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GOVERNOR



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TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2478  
RELATING TO MEMORIALS

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

BY

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

February 5, 2020  
10:00 a.m.

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 testimony **in support** of the concepts in House Bill 2478.

This measure appropriates funds for the planning and design of a memorial to honor service members of the recent conflicts in the Persian Gulf, Iraq, Afghanistan, and the various theaters of the Global War on Terrorism, to be located at the Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery in Kaneohe, on the island of Oahu, and replicas of the memorial to be located at state veterans cemeteries statewide. Honoring our service members, many who paid the ultimate sacrifice, reflects on the deep appreciation and respect of a grateful State and Nation.

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.

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

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Public Testimony of  
Allen K. Hoe  
Honolulu, Hawaii

In Support of HB 2478

Before the House:  
Committee on Public Safety & Military  
Wednesday, February 5, 2020  
10:00 AM, Conference Rm. 430

Aloha Chair Takayama and Members.

My name is Allen K. Hoe and I am Vietnam Combat Veteran and a GOLD STAR FATHER.

Three weeks ago, my family and I along with nearly 100 soldiers of my son's Infantry Regiment, the 21<sup>st</sup> INF, "Gimlets" gathered at the 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division's Mission Support Training Complex at Schofield, which is named in Nainoa's memory, to commemorate the 15<sup>th</sup> year when being a GOLD STAR FAMILY was first thrust upon us with the news that our beloved Nainoa was killed in combat in Mosul, Iraq while serving his country. Each year, we have the duty, honor and privilege to pay a solemn tribute not only to Nainoa, but the eleven young warriors of his Regiment from 1/21 Infantry who left Schofield during this current conflict, never to return and changing their loved ones lives forever.

It is very discouraging that after eight (8) years, the mission began by K. Mark Takai in 2012 while a member of this Honorable Body Mark to establish a Memorial in tribute to the men and women of Hawaii who gave their "last full measure of devotion" for Hawaii and the Country, is unfulfilled.

Hawaii has an unmatched legacy of service in our nation by its sons and daughters who have willingly gone to war for our freedoms. Additionally, Mark's efforts to recognize the sacrifice of the families of not only our sons and daughters but all who have left Hawaii's shores "never to return" with the Hawaii State Medal of Honor Award was truly remarkable.

HB 2478 is essential in the process to provide a lasting tribute to the service and the sacrifice of Hawaii's heroes who gallantly faced down the forces of evil who would threaten to do harm to our way of life. It will bring the deserved recognition and honor to the memory of Hawaii's fallen heroes and allow us to move one step closer to reality with the planning and design of the Memorial.

Respectfully,  
Allen K. Hoe

**HB-2478**

Submitted on: 2/1/2020 12:06:05 PM

Testimony for PVM on 2/5/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Brostrom	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

My name is David Brostrom. My son 1LT Jontahan Brostrom was KIA in Afghanistan on July 13,2008. I have been involved in trying to get the memorial for the War on Terror approved for over 6 years now. Every year the Bill get voted down. A state funded memorial is fitting and appropriate to honor those Hawaii military who have given their lives protecting our country in combat. Since there is no end to the War on Terror this memorial will be perpetual and always active. The War on Terror is America's longest war. The Hawaii State Legislature needs to fund this memorial. We are asking for just bid and proposal money to assess the cost.

Very Respectfully

David P. Brostrom

Father 1LT Jonathan Brostrom KIA Afghanistan 13 July 2008

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION for UNIFORMED SERVICES**  
**HAWAII CHAPTER**  
1298 Kukila Ave, Honolulu HI 96818

4 February 2020

**LATE**

Aloha Hawaii State House Public Safety, Military and Veterans affairs  
Committee Chair Takayama and Vice Chair Gates:

Please accept our testimony in support of HB3478 relating to the appropriation of funds for the planning and design of a memorial to honor service members of the recent conflicts in the Persian Gulf, Iraq, Afghanistan, and the various theaters of the Global War on Terrorism.

I plan to attend your committee's hearing, regarding this issue, at 10am tomorrow morning

Mahalo for being there for us, Dennis Egge; Chapter President

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