

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
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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2343
RELATING TO VETERANS

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
AND
THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & HOMELESSNESS

BY

JOHN P. ALAMODIN
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF VETERANS SERVICES

February 06, 2026

Aloha Chairs Takayama and Marten, Vice-Chairs Keohokapu-Lee Loy and Olds, and members of the committees:

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 in SUPPORT of HB 2343.

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. The State Veterans Home on Maui will be the third in Hawaii 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 SUPPORT of HB 2343.

John P. Alamodin

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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2545
RELATING TO VETERANS

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
AND
THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & HOMELESSNESS

BY

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

February 6, 2026

Aloha Chairs Takayama and Marten, Vice-Chairs Keohokapu-Lee Loy and Olds, and members of the committees:

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.

This measure is legislation that our department and the Office of Veterans Services would likely have needed to introduce in the 2027 biennium if the Maui Hawaii Health Care Corporation, 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 legislation now alleviates any uncertainty regarding who may operate and oversee the SVH on Maui, while preserving the opportunity for a Maui affiliated state agency to assume that responsibility, if one is available and capable.

State Veterans Homes are facilities that provide eligible Veterans with nursing home care, domiciliary care, or adult day health care. These facilities are owned and operated by state government, 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. As of October 21, 2025, there are 175 State Veterans Homes nationwide, including 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 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.

HB 2343 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." This bill 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. 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.

On behalf of the Hawai'i Veterans and Families we serve, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important measure. We respectfully request your favorable consideration and appreciate your support.

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



**OAHU REGION
HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION**

**Committee on Health
Representative Gregg Takayama, Chair
Representative Sue L. Keohokapu-Lee Loy, Vice-Chair**

**Committee on Human Services and Homelessness
Representative Lisa Marten, Chair
Representative Ikaika Olds, Vice-Chair**

February 6, 2026, 9:00 A.M.
(Via Video Conference)
Conference Room 329
Hawaii State Capitol

Sean Sanada
Oahu Region Chief Executive Officer
Hawaii Health Systems Corporation
Re: Comments

HB 2343 Relating to Veterans

Chairs Takayama and Marten, Vice-Chairs Keohokapu-Lee Loy and McKelvey, and Members of the Committee on Health and the Committee on Human Services and Homelessness:

Aloha and thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on HB 2343, 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.

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2343
A BILL RELATING TO VETERANS

PRESENTATION TO
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & HOMELESSNESS

BY

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

February 6, 2026, 9:00 AM

Conference Room 225

Chairs Takayama and Marten, Vice Chairs Keohokapu-Lee Loy and Olds, and Members of the Committees

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

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, 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 the new HI SVH Maui.

I do not see any conflict between the provisions of this bill and the Executive Budget, but I must base my strong **SUPPORT** on provision that its passage does not ultimately replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget

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

LATE

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2343
RELATING TO VETERANS
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
AND THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & HOMELESSNESS**

BY

Maj Aris A. Banaag

OFFICE OF VETERANS SERVICES

MAUI REPRESENTATIVE

February 6, 2026

Aloha Chairs Takayama and Marten, Vice Chairs Keohokapu-Lee Loy and Olds, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Maj Aris A. Banaag, and I am submitting testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2343.

This measure provides a necessary amendment to Section 3 of Act 99, SLH 2024, replacing the current statutory deadline of “no later than June 30, 2027” with the more operationally appropriate language, “as soon as practicable.” This adjustment is essential to ensure the continued progress of the Hawai‘i State Veterans Home (SVH) on Maui.

State Veterans Homes play a critical role in delivering long-term nursing, domiciliary, and adult day health care to eligible Veterans. These facilities, owned and operated by state governments and supported through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs State Home Program, offer a cost-effective and mission-aligned model for providing high-quality care to those who have served. With 175 State Veterans Homes nationwide, Hawai‘i’s expansion to a third facility on Maui represents a significant step toward meeting the long-term care needs of Veterans, their families, and Gold Star Parents across the state.

The Maui SVH will add 60 additional long-term care beds to Hawai‘i’s existing capacity, complementing the Yukio Okutsu SVH in Hilo and the Daniel K. Akaka SVH in Kapolei. Ensuring that this project moves forward without the constraints of an arbitrary statutory deadline is vital, particularly as the State continues to evaluate and identify a Maui-affiliated agency capable of assuming both ownership and operational oversight responsibilities.

HB 2343 preserves the intent of Act 99 while providing the flexibility required to avoid unnecessary delays or risks to this critical project. It maintains the opportunity for a Maui-based state entity to assume responsibility when ready, while ensuring that progress toward establishing the Maui SVH continues uninterrupted.

On behalf of the Veterans, families, and Gold Star community we serve, I respectfully urge the Committees to pass HB 2343. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of this important measure.

Maj Aris A. Banaag, aris.banaag.1@us.af.mil; 808-789-0650