



THE JUDICIARY, STATE OF HAWAII

**Testimony to the House Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business,
& Military Affairs**

The Honorable Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair

The Honorable Isaac W. Choy, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 23, 2010, 8:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 312

by

Thomas R. Keller

Administrative Director of the Courts

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Resolution No. and Title: House Concurrent Resolution No. 278, Requesting the Chief Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court to Convene a Committee to Identify at Which Point Veterans and Returning Reservists and National Guard Members Enter the Justice System, and How Best to Address Their Needs, Including Developing a Veterans Court.

Judiciary's Position:

The Judiciary supports the intent of House Concurrent Resolution No. 278 to identify and better serve veterans who enter the justice system. The Judiciary also welcomes the opportunity to identify and respond to the needs of the State's National Guard and Reservists returning from war that may also enter the justice system.

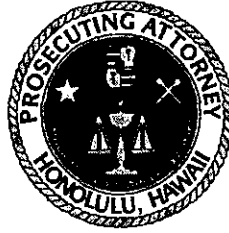
Persons entering the justice system whose offenses are most likely the result of the trauma of war and the experiences that they have had deserve to be treated in a way that addresses the root of their behavior while providing for public safety. House Concurrent Resolution No. 278 provides the opportunity for the Judiciary and others to thoroughly examine these issues and the needs of these individuals.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments.

DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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**THE HONORABLE ANGUS MCKELVEY, CHAIR
HOUSE ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION, BUSINESS
AND MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
Twenty-fifth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2010
State of Hawai'i**

March 23, 2010

RE: H.C.R. 278/H.R. 200; REQUESTING THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE HAWAII SUPREME COURT TO CONVENE A COMMITTEE TO IDENTIFY AT WHICH POINT VETERANS AND RETURNING RESERVISTS AND NATIONAL GUARD MEMBERS ENTER THE JUSTICE SYSTEM, AND HOW BEST TO ADDRESS THEIR NEEDS, INCLUDING DEVELOPING A VETERANS COURT.

Chair McKelvey and members of the House Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business and Military Affairs, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney submits the following testimony in support of H.C.R. 278 and H.R. 200.

The purpose of these resolutions is to request the Chief Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court to convene a committee to identify the point at which returning military personnel enter the justice system and how to best address their needs. The development of a Veterans Court is specifically mentioned as a potential option that should be explored by the committee.

We strongly support these resolutions. We have depended on our veterans to protect and serve the nation at its most critical points in history. They have been asked to leave home and hearth behind and put their personal lives on hold to go where our nation most needed them. They are often called upon to place life and limb in jeopardy or serve in dangerous areas so that

the rest of nation can enjoy safety and security. But too often, after they return to civilian life, the rigors of their experiences cause difficulties such as mental health or substance abuse issues. It has been estimated that as many as half of the troops returning from Iraq and Afghanistan have suffered post-traumatic stress, brain injuries and drug and alcohol abuse; these problems contribute to noticeable increased rates of arrests for criminal behavior across the nation. Too often these veterans end up in prison without the care and assistance they need and deserve. The magnitude of the problem is considerable. Sixty percent of the 140,000 veterans in prison have a substance abuse problem. And Department of Justice figures have estimated that of the 1.16 million adults arrested last year, close to 10% have served in the military.

We are particularly interested in exploring the possibility of establishing a Veteran Courts. These specialty courts have been emerging in other jurisdictions. Although there is not a large amount of data, initial results from these courts have been remarkable. The first Veteran's Court in Buffalo, New York has handled over 100 veteran's cases with only two needing to be returned to traditional criminal court for failure to address substance abuse or criminal behavior. These Veteran's Courts have been successful because they specifically incorporate veterans helping veterans and Veteran Affairs programs and assistance to help returning soldiers to address their problems. Thus, although Veteran's Court is modeled after Drug Court, it is distinctly different in its components and the differences appear to make the Veterans Court particularly well suited to dealing with the issues facing returning military personnel.

For these reasons, we strongly support the passage of these resolutions and thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Hawaii Association for Marriage and Family Therapy



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HAMFT networks, educates, and advocates for the enrichment of our members, the advancement of our profession, and the health of our community.

Testimony by:

Ann S. Yabusaki, Ph.D., MFT

**HR200/HCR 278 Regarding Veterans Court and Advisory Committee
House Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business, & Military Affairs
March 23, 2010; 08:30 a.m.; Room 312
Position: Support**

Honorable Chair Angus L. K. McKelvey, Vice-Chair Isaac W. Choy, and Committee Members:

My name is Ann S. Yabusaki, Ph.D., M.F.T. I am Treasurer of the Hawaii Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (HAMFT), a division of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT). HAMFT represents 208 licensed Marriage and Family Therapists (MFTs) and a total of 315 members in the State of Hawaii. MFTs work in a variety of agencies and settings including, but not limited to: the Department of Education in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; the Department of Health; active duty military and their families; U.S. Department of Transportation; rural areas; families and communities; hospital and clinic systems; substance abuse treatment centers; and mental health practices. We are recognized by the Veterans Administration to provide service to veterans and address conditions such as post traumatic stress disorder.

