

tokioka2-Robert

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, March 14, 2015 8:46 PM
To: vmitestimony
Cc: Gyoshimoto@scd.hawaii.gov
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB559 on Mar 16, 2015 09:00AM
Attachments: SB0559 DOD Testimony VMI 15.03.16.pdf

SB559

Submitted on: 3/14/2015

Testimony for VMI on Mar 16, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Galen Yoshimoto	State Department of Defense	Support	No

Comments: Submitted on behalf of Brigadier General Arthur Logan, Adjutant General and Director of the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency

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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 559 SD2
A BILL RELATING TO THE MILITARY

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

BY
BRIGADIER GENERAL ARTHUR J. LOGAN
ADJUTANT GENERAL
AND DIRECTOR OF THE HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
March 16, 2015

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

I am Brigadier General Arthur J. Logan, State Adjutant General and the Director of the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency. I am supporting the intent of Senate Bill 559 SD2.

This measure will transform the Office of Veterans Services into the Office of Military Affairs and Veterans Services. There are appropriated funds to support the transformation and new responsibilities.

There is a need to review the additional roles and responsibilities to see if existing facilities and staffing can absorb this transformation. Without this review, this transformation could result in reduced services to our veterans.

Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony supporting the intent Senate Bill 559 SD2.

tokioka2-Robert

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2015 6:51 PM
To: vmitestimony
Cc: ronald.han@va.gov
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB559 on Mar 16, 2015 09:00AM
Attachments: SB559,SD1 Relating to the Military(C1)-2015.pdf

SB559

Submitted on: 3/13/2015

Testimony for VMI on Mar 16, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ron Han	DOD-OVS	Support	Yes

Comments:

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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 559, SD2 RELATING TO THE MILITARY
PRESENTATION TO THE

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

BY

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

March 16, 2015

Chair Ito, Vice Chair Tokioka and Committee Members:

I'm Ron Han, Director of the State Office of Veterans Services (OVS). I appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony and comments in support of the concepts in Senate Bill 559, SD2.

This measure seeks to expand the State Office of Veterans Services to include a military affairs function and to appropriate funds needed for the increase in responsibilities and roles for this new mission. SD 2 provides some insight on these roles on pages 10-11 of the measure, but does not quantify the full-time employment (FTE) authorizations or the types of personnel classifications it would take to meet mission goals and objectives. Since the core is servicing Veterans with benefits counseling and support to the eight State Veterans Cemeteries, we believe the new name should reflect State Office of Veterans Services and Military Affairs. This new office function will need to be more than just cosmetic changes in name only. Clearly defined roles and responsibilities must be developed and addressed to include FTE and proper funding before absorbing any responsibilities to preclude future mission degradation or failure. Additionally the OVS will need to work with the Human Resource staff to determine the function of these added position(s) and the level of compensation. In foresight, this function and position(s) could serve as a catalyst for interacting and collaborating with the respective military service components, to explore existing and future issues between the State and military, and to serve as a liaison on subjects requiring coordination with State and military agencies.

The OVS supports the intent expressed in this measure as long as its implementation does not impact or replace the priorities set forth in the Executive Budget for Fiscal Biennium 2015-2017.

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

tokioka2-Robert

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2015 8:37 AM
To: vmitestimony
Cc: kkaimuloa@cochawaii.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB559 on Mar 16, 2015 09:00AM
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SB559

Submitted on: 3/15/2015

Testimony for VMI on Mar 16, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kamakana Kaimuloa	Chamber of Commerce Hawaii	Support	Yes

Comments:

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Chamber of Commerce HAWAII

The Voice of Business

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

**Monday, March 16, 2015 at 9:00 A.M.
Conference Room 312, State Capitol**

RE: SB559, SD2: RELATING TO THE MILITARY

Chair Ito, Vice Chair Tokioka, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kamakana Kaimuloa, and I am the Vice President of Military Affairs at The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii (The Chamber). The Chamber **supports** SB559, SD2.

In recognizing how critical the U.S. military presence is to Hawaii's economy, the Chamber officially established a military affairs department in 1985. For 30 years the Chamber, through its Military Affairs Council (MAC), has served as the State's liaison in matters relating to the military and has been steadfast in working to protect and preserve the military's presence in Hawaii, promote public awareness and understanding of issues facing the military locally and nationally, and serve as the advocate for military and their families.

