

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 40 REQUESTING THAT
THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE PROVIDE AN EIGHT-PERSON FIRING
PARTIES (SEVEN MEMBERS AND THE FIRING NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICER IN
CHARGE) AT FUNERALS OF ALL AIR FORCE VETERANS AND RETIREES WHO
WERE DISCHARGED OR RELEASED UNDER CONDITIONS OTHER THAN
DISHONROABLE

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

March 21, 2016

Good morning Chair Ito, Vice-Chair Tokioka, and members of the Committee:

I'm Ron Han, Director of the State Office of Veterans Services. I appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony in support of HCR 40.

Almost every one of the military services that perform funeral honors for eligible Veterans and retirees in Hawaii bring a full-complement of members of an Honors detail that include these functions: the three-volley salutes, the playing of Taps, and the folding and presentation of the US flag to the next of kin. Only the US Air Force as of December 1, 2015 has reduced their Honors Detail to a three or two person team eliminating the three-volley salutes. Our office has received numerous queries concerning why the difference in service protocol and why only the US Air Force has instituted this change. The rationale provided by the 15th Wing has been due to sequestration and budget cuts. Admittedly, family members and loved ones of the deceased Veteran or retiree have a hard time understanding why the other services have made this a priority for funding, yet one service has not. As a possible resolution, all of the services should be assessed to combine their Honors resources so all funerals are provided the same honors protocol. This is evident when a Joint Service Color Guard presents the colors on Memorial Day, Veterans Day and at military events. Funerals would require that at least one member must be from the deceased member's service.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of Hawaii's Veterans and their families in support of HCR 40.

tokioka2 - Karina

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
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Subject: *Submitted testimony for HCR40 on Mar 21, 2016 09:00AM*

HCR40

Submitted on: 3/19/2016

Testimony for VMI on Mar 21, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mike Golojuch	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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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