

**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 HAWAII  
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**  
**KA 'OIHANA PILI KAUA**  
**OFFICE OF VETERANS' SERVICES**  
459 PATTERSON ROAD, E-WING, ROOM 1-A103  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96819-1522  
Telephone Number (808) 433-0420

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION SCR 28

BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON  
PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

BY

JOHN P. ALAMODIN  
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF VETERANS SERVICES

APRIL 1, 2026

Aloha Chair Fukunaga, Vice-Chair Lee, 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 in **SUPPORT** of SCR 28.

**REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A STATE OF HAWAII COMMEMORATIVE VIETNAM VETERANS MEDAL**

While the federal government issues the primary medals in recognition of Vietnam War service, several U.S. states have established their own medals to specifically honor residents who served during the conflict. These state-issued medals are typically commemorative or service-based and are distinct from Department of Defense awards. Several states offer specific Vietnam Veteran medals or ribbons to honor their veterans as state-issued decorations rather than federal military awards. The New York State Vietnam War Commemorative Medal as a notable example which honors veterans who served between Nov. 1, 1955, and May 17, 1975, in Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, or Thailand. The Ohio Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Medal is a medal and certificate

authorized for residents who served during the Vietnam era. Many other states, such as Pennsylvania or Illinois, have established, retroactively, medals or ribbons recognizing their residents' service in Vietnam. Whereas Connecticut Veterans Wartime Service Medal, while not exclusive to the Vietnam War, this medal is awarded to Connecticut veterans (or their next of kin) who served at least 90 days of active duty during a period of war, including the Vietnam War. The Delaware Distinguished Service Medal is awarded for various acts of service to the state's military forces, it is often presented to veterans for long and distinguished service, including those who served in Vietnam.

A State of Hawaii Commemorative Vietnam Veterans Medal would mirror the sentiments of the States who have similarly honored their cherished sons and daughters that answered the call to serve during an especially challenging time in our nation's history.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

John P. Alamodin, [john.p.alamodin@hawaii.gov](mailto:john.p.alamodin@hawaii.gov)

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR  
KE KIA'ĀINA

**LATE**



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

JOHN P. ALAMODIN  
LIEUTENANT COLONEL  
DIRECTOR  
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STATE OF HAWAI'I  
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I  
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STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION SCR 28

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

BY

MAJOR GENERAL STEPHEN F. LOGAN  
ADJUTANT GENERAL  
AND DIRECTOR OF THE HAWAI'I EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

MARCH 31, 2026

Aloha Chair Fukunaga, Vice-Chair Lee, and members of the committee:

The Department of Defense provides written testimony in **SUPPORT of SCR 28.**

This bill request the Department of Defense (DOD) to convene a Working Group to develop recommendations for a State of Hawaii Commemorative Vietnam Veterans Medal.

Hawai'i 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 heros 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. Although this commermorative medal would not be recognized as an official Department of Defense or Hawaii National Guard award, it would align similarly with the sentiments of other States who have honored their cherished sons and daughters that answered the call to serve during an especially challenging time in our nation's history.

The DOD would be honored to support this initiative and our Hawaii Vietnam Veterans, and appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in 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](mailto:neal.s.mitsuyoshi@hawaii.gov), should you have any questions or require anything related to this initiative.

MG Stephen F. Logan, [Stephen.f.logan@hawaii.gov](mailto:Stephen.f.logan@hawaii.gov); 808-672-1001



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## ‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

### Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

**LATE**

Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs  
Wednesday, April 1, 2026 at 3:02 p.m.

By

David McDonald, Vice Chancellor for Administration  
University of Hawai'i – West O'ahu

SCR 28 – REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A STATE OF HAWAII COMMEMORATIVE VIETNAM VETERANS MEDAL.

Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i – West O'ahu (UHWO) stands in full support of SCR 28. This resolution represents a vital step in providing the long overdue honor and recognition our Vietnam veterans deserve.

#### A Legacy of Healing

In January 2026, UHWO was privileged to host **The Wall That Heals**, a three-quarter scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. This event was more than an exhibit; it was a profound opportunity for veterans and their families to find peace and move forward from the scars of battle and the mistreatment many faced upon their return from war.