As it is noted in the bill, the defense industry is responsible for generating \$14.7 billion into Hawaii's economy, making it the state's second major source of revenues, next to tourism. Moreover, the industry accounts for creating job opportunities for more than 100,000 Hawaii residents that report annual household earnings topping \$8.7 billion annually.

Despite these numbers, the State of Hawaii does not have a governmental entity that can analyze the impact of military spending, develop initiatives to target growth, or identify and advocate for possible funding sources from the federal government to protect local communities from the economic impact of military downsizing or base closure. Without the ability to perform these basic functions, Hawaii is at a considerable disadvantage, when compared to the governmental entities and respective budgets of other states. This became very evident most recently when all states/communities with army bases were called upon to demonstrate support for maintaining an army presence. The MAC was proud to lead the effort, but most definitely could have benefited significantly from state government partner. Competition for an ever-shrinking pool of defense dollars will only continue into the future. We need to remain vigilant.

While the Chamber remains committed to serving in this role, its effectiveness is limited by both funding and its status as a non-profit business organization. Although the Chamber receives some funding from the state through the grant-in-aid program, much of the Chamber's initiatives are self-funded. Additionally, the Chamber is actively searching for grants from federal agencies to fund the possible initiatives listed above, but it would be the State that ultimately would need to develop a formal relationship with these agencies should grant money become available.

We are persuaded by the Ways and Means Committee Chair's notation that there may be another place for a Military Affairs Advocate to reside, particularly because there has not yet been an FTE and budget proposed. While an option is clearly the Office of Veterans Services, it could also be placed in the Governor's Office, the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism, or the Department of Defense. We look forward to continuing the discussion.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

tokioka2-Robert

From: Lawrence Enomoto <lawrence.enomoto@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2015 10:09 PM
To: vmitestimony
Cc: Venus Delos Santos; Norbert Enos; STANLEY FERNANDEZ
Subject: Testimony Supporting SB 343 & SB 559 SD2
Attachments: VFW Hawaii Testimony Supporting SB 343-VMI.pdf, VFW Hawaii Testimony Supporting SB 559 SD2-VMI.pdf

Please find the attached testimony supporting both SB 343 & SB 559 SD2.

Lawrence M.G. Enomoto
VFW Hawaii State Legislative Liaison



Headquarters: Department of State of Hawaii
438 Hobron Lane, Suite 407
Honolulu, Hawaii 96815

March 13, 2015

**Testimony in Support of SENATE BILL 559 SD2
Relating to the Military Before the
House Committee on Veterans, Military, & International Affairs & Culture and the Arts
Hearing On Monday, March 16, 2015, 9:00 A.M.
In Conference Room 312**

Chair Ito, Vice Chair Tokioka and Committee Members,

The Department of Hawaii, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) represents 3,800 members in 20 Posts located throughout the State of Hawaii. VFW is a federally chartered national association of soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen who have served the United States of America in wars, campaigns, and expeditions on foreign soil or in hostile waters.

S.B. 559 SD2 Expands the office of veterans' services to include military affairs and establishes additional duties of the office; and appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2)

VFW Hawaii concurs with the findings of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs: "that the United States military presence in the State is critical to the State's economy.... The Office of Military Affairs and Veterans' Services will address the needs of the expanded and appreciated military and veteran population in the State."

VFW Hawaii members would appreciate your favorable consideration of this measure because it would both increase the responsibilities and augment the capabilities of the current Office of Veterans Services to assist military service members and veterans.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of S.B. 343.

Lawrence M.G. Enomoto

Lawrence M.G. Enomoto
VFW Hawaii State Legislative Liaison

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, March 14, 2015 11:24 AM
To: vmitestimony
Cc: mjgolo@email.phoenix.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB559 on Mar 16, 2015 09:00AM

SB559

Submitted on: 3/14/2015

Testimony for VMI on Mar 16, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mike Golojuch	Veterans Advisory Board	Support	No

Comments: The Advisory Board to the Office of Veterans Services supports SB559.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2015 4:54 PM
To: vmitestimony
Cc: sonnyfernand@msn.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB559 on Mar 16, 2015 09:00AM

SB559

Submitted on: 3/13/2015

Testimony for VMI on Mar 16, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stanley Y. Fernandez Sr.	Individual	Support	No

Comments: SB559, SD2 -Relating to the Military. The Hawaii Office of Veterans Services accomplishes and outstanding service for Hawaii veterans. The expansion of responsibility and funding will expand their services. In support.

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