I strongly support the resolution request the Chief Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court to convene a committee to identify at which point Veterans, returning Reservists, and National Guard members will enter the justice system, and how best to address their needs, including the development of a Veterans Court, for the following reasons.

Approximately 120,000 military veterans and 40,000 active duty military live in Hawaii. There has been an unprecedented rate of utilization and re-deployment of members of the United States armed forces, Reserves, and Hawaii National Guard in Afghanistan and Iraq since September 11, 2001. Recent research confirms that a significant number of soldiers (as many as one in five) will return home from war with a combat-related mental health condition. There is great concern about substance use/abuse and the need for support and services, not incarceration.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann S. Yabusaki, Ph.D., MFT
HAMFT Treasurer

theStrategist

Testimony in Support of HR 200/ HCR278 Relating to Veterans Court
House Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business and Military Affairs
Tuesday, March 23, 2010 at 8:30 am

Testimony Submitted By:
Noe Foster, CEO
theStrategist
7092 Hawaii Kai Drive, Suite 26
Honolulu, Hawaii 96825
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808. 753.7223

March 19, 2010

Chair Angus L.K. McKelvey, Vice Chair Isaac Choy, and Honorable Committee Members:

Aloha! My name is Noe Foster, CEO of theStrategist, a healthcare advisory firm that designs solutions to turnaround high dollar government health programs: Medicare, Medicaid, and military healthcare.

I testify in strong support of House Resolution 200 and House Concurrent Resolution 278 as smart and visionary public policy.

The pace and tempo of two wars in Afghanistan and Iraq continues to impact contemporary veterans, their families and our society in ways not yet fully understood. What we do know is that more and more veterans of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, return home with war wounds like Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Some are self-medicating pain medicines, binge drinking and abusing illegal drugs then getting into trouble with the law.

Although various Federal programs are in place to aid troubled soldiers, many do not seek this help. Even fewer, complete their course of treatments to full recovery.

Hawaii judges have reported a spike in domestic violence, altercations, high-speed driving, DUIs and drug offences involving veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan. In many cases, the offenses occur soon after the soldier returns home from combat.

Across the U.S. beginning in January 2008 in Buffalo, New York, a hybrid treatment court model specifically for veterans is emerging as a viable solution to meet the needs of a country at war. With a Veterans Court, a judge mandates the veteran offender to treatment. Over the course of the entire treatment, typically a year, the judge receives regular progress updates. VA health and benefits are activated from day one. Peer mentors become trusted buddies on the journey to restitution, rehabilitation and recovery.

In Hawaii, the savings of rehabilitation instead of incarceration is more than \$50,000 per person per year. If 50 veterans are intercepted through a Veterans Court and are diverted from incarceration to treatment, the State will save \$2.5 million annually. Significant costs savings will accrue because Federal dollars will pay for 75 percent of the court costs and 100 percent of the treatment costs. In addition, one in three homeless adults is a veteran. The Veterans Court is a critical intervention to identify and assist individuals who are at high risk for becoming homeless.

HR200 and HCR278 represent a shared commitment between the legislature, judiciary, military, healthcare and mental health providers, and the community to solve a formidable social problem.

Establishing a Veterans Court now is a first step to mitigate the ill effects of war on our society for generations to come.

Thank you for your vision and leadership in supporting HR200 and HCR278.

Noe Foster
CEO, theStrategist

2A

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Testimony by:
P. D. Kai Swigart, PhD, MFT
HR200 Regarding Veterans Court and Advisory Committee
House Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business, & Military Affairs
March 23, 2010; 08:30 a.m.; Room 312
Position: Support

Honorable Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Choy, and EBM Committee Members:

My name is Paul D. Kai Swigart, Ph.D., M.F.T. I am writing as a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (MFT), member of the Hawaii Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (HAMFT), and owner of TalkDoctors, LLC.

I strongly support the convening of a committee to identify at which point Veterans, returning Reservists, and National Guard members will enter the justice system; and how best to address their needs; including the development of a Veterans Court.