The success of this initiative was driven by the tireless stewardship of community leaders Sue Bauer and Eddie Freeman, supported by hundreds of volunteers who staffed the memorial 24 hours a day. The overwhelming response – 15,000 visitors in just six days – clearly demonstrates a deep community need to honor this specific generation of heroes.

#### Why SCR 28 Matters

For too long, the service of Vietnam veterans was ignored or scorned. SCR 28 is a necessary corrective action by the State of Hawai'i. By convening a working group to develop a commemorative medal, the State takes a meaningful step toward restoring the honor of those who sacrificed for our country. Formal State recognition is the essential next step in this delayed healing process.

#### Our Commitment to Veterans

UHWO is deeply rooted in the veteran community:

- Ranked by U.S. News & World Report as one of the top three universities in the West for serving veterans.

- Top 10 nationally for the percentage of students who have served in the military. In Fall 2025, 12% of UHWO students were veterans. The national average for public universities is 2.8%.
- Growing enrollment with an increase of 11.5% from Fall 2024.
- Workforce connected, UHWO veterans are enrolled in degree programs that are strongly aligned with Hawai'i's workforce needs including Business (29%), Cybersecurity (13%), Public Administration (13%) and Information Security Assurance (9%).

Given our campus' unique connection to this mission and our student body's high military affiliation, we offer our full support to this resolution. We stand ready to participate in or assist the working group in any capacity to ensure our Vietnam veterans receive the recognition they have earned. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



Maui County Veterans Council  
P.O. Box 330137, Kahului, HI. 96732

TESTIMONY ON  
**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 40 & SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 28**

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

MAUI COUNTY VETERANS' COUNCIL

March 31, 2026

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Maui County Veterans Council, I respectfully submit testimony in strong support of HCR 40.

The Maui County Veterans Council represents a broad coalition of veteran organizations committed to honoring, supporting, and advocating for those who have served our nation.

Vietnam Veterans hold a particularly significant place within our community. They are leaders, mentors, and pillars—many of whom continued their service long after returning home, despite not receiving the recognition they deserved at the time.

This resolution is an important step toward correcting that.

The creation of a State of Hawai'i Commemorative Vietnam Veterans Medal provides a meaningful and lasting way to recognize their service and sacrifice. Additionally, the proposed working group ensures that this effort is thoughtfully developed, incorporating input from veterans' organizations and community stakeholders.

On Maui, we see firsthand the impact that acknowledgment and recognition can have. It strengthens community ties, fosters pride, and reminds our veterans that their service is valued and remembered.

We fully support HCR 40 and respectfully urge the committee to pass this measure.

Mahalo for your continued support of Hawai'i's veterans.

Respectfully,  
Maui County Veterans Council



# Na Koa Kahiko Wahine

*Military Women*

**Unite. Honor. Empower.**

TESTIMONY ON  
**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 40 & SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 28**

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  
CHELSEA FERNANDEZ, PRESIDENT  
NA KOA KAHIKO WAHINE, WOMEN VETERANS

March 31, 2026

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of Nā Koa Kahiko Wahine, a women veterans organization dedicated to empowering and uplifting women who have served, we stand in strong support of SCR28/HCR 40.

Hawai'i has a deep and enduring legacy of military service—one that spans generations and conflicts, from the earliest days of our history to present day. This legacy is not just written in history books, but carried in the lives of our kūpuna, our families, and our communities.

Our Vietnam Veterans, in particular, represent a generation who answered the call during one of the most complex and difficult periods in our nation's history. Many returned home not to celebration, but to silence—sometimes even rejection. Yet they continued to serve, to lead, and to build the communities we benefit from today.

This resolution represents more than the creation of a commemorative medal. It represents acknowledgment. It represents healing. And it represents Hawai'i's commitment to ensuring that the sacrifices of our Vietnam Veterans are not only remembered, but honored in a way that is visible, tangible, and lasting.

We also strongly support the formation of a working group that includes veterans and community stakeholders. This collaborative approach ensures that the voices of those who lived this history are part of shaping how it is honored.

Nā Koa Kahiko Wahine believes deeply in legacy—what we inherit, and what we leave behind. Supporting SCR28/HCR 40 is part of fulfilling that responsibility.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this important measure.

