

# GM 530

**Measure Title:**

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the  
Advisory Board on Veterans' Services, Gubernatorial Nominee,  
NORMAN S. STAHL, for a term to  
Expire 6-30-2013.

STATE OF HAWAII  
OFFICE OF VETERANS SERVICES  
TESTIMONY ON GM 530, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND  
CONFIRMATION TO THE ADVISORY BOARD ON VETERANS' SERVICES,  
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, **Norman Scott Stahl**, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE  
6-30-2013

SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC  
SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

April 2, 2009

Good afternoon Chair Will Espero, Vice-Chair Robert Bunda, and members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs.

I am Mark Moses, Director of the Office of Veterans Services (OVS). We support GM 530, which submits Norman Scott Stahl for consideration and confirmation to the Advisory Board on Veterans Services, for a term to expire 6-30-2013.

Mr. Stahl comes highly recommended from Hilo area veterans who know him. Mr. Stahl's resume illustrates he is a person with significant credentials that will enhance and expand our boards capability to work for the benefit of Hawaii's veterans. As a veteran he brings much understanding and concern for issues of all our veterans. His experiences in the education, counseling and psychology will truly benefit the Board objectives and our veterans.

Mr. Stahl will truly be an asset to the Board and most of all to the veterans on Hilo and the State of Hawaii.

I recommend that Norman Scott Stahl be confirmed the Hilo member for the Advisory Board on Veterans Services.

Thank you for allowing me to present the Veterans' perspective on this issue. I will respond to any questions.

P. O. Box 1170  
Kamuela, HI 96743  
March 29, 2009

Senator Will Espero  
Chair, Senate Public Safety and Military Affairs

Dear Senator Espero:

It is my privilege to recommend Dr. Norman S. Stahl, Lt. Col. USMC, Retired, for the Veteran Services Advisory Board, East Hawaii representative position. As a fellow veteran, I have been associated with Dr. Stahl for several years on veteran matters. I have found him to be very dedicated to veterans' causes and their wellbeing.

As a marine, rising from enlisted ranks to commissioned officer, with service in Vietnam, a disabled veteran, and working with veterans on Hawaii Island, he is aware of veterans' needs, aspirations and issues. In short, he has been there and done that!

Sitting on the Veteran Services Advisory Board, representing West Hawaii Island, gives me insight into the duties, responsibilities and obligations of the position. I believe Dr. Stahl is highly qualified and will perform with utmost credibility.

Accordingly, I highly recommend Dr. Stahl for the Veteran Services Advisory Board.

Sincerely,



Herbert C. Lum



# ***Big Island Retired Military Association***

Senator Will Espero  
20th Senate District  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 207  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

March 30, 2009

Re: Nomination of Dr Norman Stahl

Dear Senator Espero:

On behalf of the Big Island Retired Military Association (BIRMA), I highly recommend nomination of Dr Norman Stahl to the Office of Veteran Services Advisory Board. I am writing you directly as I will be unable to attend your hearing on April 2 in Honolulu.

I have known Norm for about 10 years now and can personally vouch for his integrity, devotion to veteran's interests and knowledge of veterans affairs. Norm is a member of BIRMA and currently serves as our Scholarship Committee Chairman, where he has managed our program of awarding scholarships to deserving high school graduates whose parents have served on active duty and have been honorably discharged.

Norm has been very active in other organizations. He was instrumental in creating the Camp Tarawa Detachment, Marine Corps League here on the Big Island, which maintains the Camp Tarawa memorial in Waimea. Norm currently serves as the Marine Corp League representative on the Hawaii County Veterans Advisory Board and is on the Governor's East Hawaii Advisory Council. Although a disabled veteran, he serves as Director, Career Services at the University of Hawaii at Hilo and still finds time to participate in many activities which benefit veterans and the local communities.

I believe Norman Stahl will make a fabulous addition to the OVS Advisory Board and hope you will nominate him for this most important position. The veterans in Hawaii County and the State of Hawaii will be very well served by his participation on the board. Please do not hesitate to contact me for further information. Thank you in advance for your support.

Sincerely,

Neal Herbert  
President, BIRMA

Phone: 808-935-1946  
email: [nfherbert@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:nfherbert@hawaiiantel.net)

**Presentation Before the Senate Committee on Public Safety & Military Affairs**

**April 2, 2009**

**Norman S. Stahl, Ph.D.**

**Nominee for the Advisory Board on Veterans' Services**

Chairman Espero, Vice Chairman Bunda, and members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs, I thank you for the opportunity to speak about my interest in, and qualifications for, service on the Advisory Board on Veteran Services as you consider my confirmation to that board. In my remarks, I will address the questions posed by Chairman Espero in his letter dated March 27, 2009.

