

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON SCR 55/SR 28

SENATE COMMITTEE ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL
AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

FEBRUARY 27, 2008

Good afternoon, Chair Lorraine Inouye, Vice Chair Shan Tsutsui and members of the Committee.

I am Cynthia Stine, member of the Advisory Board of Veterans' Service. I strongly disagree with adopting a policy to require minimum representation of female board members. I am currently serving my second term on this board.

Board exists to represent the interest of all veterans, regardless of gender, color, creed, denomination, sexual preference, ethnicity, etc. There is no reason that this type of policy needs to be adopted. A veteran is a veteran. The gender of a veteran makes no difference in how he or she would perform as a member of the board. As a veteran, we all have the same passion to help our fellow veterans. Members of this board are members of various veterans' organization. There are no gender requirements in any of the organizations. There are also no gender requirements within the military.

This policy could also set a bad precedent. Would the development of similar policies in all other government boards have to happen? Does the legislature need to develop a policy to ensure that there is minimum percentage of female representatives? The Advisory Board on Veterans' Service needs to keep their focus on the important issues affecting veterans and not trying to meet some gender requirements.

Thank you for allowing me to provide testimony.