Me Ke Aloha Pumehana  
*(with warm regards),*

*Chelsea Fernandez*

President, NKKW  
PO Box 330683, Kahului, HI 96733  
808-258-3505  
chelseaanfernandez@gmail.com



Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair  
Senator Chris Lee, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs

Testimony of **VFW Department of Hawai'i**

Wednesday, April 1, 2026

**Support Intent** for Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 28 – Requesting the Department of Defense to Convene a Working Group to Develop Recommendations for a State of Hawai'i Commemorative Vietnam Veterans Medal.

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY**

Honorable Chair, Vice Chair and Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony supporting the intent for Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 28. This resolution formally requests the state Department of Defense to convene a working group to develop recommendations for a State of Hawai'i commemorative Vietnam veterans medal.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) – Department of Hawai'i is proud to support, serve, and represent veterans that served our nation during the Vietnam War. However, we are concerned with the current designee representing our organization on the proposed working group as it is limited to a single subsidiary unit, Post 3830, located in Pāhoā on Hawai'i island. VFW – Department of Hawai'i serves veterans throughout the State of Hawai'i and American Samoa, and finds that it is more appropriate for our State Commander or their designee to represent our organization on the working group.

Thus, the VFW – Department of Hawai'i respectfully requests the following amendments:

- On page 2, lines 36 and 37:

“(7) [~~One member representing Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3830, to be invited by the chairperson,~~] The State Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars – Department of Hawai'i, or the State Commander's designee; and”



Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs  
Wednesday, April 1, 2026  
Page 2 of 2

- On page 3, lines 31-38:

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Adjutant General; Director of the Joint Staff of the Hawaii National Guard; Director of the Office of Veterans' Services; President of Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 858; President of Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 1139; President of Vietnam Veterans of Maui County; and [~~Commander in Chief of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3830.~~] the State Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars - Department of Hawai'i."

We urge your committee to pass Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 28, with our suggested amendments, to establish a well-rounded and represented working group to develop recommendations for a State of Hawai'i commemorative Vietnam veterans medal.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony **supporting the intent** of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 28.

Respectfully,

Jame K. Schaedel  
Member, National Legislative Committee  
VFW Department of Hawai'i

# Oahu Veterans Council

## TESTIMONY OF COL. EDWARD L. CRUICKSHANK (RET.) Oahu Veterans Center

*Oahu Veterans Council Officers*

*President - Edward Cruickshank*

*1st VP - Gary Chamberlin*

*2nd VP - Alma Grocki*

*Director - Reuben Bilan*

*Secretary/Center Treasurer - Brian Hawkins*

*The Gathering of Heroes*



*Director - Matt Horn*

*Director - Patsy Takemura*

*Director - Howard Sugai*

*Director - Jennifer Sabas*

*Executive Director - Hollie Thomas*

President, Oahu Veterans Council

Commander, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Honolulu Chapter

In Support of Requesting the Department of Defense to Convene a Working Group to Develop Recommendations for a State of Hawai'i Commemorative Vietnam Veterans Medal

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and Members of the Legislature,

My name is Colonel Edward L. Cruickshank, United States Air Force, retired. I serve as President of the Oahu Veterans Council and as Commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Honolulu Chapter. I am also a Vietnam veteran.

I am writing in strong support of this resolution.

Hawai'i has a long and proud history of military service. That service is personal here. It comes from our families, our neighborhoods and our communities. During the Vietnam War, local men and women answered the call. More than 275 from Hawai'i are memorialized on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC. Many more returned home and continued to serve in their own way.

For Vietnam veterans, recognition did not always come when it should have. Many carried their service quietly for years. In recent decades we have made progress in honoring that service, but there is more we can do here at home.

A State of Hawai'i commemorative Vietnam Veterans Medal is a meaningful step. It would recognize the service and sacrifice of those who served during that time and acknowledge the unique connection between Hawai'i and its veterans.

The working group outlined in this resolution is the right approach. It brings together the Hawai'i National Guard, the Office of Veterans' Services and veteran service organizations to ensure this is done properly. Eligibility, verification and design must be handled with care and credibility, and this structure supports that.

This effort is about recognition and respect. It is about making sure our Vietnam veterans know their service is seen and valued by the people of this state.

