

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2028
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING
AND A VETERANS CENTER

SENATE COMMITTEE ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND
MILITARY AFFAIRS

BY

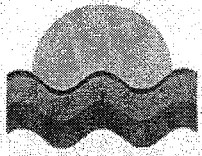
OFFICE OF VETERANS' SERVICES

Good afternoon Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Tsutsui and members of the Committee:

I am Mark Moses, Director for the Office of Veterans' Services (OVS). We support the intent of Senate Bill 2028, as long as it does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in the Executive Supplemental Budget Request.

We support the intent of this measure to provide funding for Phase I of a veterans center on the island of Hawaii. The first phase of the project would provide veterans organizations and their families with a facility for a meeting place and veterans' activities. Oahu, Kauai and Molokai each have or will have a veterans' center, and the large number of veterans in and around Hilo would benefit from such a facility.

The proposed idea of having the surrounding community be a part of the use of the facility would be beneficial to the community and a critical need to help in providing sustainable funds for the continuous operation and maintenance of the center.



Hawaii Island Economic Development Board

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SENT VIA EMAIL

January 31, 2008

Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair
Committee on Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
Hawai'i State Legislature
State Capitol, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Reference: HB 2028

Making an appropriation for affordable housing and a veterans center

Hearing: Conference Room 229 at 1:15 p.m. Friday February 1, 2008.

Dear Senator Inouye, Senator Tsutsui and Committee Members:

On behalf of the directors and the 115 member organizations of the Hawaii Island Economic Development Board, we wholeheartedly support SB 2028 to enable Hawaii Island Veterans' Memorial, Inc. to proceed with plans, design work and construction of the much needed infrastructure to build affordable housing and a center for Hawaii's veterans.

The phased plans proposed are well thought out with a multi-purpose project able to generate income streams that will help sustain the overall facilities and to be of great service to the University system and surrounding community.

On behalf of the directors, we ask that you pass this legislation and appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony before you.

'O wau nō me ka ha'a ha'a

Mark McGuffie
Executive Director