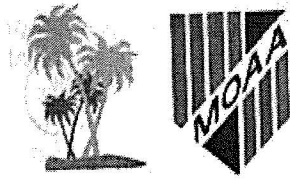


LATE TESTIMONY



Hawaii Chapter, MOAA
P.O. Box 1185
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Testimony of

Thomas Smyth, State Legislative Chair

Military Officers Association of America, Hawaii Chapter

Before the House Committee on

Economic Revitalization, Business, & Military Affairs

Thursday, March 19, 2009, 9:15 am, Conference Room 312

On

SB 571 Relating to a Veteran's Memorial

Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Choy and Members of the Committee:

Our association of retired and currently serving officers of the seven Uniformed Services supports SB 571 establishing a memorial to those who served in the Persian Gulf War and Operation Desert Storm.

We owe a debt to these veterans, some of whom died in this conflict, to drive Iraqi forces from Kuwait. Operation Desert Shield lasted for about 90 days as forces moved to the Middle East and prepared for armed conflict. Operation Desert Storm took about four days as our forces drove the Iraqis from Kuwait. Subsequent air operations Northern Watch and Southern Watch continued to limit Iraqi aggressiveness until the invasion of Iraq itself just seven years ago.

Some may argue this conflict is not officially over and thus it is inappropriate to create a memorial at this time. I am sure those who served or who had family members who served would find this approach ignores their service, especially those killed or wounded in the conflict. We also note the Korean War is not officially over and yet we did not hesitate to create a beautiful and appropriate memorial to those who served there, right here on the grounds of the Capitol.

We agree with the Office of Veterans Services that it would be better not to specify a location for the proposed memorial in this legislation. While a site near the C&C WWII memorial and the Korean War/Vietnam Conflict memorials would allow visitors to see these sites together, there may be a more appropriate location as planning proceeds.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.