

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



ARTHUR J. LOGAN
MAJOR GENERAL
ADJUTANT GENERAL

KENNETH S. HARA
BRIGADIER GENERAL
DEPUTY ADJUTANT GENERAL

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
3949 DIAMOND HEAD ROAD
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816-4495

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE RESOLUTION 43, HCR 432
URGING HAWAII'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION AND THE GOVERNOR TO
COLLABORATE WITH THE LEGISLATURE TO ENSURE EXPEDITED BURIALS FOR
VETERANS, DECEASED ACTIVE DUTY MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED
FORCES, AND THEIR SPOUSES AT VETERANS CEMETERIES THROUGHOUT THE STATE
OF HAWAII

PRESENTATION TO THE
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, VETERANS, & MILITARY AFFAIRS

BY

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

March 20, 2019, 11:00 am

Good morning, Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Gates, and members of the Committee:

I'm Ron Han, Director of the State Office of Veterans Services (OVS). I appreciate this opportunity to provide **comments** concerning the concepts in HR 43, HCR 43.

The State Office of Veterans Services, with administrative oversight for the eight State Veterans Cemeteries and with a dual partnership with the various Counties on the neighbor islands, does take into consideration the timely internment of eligible Veterans and their loved ones. Religious and cultural burial requirements and practices are discussed during the cemetery family orientation briefings before the scheduled cemetery committal service. Every effort is made by the cemetery staff to meet the cultural or religious conditions in alignment with established federal and state cemetery rules and regulations. In the cited example of the resolution, the Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery (HSVC) incurred one of the highest demand periods for internments over the last decade and reached capacity for internments that stretched out to over four weeks. Over the last year since this high capacity timeframe, the average internments have been between two to three weeks meshing with the funeral service schedules offered by the respective mortuaries. Concerning the cited example, the HSVC staff has not received any other complaints concerning timely interments within the last year. As a side note, the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl averages two weeks for their current internment schedule as 80% of their inurnments are in niches since their in-ground capacity has been fully utilized.

The OVS provides **comments** for this resolution so long as its implementation does not impact or replace the priorities set forth in the Executive Budget.

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

Ron Han: ronald.han@va.gov Phone: (808) 433-0422



LATE

THE ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS

House Committee on Public Safety, Veterans & Military Affairs

Pō‘alua, Malaki 20, 2019
Lumi ‘Aha Kūkā 430
Ke Kapikala Moku‘āina
415 South Beretānia Street

Re: HCR 43/HR 43 - URGING HAWAII'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION AND THE GOVERNOR TO COLLABORATE WITH THE LEGISLATURE TO ENSURE EXPEDITED BURIALS FOR VETERANS, DECEASED ACTIVE DUTY MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES, AND THEIR SPOUSES AT VETERANS CEMETERIES THROUGHOUT THE STATE OF HAWAI‘I.

Aloha Luna Ho‘omalua Takayama, Hope Luna Ho‘omalua Gates and members of the committee:

The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs **SUPPORTS** of HCR 43 and HR 43.

At its 59th Annual Convention, the Association passed Resolution 2018-39, calling for expedited burials of veterans and their spouses in Hawaii’s veterans cemeteries. We affirm that all veterans have earned the privilege to be buried in a veterans' cemetery and all decedents deserve the highest standards for burials, as is a long-standing tradition and practice of Native Hawaiian culture. This privilege and honor should not be hampered by any undue administrative procedures or rules.

Thus, the Association respectfully urges the committees to **PASS** HCR43/HR43.

The Hawaiian Civic Club movement was founded in 1918 by Congressional Delegate Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalaniana‘ole with the creation of the Hawaiian Civic Club; the Association was formally organized in 1959 and has grown to a confederation of over sixty (60) Hawaiian Civic Clubs located throughout the State of Hawai‘i and the United States. The Association is the oldest Hawaiian community-based grassroots organization. The Association is governed by a 16-member Board of Directors; advocates for improved welfare of Native Hawaiians in culture,

health, economic development, education, social welfare, and nationhood; and perpetuates and preserves language, history, music, dance and other Native Hawaiian cultural traditions.

Mahalo for allowing us to share our *mana* 'o.

