

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1989

RELATING TO VETERANS

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

FEBRUARY 7, 2008

BY

OFFICE OF VETERANS SERVICES

Chair Evans and members of the Committee, I am Mark Moses, Director of the Office of Veterans Services (OVS). We support the over-all concept of House Bill 1989 provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our Executive Supplemental Budget Request.

Currently, Hawaii Revised Statutes Paragraph 363-2 (3) provides that the OVS Director shall have the power to "Administer funds allocated for the office, and apply for, receive, and disburse grants and donations from all sources for veterans programs and services provided under this chapter."

Since 1991, OVS has maintained a trust fund earmarked exclusively for use by the Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery. The prospect of an additional trust fund within the OVS requires further research by our program, as we wish to avoid jeopardizing any of the resources we currently enjoy. Establishment of a veterans' gift trust fund may pose administrative, financial, and/or technical challenges of which we may be unaware at the present time.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.