

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
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STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
KA 'OIHANA PILI KAUA
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
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STEPHEN F. LOGAN
MAJOR GENERAL
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BRIGADIER GENERAL
DEPUTY ADJUTANT GENERAL
KA HOPE 'AKUKANA KENELALA

TESTIMONY ON HCR40
RELATING TO THE VIETNAM VETERANS COMMEMORATIVE MEDAL
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

BY

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

March 25, 2026

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice-Chair Iwamoto, and members of the committee:

The Department of Defense provides written testimony in **SUPPORT** of **HCR40**.

Hawaii has a long and proud history of military service, and the contributions and sacrifices that our Vietnam War Veterans made deserve recognition and appreciation. Many of our Hawaii heroes came home to a hostile or indifferent society, starkly different from the hero's welcome of our previous wars. They answered the call during a challenging time in our nation's history, and this resolution provides an opportunity for the State to honor these Veterans in a meaningful and symbolic way.

Establishing a working group is a thoughtful first step to ensure that any state commemorative medal is coordinated and developed with input from key stakeholders, including the Veterans themselves.

For these reasons, I support this resolution and appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony. 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 or need support on this initiative.

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TESTIMONY ON HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 40
RELATING TO REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO CONVENE A
WORKING GROUP TO DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A STATE OF HAWAII
COMMEMORATIVE VIETNAM VETERANS MEDAL
BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

BY

BRIGADIER GENERAL WALTER R. ROSS, JR.
HAWAII NATIONAL GUARD

March 25, 2026

Aloha Chair Della Au Belatti, Vice Chair Kim Coco Iwamoto, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brigadier General Walter Ross, Hawai'i National Guard, State of Hawai'i, Department of Defense.

I am presenting this testimony in **SUPPORT** of HCR 40.

This resolution represents a crucial step in honoring the service and sacrifices of Hawai'i's Vietnam Veterans. These dedicated individuals answered the call of duty during one of the most turbulent periods in our nation's history, facing numerous challenges both overseas and upon their return home. A commemorative medal would provide a tangible expression of gratitude and recognition for their contributions to our state and nation.

By establishing a working group, the Department of Defense can ensure that the medal's design, criteria, and distribution accurately reflect the unique experiences and diverse backgrounds of Hawai'i's Vietnam Veterans. This collaborative approach will enable input from stakeholders, including veterans' organizations, community leaders, and policymakers, ensuring that the medal serves as a fitting tribute to their service and sacrifices.

The introduction of a State of Hawai'i Commemorative Vietnam Veterans Medal would not only honor individual veterans but also reinforce our collective commitment to recognizing the sacrifices made by all who have served. It offers Hawai'i an opportunity to demonstrate leadership by showing respect and appreciation for our veterans, while fostering pride and unity within our community.

The Hawai'i National Guard and the Department of Defense support this resolution, provided that its approval does not replace or negatively affect priorities outlined in the Executive Budget.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to support HCR 40.

Brigadier General Walter R. Ross, Jr., walter.r.ross2.mil@army.mil; 808-844-6087