Respectfully,

Col. Edward L. Cruickshank, USAF (Ret.)

President, Oahu Veterans Council

Commander, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Honolulu Chapter

*2025 Veteran Service Organization Members: American Legion Dept. of HI, American Legion Post #17, American Legion Post #19, Disabled American Veterans DAV Chapter #1, Fleet Reserve Association Branch 50, Go For Broke Association, Hiki No Artillery Association, Honolulu Council of the Navy League, Korean War Veterans Association Inc. Chapter 1, Marine Corps League Aloha Detachment 363, MIS Military Intelligence Service Club of Hawaii, Military Officers Assn. of America Hawaii, Aloha Chapter Military Order of the Purple Heart, State of Hawaii Military Order of the Purple Heart, Rainbow Chapter Military Order of World Wars, Military Order of Foreign Wars Mount Hebo Members, National Assn. of Uniformed Services, Nisei Veterans Legacy Center Inc., Special Forces Assn. - Chapter VIII, Special Forces BMC Fort DeRussy, Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #858, Veterans of Foreign Wars Dept. of HI, VFW Auxiliary Dept. of HI, VFW Post #94, VFW Post #110, VFW Post #970, VFW Post #1540, VFW Post #2875, VFW Auxiliary Post #2875, VFW Post #3292, VFW Post #10154, VFW Post #10276, VFW Auxiliary Post #10276, Women Marine Assoc., Wahine Koa HI 2 Chapter*

**LATE**

**SCR-28**

Submitted on: 3/30/2026 11:13:39 AM

Testimony for PSM on 4/1/2026 3:02:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| isaac w choy        | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

Good Morning

I strongly support this resolution. The men and women who served their country during this time did it with honor and distinction.

Commemorations such as these are needed to remind the younger generations not only that freedom isn't free.

Thank you for allowing me to testify.

**SCR-28**

Submitted on: 3/30/2026 1:04:26 PM

Testimony for PSM on 4/1/2026 3:02:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Wesley Oda          | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

Anyone who put their life in danger for the good of our country - whether chosen or not - deserves any/all recognition for their service. I encourage that this committee fulfill the process to design a medal and recognize individuals as quickly as practically possible as veterans of this war are all aging. I fully support this legislation and wish only the best for it to pass and get moving quickly.



## GO FOR BROKE ASSOCIATION

*100<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 442<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment*

P.O. Box 88234

Honolulu, Hawaii 96830-8234



March 30, 2026

The Honorable Carol Fukunaga  
Senator, Hawai`i State Senate  
415 South Beretania Street, Room 216  
Honolulu, Hawai`i, 96813

Aloha, Senator Fukunaga,

I am Calvin Nomiya, a retired veteran with thirty-seven years of service in the U.S. Army Reserve in Hawai`i. I served in the 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 442<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment for sixteen years (1971-1987), and currently am a life-member and Secretary for the Go For Broke Association; a veterans' organization started in 1978 in memory of the nine Citizen Soldiers killed in action in the Republic of Vietnam after the unit was activated in 1968.

I am writing this letter in support of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 28, that requests the Hawai`i State Department of Defense to convene a working group to develop a commemorative medal honoring Vietnam Veterans.

As an US Army Reservist ordered to active duty in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom III, I experienced various acts of appreciation from men, women, and children throughout the entire process of mobilization, deployment, and re-deployment. The Soldiers in my unit received a hero's welcome when we arrived at our port of disembarkation, then showered with gifts, and given a free meal! Upon return from active duty, most, if not all the Soldiers, received awards for their one-year deployment to Iraq.

Such was not the case for our Vietnam veterans. Soldiers returning from Vietnam came home during the hours of darkness, alone, with hardly any fanfare but a ride home on a taxi. If they arrived during daylight hours, service members met scorn and obscenities.

Today, there are celebrations, parades, exhibits recognizing the Vietnam veterans, but it took 50 years to do so! As a Soldier, the only difference I see between Operation Iraqi Freedom and the Vietnam Conflict is geography. We all fight to defend our country and our Constitution.

In 2003, the State of Hawaii placed into law the awarding of the Hawaii Medal of Honor for service members killed in action while serving in Iraq or Afghanistan. Why, may I ask, has it taken so long to honor the Vietnam veterans when it took only two years to honor our fallen in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom?