First, I would like to tell you why I am interested in serving on the Advisory Board on Veterans' Services. The answer is simple. In the summer of 1969, I completed a 13-month tour of duty as a young officer of Marines in the Republic of Vietnam. I was fortunate enough to come home with no wounds and in relatively good mental health. It is my belief, that having been spared significant trauma, I owed my God and my Country a debt that could only be paid by service to others. I continued to serve my country as a Marine on active duty for 22 years and retired as a Lt. Colonel of Marines – 20 years ago last October. Serving on the State Advisory Board on Veterans' Services offers me a way to continue serving others in a capacity that is consistent with my age and current level of physical ability.

If confirmed as a member of the Advisory Board, I see my responsibility to reach out to and connect with the veterans of East Hawaii, solicit their concerns, listen to their grievances and recommendations, and communicate them to Director Moses and the members of the OVS Advisory Board. I believe it will also be appropriate for me to be active in discovering ways that Hawai'i can better serve its veterans and to recommend changes in law and policy through Office of Veterans' Services.

We are at an interesting point in history, where we have veterans from World War II, Korea, Vietnam, the Cold War, Desert Storm, and the Global War Against Terror. Each of these populations has different needs, but all have served their country in perilous times and deserve to have their concerns addressed. I hope to be a Board member, who communicates with veterans of all eras, lets them know of benefits available to them from the State and the Federal government, and holds their issues up to the appointed and elected officials of our State.

The Chairman asked me to name three qualities that describe me and illustrate my ability to benefit the Advisory Board. As you may have noted from the one-page resume that I submitted with my testimony, in addition to being a veteran, I am a trained and experienced counselor and an educator. My status as a veteran and affiliation with other veterans gives me an appreciation for the sacrifices they have made and a commitment to serve them. My experience as a counselor has given me interpersonal and group communication skills that enable me to clarify issues of people who are struggling with personal burdens, and through committee work in

## ***Stahl - Presentation Before the Senate Committee on Public Safety & Military Affairs***

higher education, I have developed the ability to help forge consensus from divergent views. I believe that each of these talents enhance my ability to serve my fellow veterans, the Director of OVS, and my fellow Advisory Board members.

I have been asked to describe an experience that would make me stand out and would illustrate my ability to benefit the Advisory Board. As you may know, I am a member of the Governor's Advisory Council for East Hawai'i. I recall a time at one of our community meetings; we were listening to concerns being expressed by Beneficiaries of the Hawaiian Homelands trust. Over a period of about 90 minutes, we heard from 15 to 20 spokespersons from the Hawai'ian community. Some speakers were eloquent and profound and others were less than eloquent and profane. The community members comprised different generations, diverse occupations, varied life circumstances, and addressed diverse complaints and issues. As the time for closing of our meeting approached, the room was emotionally charged. I could sense that the beneficiaries were frustrated because they were not sure that their message had been understood. Calling on a skill that counselors refer to as "reflective listening" or "clarifying, I addressed the group using words to the following effect:

"We have heard from many people tonight. You (pointing to an individual) spoke to us about frustrations arising from interactions with officials of DLNR as it related to operation of your farm; You (pointing to another) spoke of your strong opposition to the proposed building of a super store on Hawaiian Homelands, You (pointing to another) spoke of a unfilled campaign promise in which the Governor said that Hawai'ians could live on the Homelands in tents if they desired, (*and so on*). These are seemingly very different issues, but the common thread that I heard in all of them is that you would like us to tell the Governor that you want OHA and other State officials to pay attention to the Beneficiaries, solicit your concerns and advice and give them serious consideration before making decisions that impact the Homelands or its Beneficiaries."

The tension was broken. The people in the room broke out in applause and one of the speakers said, "You ought to be the Governor". Senators, I assure you, I have no desire to be the Governor. However, I believe this example illustrates my ability to listen effectively to concerns of people who may be frustrated, angry or disillusioned and to reassure them that their concerns have been heard and understood.

Finally, I would like to state unequivocally that I am not aware of any possible conflicts of interest that might arise during my service on the Advisory Board on Veterans' Services.

**Attachment:** *N. S. Stahl One Page Resume*