



**OAHU REGION
HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION**

**Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice-Chair**

April 6, 2026, 10:32 A.M.
(Via Video Conference)
Conference Room 211
Hawaii State Capitol

Sean Sanada
Oahu Region Chief Executive Officer
Hawaii Health Systems Corporation

Re: Comments

HB 2343 HD1, SD1 Relating to Veterans

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

Aloha and thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on HB 2343, HD1, SD1, which repeals the specific deadline by which the Maui State Veterans Home must be assimilated into a state agency having a Maui affiliation, but still requires that such transfer be completed as soon as practicable.

The Oahu Region understands the value that the Maui State Veterans Home will bring to the Maui veteran community. The Oahu Region also fully supports the proposition that, if possible, management of the Maui facility should be undertaken by a state entity with a Maui affiliation. In order to help facilitate the development of the Maui State Veterans Home and enable the Department of Defense, Office of Veterans' Services to meet all regulatory requirements for federal funding, the Oahu Region is currently maintaining temporary responsibility for the Maui facility. That being said, the Oahu Region remains committed to relinquishing responsibility for the Maui State Veterans Home once an appropriate Maui entity is established and is able to take over this important role.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



STEPHEN F. LOGAN
MAJOR GENERAL
ADJUTANT GENERAL
KA 'AKUKANA KENELALA

JOHN P. ALAMODIN
LIEUTENANT COLONEL
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

STATE OF HAWAI'I
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
KA 'OIHANA PILI KAUA
OFFICE OF VETERANS' SERVICES
459 PATTERSON ROAD, E-WING, ROOM 1-A103
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96819-1522
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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL HB2343, HD1, SD1
RELATING TO VETERANS

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

BY

JOHN P. ALAMODIN
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF VETERANS SERVICES

April 6, 2026

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Moriwaki, and members of the committee:

I am John P. Alamodin, Director, Office of Veterans Services, State of Hawaii, Department of Defense.

The Office of Veterans Services (OVS) provides written testimony of **STRONG SUPPORT** for HB2343, HD1, SD1

This measure seeks to repeal the specific deadline by which the Maui State Veterans Home must be assimilated into a state agency having a Maui affiliation. Instead, requires the transfer of the Maui State Veterans Home to be completed as soon as practicable.

The State Veterans Homes are facilities that provide eligible Veterans with nursing home, domiciliary, or adult day care. These facilities are owned and operated by state government, and the VA's State Home Program provides an economical alternative to constructing, maintaining, and operating facilities for the provision of care to eligible Veterans. As of October 21, 2025, There are 175 State Veterans Homes with 169 nursing homes, 47 domiciliaries, and 3 adult day health care programs. With the Yukio Okutsu State Veterans Home in Hilo and the Daniel K. Akaka State Veterans Home in Kapolei, Hawai'i's State Veterans Home Program currently provides 215 residential long-term care beds across the State. The State Veterans Home on Maui will be the

third in Hawaii which add another 60-beds to the State Veterans Home Program and will address critical long-term care needs for Hawaii Veterans, their families, and Gold Star Parents statewide.

The proposed amendment to Section 3 of SLH 2024 Act 99 as reads “No later than June 30, 2027” change to read “As soon as practicable” will enable this important project to continue moving forward without time constraints, while also affording an extended opportunity for the formulation of a state agency having a Maui affiliation which is capable of fulfilling both ownership and operational oversight responsibilities for the new Hawaii State Veterans Home Maui.

On behalf of Hawaii Veterans and their families we serve, the Office of Veterans Services conveys its appreciation to the Committee for the opportunity to testify in STRONG SUPPORT of HB2343, HD1, SD1

John P. Alamodin
john.p.alamodin@hawaii.gov

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



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TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2343 HD1 SD1
RELATING TO VETERANS

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

BY

MAJOR GENERAL STEPHEN F. LOGAN
ADJUTANT GENERAL
DIRECTOR OF HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

March 2, 2026

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Moriwaki, and members of the committee:

My name is Major General Stephen F. Logan, Adjutant General and Director of Hawaii Emergency Management Agency, State of Hawai'i, Department of Defense.

The State of Hawai'i, Department of Defense, submits written testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB 2343 HD1 SD1.

This proposed bill is legislation that our department and the Office of Veterans Services would have needed to introduce in the 2027 biennium if the Maui Hawaii Health Care Cooperation, Maui Region Board was unable to reconstitute and assume operational responsibilities for the Hawai'i State Veterans Home (SVH) on Maui by the legislatively mandated, June 30, 2027 deadline. Passing this simple language amendment now alleviates any uncertainty regarding who may operate and oversee the SVH on Maui, while concurrently preserving the opportunity for a Maui affiliated state agency to assume that responsibility, if one is available and capable.

State Veterans Homes are integral in ensuring that Hawaii has adequate long-term care facilities. SVH facilities provide eligible Veterans with nursing home care, domiciliary care, or adult day health care and concurrently increase the long-term care capacity for the state. These facilities are owned and operated by state government with no additional future state operating cost, and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)

State Home Program provides an economical alternative to constructing, maintaining, and operating facilities for the provision of care to eligible Veterans. With the Yukio Okutsu State Veterans Home in Hilo and the Daniel K. Akaka State Veterans Home in Kapolei, Hawai'i's State Veterans Home Program currently provides 215 residential long-term care beds across the State. The SVH on Maui will be Hawai'i's third State Veterans Home and will provide the state with an additional 60 residential long-term care beds to serve Hawai'i Veterans and their Families on Maui, including Gold Star Parents, statewide.