It is time to make up for lost ground. I salute your efforts!

Mahalo and Go For Broke!

Calvin Nomiya  
808-292-3261  
ccnomi002@gmail.com

**LTC JASON I. KUROIWA, U.S. Army (Retired)**

Livermore, California

760.267.5221

[jason.kuroiwa@gmail.com](mailto:jason.kuroiwa@gmail.com)

The Honorable Carol Fukunaga  
Chair, Senate Committee on Public Safety & Military Affairs  
Hawai'i State Senate  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania St.  
Honolulu, HI 96813

March 31, 2026

Reference: Senate Concurrent Resolution, Subject: Requesting the Department of Defense to Convene a Working Group to Develop Recommendation for a State of Hawaii Commemorative Vietnam Veterans Medal, March 10, 2026.

Subject: Letter of Support for SCR28 and, House companion, HCR40 - Hawai'i State Commemorative Vietnam Veterans Medal

Dear Senator Fukunaga and Members of the Hawai'i State Senate:

Mahalo Nui Loa for the opportunity to submit a letter of support of SCR28 which requests the Hawai'i State Department of Defense to convene a working group to develop recommendations for a State of Hawai'i commemorative Vietnam Veterans Medal. This is an important initiative recognizing 'Ohana who served in the Vietnam War.

My name is Jason Kuroiwa, retired Soldier, and proud "local boy" who was raised in Kahalu'u and later graduated from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Army ROTC program. During my own service, I was humbled to have an opportunity to serve on active duty where I was raised, a Soldier in the 25th Infantry Division.

Our Servicemembers and their Families (as 'Ohana serves too) have served in World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam and current conflicts. Like many in Hawai'i, legacy of service to our Nation and most importantly, representing our State, is an integral and enduring connection in of our culture. Following my uncle's service in World War II, my father served in the 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry Regiment, later served in Vietnam and the recipient of the Combat Infantryman's Badge. My uncles served in Vietnam in the United States Air Force and United States Navy. Importantly, my mother, aunties and cousins were steadfast in their support of their loved ones during a challenging period of United States history – this is why 'Ohana serves too.

Subject: Letter of Support for SCR28 and, House companion, HCR40 - Hawai'i State Commemorative Vietnam Veterans Medal (Continued)

I would be remised if I don't include mentors originally from Hawai'i who served in Vietnam like Retired U.S. Army General Eric K. Shinseki and Retired U.S. Army Captain Wade Ishimoto.

In closing, a commemorative medal would strengthen public awareness of the continued sacrifice of my grandparents and parent's generation following the Vietnam War. When I returned after serving in the 3d Cavalry in support of Operation Iraq Freedom, we experienced "Welcome Back" ceremonies, community "Thank You", and parades in Colorado Springs, Colorado. These positive experiences are something that my generation is appreciative and give credit to our Vietnam Veterans who were diligent in ensuring their next generations of Veterans did not experience the same adversity that they experienced.

If there is anything I can do for our Team, albeit small, please don't hesitate to let me know at [jason.kuroiwa@gmail.com](mailto:jason.kuroiwa@gmail.com) or 760.267.5221.

Keep up the great work in taking care of our community! Go For Broke!

Respectfully submitted,



JASON I. KUROIWA, U.S. Army (Retired)

**LTC JASON I. KUROIWA, U.S. Army (Retired)**

Livermore, California

760.267.5221

[jason.kuroiwa@gmail.com](mailto:jason.kuroiwa@gmail.com)

The Honorable Carol Fukunaga  
Chair, Senate Committee on Public Safety & Military Affairs  
Hawai'i State Senate  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania St.  
Honolulu, HI 96813

March 31, 2026

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My name is Jason Kuroiwa, retired Soldier, and proud "local boy" who was raised in Kahalu'u and later graduated from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Army ROTC program. During my own service, I was humbled to have an opportunity to serve on active duty where I was raised, a Soldier in the 25th Infantry Division.

