

STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF VETERANS SERVICES
TESTIMONY ON H.B. No. 2351, RELATING TO VETERANS
COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION, BUSINESS, & MILITARY
AFFAIRS

JANUARY 28, 2010

Good morning Chair Angus L.K. McKelvey, Vice-Chair Isaac W. Choy, and members of the House Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business, & Military Affairs.

I am Mark Moses, Director of the Office of Veterans Services (OVS). I appreciate this opportunity to strongly support H.B. 2351. This measure requires veterans who submit application for veteran's license plates to provide most recent discharge document that indicates an honorable discharge from the military.

Veteran license plates identify individuals who have served this country. The veteran community and the general public believe that individuals who fail to meet certain standards of behavior and who received a less than honorable discharge should not be recognized as a veteran. The law, as currently written, allows those with less than an honorable discharge to receive a veteran's license plate. This measure corrects that oversight.

The OVS supports this measure as long as its implementation does not impact or replace the priorities set forth in the Executive Biennium Budget for Fiscal Years 2009-2010.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak on behalf of Hawaii's veteran community.

I will respond to questions from the committee.

OAHU VETERANS COUNCIL

OAHU VETERANS COUNCIL
President - Fred Ballard
1st V.P. - Cecil Meadows
2nd V.P. - Jim Santos
Secretary - John Harms
Treasurer - Eugenia Woodward
Chaplain - Frank Lamson



"a gathering place for veterans"
OAHU VETERANS CENTER

OAHU VETERANS CENTER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Sandy Ballard

January 26, 2010

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

5th Regimental Combat Team
45th Infantry Division Assn.
Air Force Assn. - Chapter 138
Air Force Sergeants Association
American Legion Aux. Dept. of HI
American Legion - Dept. of HI
American Legion Post 32
American Veterans Empowerment &
Support Community Operations
BPOE VAWS Hawaii Dist.
China-Burma-India Veterans Assn.
Chosin Few - Aloha Chapter
Combat Infantrymen's Assn.
Combat Veterans Motorcycle Club
Disabled American Veterans -
Chapter 3
Fleet Reserve Association Branch
And Unit 46
Hawaii Multiple Schools Unit - Jr. ROTC
Korean War Veterans Assn -
Chapter 1
Military Officers Assn. of America -
Aloha Chapter
Military Officers Assn. of America -
Hawaii State Chapter
Military Order of the Purple Heart
Military Order of World Wars
National Assn. for Atomic Veterans
National Assn. of Uniformed Services
National Sojourners - Hawaiian # 9
National Sojourners - Honolulu # 11
National Sojourners - Kamehameha #439
Pearl Harbor Survivors Association
Radiated Veterans
Samoan Providers
Society of Military Widows -
Aloha Chapter
Sons & Daughters of
Pearl Harbor Survivors
Special Forces Assn. - Chapter VIII
State Office of Veterans Services
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Dept. of Hawaii
Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 970
Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter 858
Waves National - Unit 131
Women Veterans of America #26

TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF HOUSE BILL 2351 RELATING TO VETERANS

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION, BUSINESS & MILITARY AFFAIRS

HEARING THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 2010, 9:30 AM, ROOM 312

Aloha Chair Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Representative Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair, and members of the Committee. My name is Fred Ballard, President Oahu Veterans Council. The Oahu Veterans Council is comprised of over 35 Oahu veteran organizations that in turn represent over 80,000 veterans and their families. The Council voted unanimously at its meeting last Saturday, January 23rd to communicate our complete support of House Bill 2351.

It is only right that a veteran should submit his application for a special license plates with proof of being honorably discharged from the United States Military. An individual with less than honorable discharge has no right to the benefits afforded those who serve honorably. This bill should have no impact on the state's financial status.

The Oahu Veterans Council strongly supports the passage of House Bill 2351.

Mahalo for allowing us the opportunity to testify in support of this very important bill.

Fred Ballard
President
Oahu Veterans Council



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