This bill amends Section 3 of Act 99, SLH 2024, which currently requires the SVH on Maui to be assimilated into a state agency having a Maui affiliation "no later than June 30, 2027." It would replace that deadline with language that would read, "as soon as practicable." This adjustment will enable this important project to continue moving forward without an arbitrary statutory deadline that could create unnecessary risk if an appropriate Maui-affiliated state agency is not yet identified or fully prepared to assume both ownership and operational oversight responsibilities by the existing deadline. At the same time, the bill preserves and extends the opportunity to formulate or identify a qualified Maui-affiliated state agency capable of fulfilling those responsibilities.

We also want to note our appreciation of HHSC Oahu Region's commitment and support to operate the SVH on Maui should a Maui affiliated state agency not be available. Their support and commitment ensures the project will move forward seamlessly and risk free.

On behalf of the Hawai'i Veterans and Families we serve, we thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important measure and respectfully request your favorable consideration and support. Please feel free to call me or our Director of Legislative Affairs, Brigadier General (Retired) Neal Mitsuyoshi at 808-369-3562, neal.s.mitsuyoshi@hawaii.gov should you have any questions.

Major General Stephen F. Logan, Stephen.f.logan@hawaii.gov; 808-672-1001



**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2343 HD1 SD1
RELATING TO VETERANS**

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair

Monday, April 6, 2026 at 10:32 AM
Conference Room 211 or via Videoconference

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Military Affairs Council ("MAC") supports HB 2343 HD1 SD1.

The MAC was established in 1985 when the Chamber was appointed by the State to serve as the liaison to the military. The MAC advocates on behalf of Hawaii's military, and is comprised of business leaders, academic institutions, State and County officials, members of the CODEL, community leaders, labor unions and organizations and retired U.S. flag and general officers. The MAC works to support Hawaii's location as a strategic U.S. headquarters in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region which is crucial for U.S. national and homeland security.

The Maui State Veterans Home is intended to provide skilled nursing, rehabilitation, hospice, Alzheimer's care, and respite services for Hawai'i's veterans. Ensuring that this facility is placed under an appropriate state agency with the expertise to operate a long-term care facility is critical to its success.

The transfer process has proven to be complex, involving logistical, labor, and financial considerations. Removing the fixed statutory deadline and allowing the transfer to occur as soon as practicable will help ensure a smooth, responsible transition that protects the interests of veterans, staff, and the State.

This measure provides needed flexibility to complete the transfer thoughtfully and effectively.

The Hawaii Military Affairs Council respectfully requests the Committee to pass this measure.

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2343 HD1 SD1
A BILL RELATING TO VETERANS

PRESENTATION TO
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

BY

Thomas M. Driskill, Jr
COL, USA, MSC (Ret)
698 Kaulana Place
Honolulu, Hawaii
96821

April 6, 2026, 10:32AM

Conference Room 211

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee,

I am Tommy Driskill and I am testifying in strong **SUPPORT** of HB 2343 HD1 SD1.

Based upon my past years of experience as President/CEO, Hawaii Health Systems Corp (HHSC) Aug 1997 to Dec 2009, during which time I oversaw the planning, construction, opening and initial operation of the Yukio Okutsu State Veterans Home, Hilo and my work representing Director, Office of Veterans Services, DOD, SOH, interest in both the construction of the Daniel K. Akaka State Veterans Home (DKA SVH), Kapolei 2021 through 2024 as well as planning and design preparation for our new 3d Hawaii State Veterans Home (HI SVH) Maui 2025 into 2026, I feel uniquely qualified to strongly **SUPPORT** this legislation.

The proposed amendment to Section 3 of SLH 2024 Act 99 as reads "No later than June 30, 2027" change to read "As soon as practicable" will enable this important project to continue moving forward without time constraints, while simultaneously affording an extended opportunity for the formulation of a state agency having a Maui affiliation which is capable of fulfilling both ownership and operational oversight responsibilities for our new 3d HI SVH Maui.

Thank you for your consideration of this legislation which we strongly **SUPPORT** on behalf of both our Maui Veterans and our State-wide Hawaii Veterans, their families and our Gold Star Parents.

Thomas M Driskill Jr, COL, USA, MSC (Ret), tmdriskill@gmail.com / 808-499-997

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2343 HD1 SD1 A BILL
RELATING TO VETERANS**

**PRESENTATION TO
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**

**BY
Aris A. Banaag
Major, USAF**

**April 6, 2026 – 10:32am
Conference Room 211**

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Aris Banaag, and I am testifying in strong SUPPORT of HB 2343 HD1 SD1.

Through my work with the Maui County Veterans Council, the Office of Veterans Services, and ongoing efforts supporting disaster recovery and veteran advocacy across Maui, I have seen firsthand the critical need for sustained, long-term infrastructure that honors and cares for our veterans and their families. The development of the third Hawai'i State Veterans Home on Maui is not only overdue, it is essential to meeting the needs of our growing and aging veteran population.

The proposed amendment to Section 3 of SLH 2024 Act 99, changing the deadline from "No later than June 30, 2027" to "As soon as practicable," is both reasonable and necessary. Removing an arbitrary timeline allows this project to advance without administrative constraints while ensuring that the State has the flexibility to establish an appropriate Maui-based agency capable of providing responsible ownership and operational oversight for the new facility.

This adjustment strengthens the long-term viability of the project and ensures that planning, coordination, and execution are driven by readiness and capability, not by a fixed date that may unintentionally hinder progress.

On behalf of our Maui veterans, our statewide veteran community, their families, and our Gold Star families, I respectfully urge the Committee to PASS HB 2343 HD1 SD1.

Thank you for your consideration and continued support of Hawai'i's veterans.

Aris A. Banaag, Maj, HING, arisbanaag@gmail.com / 808-870-6134