

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2746
RELATING TO DISABLED VETERANS

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 support the intent of Senate Bill 2746 which is to provide a Disabled Veterans license plate to qualified veterans. However, we defer to the counties, as they must administer the issuance of all vehicle license plates.

Presently disabled veterans do not have a special license plate as in some other states. Some of these veterans are qualified for other special license plates showing the title of the "conflict" they were in, or honors received by them, which allow for the recognition they deserve. However, many other disabled veterans do not qualify for the special plates already allowed by law. Although the Office supports this measure, we reiterate that we defer to the Counties which have direct responsibility for issuing license plates. During consultation with County representatives and police departments, we learned that the primary purpose of license plates is to identify vehicles. With the proliferation of various veterans' plates, that primary function is in jeopardy. This is the singular reason that this type of bill has been held in committee during previous Legislative sessions.

However, if the concerns about public safety and identification of vehicles can be adequately addressed, I support the issuance of Disabled Veteran License Plates for veterans who became disabled as a result of their military service, and the Office of Veterans' Services stands ready to identify and verify eligible recipients.

| Thank you for allowing me to testify.

Trina Ishii

From: George White [gdej@mac.com]
ent: Sunday, January 27, 2008 3:57 PM
o: Sen. Lorraine R. Inouye
Cc: Rep. Colleen Meyer
Subject: S.B.2746

Dear Senator Inouye

My name is George White I am a Disabled Veteran!

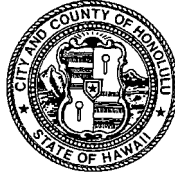
Senator Clayton Hee has introduced a bill (S.B. 2746) to authorize issuance of a Disabled Veteran license plates I would like to ask for Your support for this also .

I am requesting a hearing and passage of this bill.

Sincerely,
George White
Hakipuu, Hawaii

DEPARTMENT OF CUSTOMER SERVICES
CITY & COUNTY OF HONOLULU
DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLE, LICENSING AND PERMITS
ADMINISTRATION
P.O. BOX 30300
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96820-0300

MUFI HANNEMANN
MAYOR



JEFF J. COELHO
DIRECTOR

DENNIS A. KAMIMURA
LICENSING ADMINISTRATOR

January 25, 2008

LATE

The Honorable Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
and Committee Members
Committee on Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
The Senate
State Capitol, Room 201
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Inouye and Committee Members:

Subject: S.B. No. 2746, Relating to Disabled Veterans

The City and County of Honolulu is opposed to S.B. 2746 which will require the counties to issue another military specialty license plates for disabled veterans.

The purpose of license plates are for the identification of vehicles in actual traffic conditions. The issuance of current nine different military specialty license plates do not support this purpose as these specialty license plates require a person to read the words printed on these license plates in addition to remembering the license plate number.

The Legislature recognized that there were a proliferation of such specialty license plates and the difficulty for the public and law enforcement officers to identify vehicles with such license plates. As a result, the 1997 Legislature created Section 249-9.3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to allow organizations such as DAV to have distinguishable license plates that did not require reading the small letters contained on the military specialty plates authorized by Section 249-9.2, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

The City and County of Honolulu urges that S.B. No. 2746 be held.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dennis A. Kamimura".

DENNIS A. KAMIMURA
Licensing Administrator

DAK:bk