

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 3046  
A BILL RELATING TO GOLD STAR FAMILY DAY

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

BY

MAJOR GENERAL DARRYLL D. M. WONG  
STATE ADJUTANT GENERAL AND DIRECTOR OF STATE CIVIL DEFENSE  
March 12, 2014

Chair Takai, Vice Chair Ito, and Members of the House Committee on Veterans, Military, & International Affairs, & Culture and the Arts

I am Major General Darryll D. M. Wong, State Adjutant General and Director of State Civil Defense. I am testifying in **SUPPORT** of Senate Bill 3046.

This measure will designate the last Sunday in September as "Gold Star Family Day." This special day will honor the families of service members who sacrificed so much for the United States of America. This honor began with a joint congressional resolution on June 23, 1936, designating the last Sunday in September as "Gold Star Mother's Day."

Hawaii will join with Illinois, North Dakota, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Tennessee, and Wisconsin, and Guam, in celebrating this special day of remembrance.

I ask for your support to pass this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **SUPPORT** of Senate Bill 3046.

**Testimony to the House Committee on Veterans, Military &  
International Affairs, and Culture & the Arts**

**Wednesday, March 12, 2014**

**8:30 AM**

**Conference Room 312**

**RE: SENATE BILL NO. 3046, RELATING TO GOLD STAR FAMILY DAY**

Chair Takai, Vice Chair Ito, and members of the committee.

My name is Charles Ota and I am the Vice President for Military Affairs at The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii (The Chamber). I am here to state The Chamber's *support* of Senate Bill No. 3046, Relating To Gold Star Family Day.

The measure proposes to designate the last Sunday in September as "Gold Star Family Day".

The proposal is to amend Chapter 8, Hawaii Revised Statutes, by adding a new section to appropriately designate the last Sunday in September as "Gold Star Family Day" in recognition of family members of those men and women who gave their lives to their country while serving with armed forces of the United States in time of war or during periods of hostilities.

Hawaii would join with Illinois, North Dakota, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Tennessee, and Wisconsin, and Guam, in celebrating an honor first observed by a joint congressional resolution on June 23 1936. We believe that the proposal will honor the personal sacrifices made by service members and their families, especially during the wars fought in the Middle East over the past 12 years.

This designation is also consistent with Hawaii's state Medal of Honor recognition for those members of the armed services with Hawaii connections who gave their lives during Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

In light of the above, we recommend the measure be approved.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**Roxanne Kamalu**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 09, 2014 3:09 AM  
**To:** vmitestimony  
**Cc:** dne39@isp.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB3046 on Mar 12, 2014 08:30AM

**SB3046**

Submitted on: 3/9/2014

Testimony for VMI on Mar 12, 2014 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dennis Egge	NAUS Hawaii Chapter	Support	No

Comments: Our Gold Star families cannot be honored enough; their sacrifice is all too soon forgotten

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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Date: March 7, 2014

To: The Honorable K. Mark Takai, Chair  
The Honorable Ken Ito, Vice Chair  
Committee on Veterans, Military, and International Affairs, and Culture and the Arts

From: Mike Golojuch, Lt Col, USAF (Ret), Chair, Advisory Board on Veterans' Services

Subject: Support for SB3046

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As a veteran and Chair of the Advisory Board, Office of Veterans' Services that represents over 170,000 Hawaii veterans, we strongly support SB3046, to recognize the family members of those women and men who gave their lives to their country while serving with the armed forces of the United States. The designation of the last Sunday of September as Gold Star Family Day will help remember those who loss a love one and let them know that we wish to thank the family members for the sacrifice their family made to our country.

I strongly urge that you pass this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to express the views of the Advisory Board.

## Testimony

Carswell J. Ross, Jr. M.A., Chief Master Sergeant, USAF Ret.  
94-1020 Puana Street  
Waipahu, HI 96797

Wednesday, March 12, 2014@8:30am.

Testimony on Senate Bill 3046, RELATING TO GOLD STAR FAMILY DAY

Presentation to the House Committee on Veterans, Military, & International  
Affairs & Culture and the Arts

Good morning Chair K. Mark Takai and Vice Chair Ken Ito and members of the Committee on Veterans, Military, & International Affairs & Culture and the Arts. I strongly **support** SB 3046, which DESIGNATES THE LAST Sunday in September as “Gold Star Family Day.” This legislation is a small tribute to the family members who have lost a family member who was serving this great country when they were taken from them.

This is a fitting honor for the State to grant to these family members.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony **in support** of this measure.

**Roxanne Kamalu**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 11, 2014 11:31 AM  
**To:** vmitestimony  
**Cc:** keith.ribbentrop@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB3046 on Mar 12, 2014 08:30AM

**SB3046**

Submitted on: 3/11/2014

Testimony for VMI on Mar 12, 2014 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Keith T. Ribbentrop	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly encourage your support of this measure.

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**LATE**

**Roxanne Kamalu**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 11, 2014 8:21 PM  
**To:** vmitestimony  
**Cc:** greenlee@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB3046 on Mar 12, 2014 08:30AM\*

**SB3046**

Submitted on: 3/11/2014  
Testimony for VMI on Mar 12, 2014 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ann Greenlee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**LATE**

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 3046, SD1, RELATING TO GOLD STAR  
FAMILY DAY

PRESENTATION TO THE

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

BY

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

March 12, 2014

Chair Takai, Vice Chair Ito and Committees members:

I'm Ron Han, Director of the State Office of Veterans Services (OVS). I appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony **in support** of the concepts in Senate Bill 3046, SD1, Relating to Gold Star Family Day.

This measure designates the last Sunday in September as "Gold Star Family Day".

As the director for the State Office of Veterans Services, we join our Gold Star families in recognizing the last Sunday of September as "Gold Star Family Day". Being one of the caretakers of our veterans' cemeteries statewide, and especially at our Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery in Kaneohe, I deeply and wholeheartedly feel for these family members who have lost their sons and daughters in America's wars to preserve our freedoms that we enjoy today. Designating this "Gold Star Family Day" is a befitting honor to those who have given selflessly to their Nation and its citizenry and to their loved ones who remain.

I strongly recommend that the State of Hawaii support SB 3046, SD1, for the benefit of our Gold Star Families and the legacy of service of their loved ones lost in combat.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of Hawaii's Veterans and their families in support of SB 3046, SD1.

**Roxanne Kamalu**

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**SB3046**

Submitted on: 3/11/2014

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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ann Greenlee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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