Our Servicemembers and their Families (as 'Ohana serves too) have served in World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam and current conflicts. Like many in Hawai'i, legacy of service to our Nation and most importantly, representing our State, is an integral and enduring connection in of our culture. Following my uncle's service in World War II, my father served in the 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry Regiment, later served in Vietnam and the recipient of the Combat Infantryman's Badge. My uncles served in Vietnam in the United States Air Force and United States Navy. Importantly, my mother, aunties and cousins were steadfast in their support of their loved ones during a challenging period of United States history – this is why 'Ohana serves too.

Subject: Letter of Support for SCR28 and, House companion, HCR40 - Hawai'i State Commemorative Vietnam Veterans Medal (Continued)

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In closing, a commemorative medal would strengthen public awareness of the continued sacrifice of my grandparents and parent's generation following the Vietnam War. When I returned after serving in the 3d Cavalry in support of Operation Iraq Freedom, we experienced "Welcome Back" ceremonies, community "Thank You", and parades in Colorado Springs, Colorado. These positive experiences are something that my generation is appreciative and give credit to our Vietnam Veterans who were diligent in ensuring their next generations of Veterans did not experience the same adversity that they experienced.

If there is anything I can do for our Team, albeit small, please don't hesitate to let me know at [jason.kuroiwa@gmail.com](mailto:jason.kuroiwa@gmail.com) or 760.267.5221.

Keep up the great work in taking care of our community! Go For Broke!

Respectfully submitted,



JASON I. KUROIWA, U.S. Army (Retired)

**LATE**

**SCR-28**

Submitted on: 3/31/2026 8:15:52 PM

Testimony for PSM on 4/1/2026 3:02:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Robert Lee          | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Thank you for finally supporting our Vietnam Veterans from Hawaii!

They had to deal with a tough war and a hostile home front. Vietnam Veterans served their country when called and did not run away to Canada.

## Brendon Lee

---

**From:** Chance Naauao-Ota  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 1, 2026 8:17 AM  
**To:** Brendon Lee  
**Subject:** FW: Senate Concurrent Resolution 40

Testimony from Ken Ito.

---

**From:** Ken Ito <1978kito@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 1, 2026 8:15 AM  
**To:** Chance Naauao-Ota <c.naauao-ota@capitol.hawaii.gov>  
**Cc:** Ken Ito <1978kito@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Senate Concurrent Resolution 40

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Ken Ito <[1978kito@gmail.com](mailto:1978kito@gmail.com)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Senate Concurrent Resolution 40  
**Date:** April 1, 2026 at 8:07:19 AM HST  
**To:** [c.naauao-ota@capitol.hawaii](mailto:c.naauao-ota@capitol.hawaii)

Ken

----- Forwarded message -----  
**From:** Ken Ito <[1978kito@gmail.com](mailto:1978kito@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** Wed, Apr 1, 2026 at 8:00 AM  
**Subject:** Senate Concurrent Resolution 40  
**To:** Ken Ito <[1978kito@gmail.com](mailto:1978kito@gmail.com)>  
**CC:** Ken Ito <[1978kito@gmail.com](mailto:1978kito@gmail.com)>

Aloha Chairperson and members of the Public Safety & Military Affairs Committee.  
My name is Ken Ito and a veteran of the US Air Force. I am strongly in support of Senate  
Concurrent  
Resolution 28.  
This working group hopefully will bring closer to the men and women who fought in the  
Vietnam War.

Many of those veterans are in the mid 70's and 80 year old range. It is my hope and prayer that this is the last time I address this type of resolution. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Ken Ito Ed.D

**LATE**

**SCR-28**

Submitted on: 4/1/2026 8:25:45 AM  
Testimony for PSM on 4/1/2026 3:02:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Mary Kay Hertog     | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

As the Commander of the Kauai Veterans Council, and a retired veteran that spent almost 34 years in the Air Force, I absolutely support SCR 28. Our country's recognition of our Vietnam veterans has been long overdue, and it has been only in the past 10 years that our nation has been highlighting the service and sacrifice of these veterans and their families. My father was a Vietnam veteran, but sadly he died before any recognition came his way. Developing a commemorative medal for our Hawaii Vietnam veterans is one way to say "Mahalo", and I applaud and support the formation of a working group as a first step. Our Vietnam veterans are now passing away in large numbers so please do not delay. Mahalo, Mary Kay Hertog, Major General (retired) USAF.