their families.**

**Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.**