

## Sen. Will Espero

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**From:** Gary [ginouye4@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 23, 2009 5:45 PM  
**To:** Sen. Will Espero  
**Subject:** HB658/ testimony/VIETNAM VETERANS OF MAUI COUNTY(VVMC)

Aloha Will:

As the VVMC President , representing the 5,000 Vietnam Veterans on Maui, WE are asking YOU and Your Committee to continue the support of the Addition of a second "Benefits Counselor" at our "Maui Office of Veterans Services"(OVS)

We have needed this additional Counselor for the last46 years but NOW it has become very Important to have him/her this year ;2009!

WE also estimate that about 1,000 Maui Iraqi Soldiers will become eligible for the services of our State OVS within the next 12 to 18 months. This will add to an already overburden caseload for our only Benefits Counselor.

The Physical and Mental Health of our 14.000 Maui Veterans eligible for using our Maui OVS services hangs in the Balance.!

WE have also collected over a hundred Petitions supportng the need for this HB658 and Our OVS Director Mark Moses has agreed that we need this additional Councelor and told me He supports it as well in a letter I gave to Angus McKelvey for Your Committee!!

Mfahalo for helping us Maui Veterans to get our OVS the additional Counselor we so Urgently NEED!

Mitch Skaggerberg

President VVMC