

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2186  
RELATING TO THE MAINTENANCE OF  
VETERANS CEMETERIES IN THE COUNTY OF HAWAII

SENATE COMMITTEE ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL  
AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

JANUARY 28, 2008

BY

OFFICE OF VETERANS' SERVICES

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

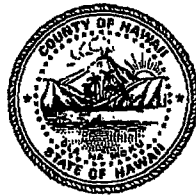
I am Mark Moses, Director for the Office of Veterans' Services (OVS). We strongly support the intent of Senate Bill 2186, which seeks to provide additional funds for the maintenance of Veteran Cemeteries in the County.

The County of Hawaii has a total of three veterans' cemeteries. Two are located in East Hawaii, Hilo Veterans Cemetery #1 and Hilo Veterans Cemetery #2. The third veterans' cemetery is located in Kona and is the West Hawaii Veterans Cemetery. As stated previously, responsibility for the maintenance of these cemeteries rest with the county. Nevertheless, the Legislature has provided \$22,500 in pass through funds that the OVS has distributed through a Memorandum of Agreement.

Should the legislature wish to increase the amount of pass through funds, providing that the amount does not affect the operating funds of the OVS, we would be in agreement with this action.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer our qualified support of this bill.

Harry Kim  
Mayor



Dixie Kaetsu  
Managing Director

Barbara J.  
Kossow  
Deputy Managing  
Director

## County of Hawaii

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January 25, 2008

Senator Lorraine R. Inouye  
Chair, Intergovernmental and Military  
Affairs Committee  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Inouye and Committee Members:

RE: SB 2901 & SB 2186

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on SB 2901, relating to Veterans Cemeteries.

I do not know the relative needs of the Veterans Cemeteries throughout the State of Hawai'i. I do know that Hawai'i County has not received enough funding from the state to cover its actual costs in maintaining the three Veterans Cemeteries on our island. For that reason, the President introduced, on our behalf, SB 2186, which asks for an additional \$165,000 to support the maintenance of Veterans Cemeteries in the County of Hawai'i.

I strongly believe that our Veterans Cemeteries are part of the solemn bond that we have with those who serve in our armed forces, and must not be neglected. Any assistance you can give us in meeting that obligation will be welcomed.

Aloha,

Harry Kim  
MAYOR