Me ka 'oia 'i 'o,

Hailama Farden
Pelekikena

ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS

A RESOLUTION

No. 2018 – 39

URGING HAWAI‘I’S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION, THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAI‘I, AND THE HAWAI‘I STATE LEGISLATURE TO ASSURE EXPEDITED BURIALS FOR VETERANS, DECEASED ACTIVE DUTY MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES AND THEIR SPOUSES AT VETERANS CEMETERIES THROUGHOUT THE STATE OF HAWAI‘I

WHEREAS, in the perspective of the Native Hawaiian culture, the proper burial of a deceased Native Hawaiian is an important sacred practice, rite and right; and

WHEREAS, the Hale O Nā Ali‘i O Hawai‘i Hawaiian royal society adopted a similar resolution at its 68th annual convention held in April 2018; and

WHEREAS, at its first annual convention on September 3, 2018, the Maui Council of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs adopted this same resolution; and

WHEREAS, the family of a member of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs recently experienced difficulty in securing a speedy burial for a deceased loved one at the Hawai‘i State Veterans Cemetery in Kāne‘ohe, O‘ahu; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Viola Lewis, a spouse of a predeceased U.S. veteran buried at the Hawai‘i State Veterans Cemetery, passed away on February 19, 2018, but could not be buried for more than five weeks due to administrative delays at the cemetery; and

WHEREAS, the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs recognizes that all U.S. veterans and their spouses have earned the privilege to be buried in a veterans cemetery, and all decedents deserve the highest standards for burials, as is a long-standing tradition and practice in the Native Hawaiian culture; and

WHEREAS, the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs implores the Hawai‘i Congressional Delegation, the Hawai‘i State Legislature, and all counties in the State of Hawai‘i to enact legislation and appropriate sufficient funding required to expedite burials at all veterans cemeteries throughout Hawai‘i; and

WHEREAS, the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs implores the Governor of the State of Hawai‘i to direct the Hawai‘i Office of Veterans’ Services to implement all measures practicable and necessary to expedite burials at State Veterans Cemeteries.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs at its 59th Annual Convention in Kalapaki, Kaua'i, in the malama of Welehu and the rising of 'Olepau, this 17th day of November 2018, urging Hawai'i's Congressional Delegation, the Governor of the State of Hawai'i, and the Hawai'i State Legislature to assure expedited burials for veterans, deceased active duty members of the United States Armed Forces and their spouses at veterans cemeteries in Hawai'i; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs respects the rights of Native Hawaiians to be buried in a timely manner or with the respect of the wishes of the decedent and families; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to all members of Hawai'i's Congressional Delegation, the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs, the Governor of the State of Hawai'i, the Director of the Hawai'i Office of Veterans' Services; and that copies of the this resolution be transmitted to the President of the State Senate, Speaker of the State House of Representatives, Chair of the State Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs, Chair of the State House Committee on Ocean, Marine Resources, & Hawaiian Affairs, Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and all County Mayors.



The undersigned hereby certifies that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted in the malama of Welehu and the rising of 'Olepau on the 17th day of November 2018, at the 59th Annual Convention of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs in Kalapaki, Kaua'i.


Annelle C. Amaral, President



LATE

Luna O Na Papa Alakai

Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

Pelekikena
A. Makana Paris

Wednesday, March 20, 2019
Conference Room 430
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Hope Pekekikena
Ekahi
Randi Fernandez

Hope Pelekikena
Elua
Matthew Gumapac

Re: HCR43/HR43 - HAWAII'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION AND THE GOVERNOR TO COLLABORATE WITH THE LEGISLATURE TO ENSURE EXPEDITED BURIALS FOR VETERANS, DECEASED ACTIVE DUTY MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES, AND THEIR SPOUSES AT VETERANS CEMETERIES THROUGHOUT THE STATE OF HAWAII

Puuku
Denise Kekuna

Aloha Chair Takayama, Vice-Chair Gates, and honorable members:

Kakauolelo Hoopaa
Sai Furukawa

Kakauolelo Hooholo
Palapala
Kamuela Werner

The Prince Kūhiō Hawaiian Civic Club **SUPPORTS** HCR43/HR43.

Pelekikena Hala
Koke
Yvonne 'PeeWee'
Ryan

At its 59th Annual Convention, the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs passed Resolution 2018-39, calling for timely burials of veterans and their spouses in Hawaii's veterans cemeteries. Let us honor our veterans and help their families and friends celebrate their lives through expedited burials.

Luna Alakai
Kuni Agard
Puamana Crabbe
Kanani Pali
Marlene Sai
Jennifer Smythe
Bruce Wong

Founded in 1964, PKHCC was organized to promote the education and social welfare of people of Hawaiian ancestry and objectives include supporting high ethical standards in business, industry and the professional fields of enterprise.

PKHCC urges the committee to **PASS** HCR43/HR43.

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 4728
Honolulu ~ Hawaii
96812

Me ke aloha,

A. Makana Paris
Pelekikena
president@pkhcc.org

www.pkhcc.org

Founded in 1964
by Liliuokalani
Kawananakoa Morris