

LATE TESTIMONY

STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF VETERANS SERVICES
TESTIMONY ON H.B. No. 462, RELATING TO MILITARY SPECIAL NUMBER
PLATES

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION, BUSINESS, & MILITARY
AFFAIRS

JANUARY 26, 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 support the intent of H.B. 462. This measure requires the counties to set aside a portion of the fee charged for military special number plates to be transferred to the office of veterans' services to support veterans' rights and benefits. Additionally, adoption of HD 1 would authorize special plates for women veterans.

Although we support the intent and could use to funds to increase services to veterans and their dependents, we are unsure if acquiring funds through application fees is the best option.

It seems imprudent, especially given today's economy, to create a new tax or fee for veterans to support veterans.

As for the adoption of HD 1, we again support the intent, noting that about 15 percent of those serving on active duty are female and that about the same percent are members of the Reserves and National Guard. We defer to the agency that has direct responsibility for implementation and acquisition of veteran license plates.

The OVS supports the intent of 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.