Since approximately 120,000 military veterans and 40,000 active duty military live in Hawaii; and since there has been an unprecedented rate of utilization and re-deployment of members of the United States armed forces, Reserves, and Hawaii National Guard in Afghanistan and Iraq since September 11, 2001; and since recent research confirms that a significant number of soldiers (as many as one in five) will return home from war with a combat related mental health condition such as post traumatic stress disorder; and since we know substance use/abuse is a concern among military personnel and their families; and since it is estimated that one in three homeless persons has served in the United States military, I am supporting the request for the Chief Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court to convene a committee to identify at which point Veterans, returning Reservists, and National Guard members enter the justice system, and how best to address their needs, including the development of a Veterans Court.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be a stylized 'K' followed by a horizontal line.

P. D. Kai Swigart, PhD, MFT, CEAP, SAP, CAI

Hawaii Association for Marriage and Family Therapy



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HAMFT networks, educates, and advocates for the enrichment of our members, the advancement of our profession, and the health of our community.

Testimony by:
Keith Whitaker MA, MFT
HR200 Regarding Veterans Court and Advisory Committee
House Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business, & Military Affairs
March 23, 2010; 08:30 a.m.; Room 312
Position: Support

Honorable Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Choy, and EBM Committee Members:

My name is Keith Whitaker; and I am Big Island East side Representative of the Hawaii Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (HAMFT), a division of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT). HAMFT represents 208 licensed Marriage and Family Therapists (MFTs); and a total of 315 members in the State of Hawaii. MFTs work in a variety of agencies and settings within our state including, but not limited to: the Department of Education in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; the Department of Health; active duty military and their families; U.S. Department of Transportation; rural areas; families and communities; hospital and clinic systems; substance abuse treatment centers; and mental health practices.

MFTs are uniquely qualified to work with the military and their families. The Veteran's Administration (VA) uses MFTs as mental health providers under the Veterans Benefits Act (38 U.S.C.A. Section 7402). This law authorizes the hiring of MFTs within the VA, and specifically mentions MFT qualifications in addressing veterans post traumatic stress disorder needs.

I strongly support the convening of a committee to identify at which point Veterans, returning Reservists, and National Guard members will enter the justice system; and how best to address their needs; including the development of a Veterans Court.

Since approximately 120,000 military veterans and 40,000 active duty military live in Hawaii; and since there has been an unprecedented rate of utilization and re-deployment of members of the United States armed forces, Reserves, and Hawaii National Guard in Afghanistan and Iraq since September 11, 2001; and since recent research confirms that a significant number of soldiers (as many as one in five) will return home from war with a combat related mental health

condition such as post traumatic stress disorder; and since we know substance use/abuse is a concern among military personnel and their families; and since it is estimated that one in three homeless persons has served in the United States military, I am supporting the request for the Chief Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court to convene a committee to identify at which point Veterans, returning Reservists, and National Guard members enter the justice system, and how best to address their needs, including the development of a Veterans Court.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

Keith Whitaker MA, MFT
HAMFT Big Island East Representative

Hawaii Association for Marriage and Family Therapy



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Testimony by:

Paul D. Kai Swigart, Ph.D., M.F.T.

HR200 Regarding Veterans Court and Advisory Committee

House Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business, & Military Affairs

March 23, 2010; 08:30 a.m.; Room 312

Position: Support

Honorable Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Choy, and EBM Committee Members:

My name is Paul D. Kai Swigart, Ph.D., M.F.T., and I am President of the Hawaii Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (HAMFT), a division of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT). HAMFT represents 208 licensed Marriage and Family Therapists (MFTs); and a total of 315 members in the State of Hawaii. MFTs work in a variety of agencies and settings within our state including, but not limited to: the Department of Education in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; the Department of Health; active duty military and their families; U.S. Department of Transportation; rural areas; families and communities; hospital and clinic systems; substance abuse treatment centers; and mental health practices.

MFTs are uniquely qualified to work with the military and their families. The Veteran's Administration (VA) uses MFTs as mental health providers under the Veterans Benefits Act (38 U.S.C.A. Section 7402). This law authorizes the hiring of MFTs within the VA, and specifically mentions MFT qualifications in addressing veterans post traumatic stress disorder needs.

I strongly support the convening of a committee to identify at which point Veterans, returning Reservists, and National Guard members will enter the justice system; and how best to address their needs; including the development of a Veterans Court.

Since approximately 120,000 military veterans and 40,000 active duty military live in Hawaii; and since there has been an unprecedented rate of utilization and re-deployment of members of the United States armed forces, Reserves, and Hawaii National Guard in Afghanistan and Iraq since September 11, 2001; and since recent research confirms that a significant number of soldiers (as many as one in five) will return home from war with a combat related mental health condition such as post traumatic stress disorder; and since we know substance use/abuse is a

concern among military personnel and their families; and since it is estimated that one in three homeless persons has served in the United States military, I am supporting the request for the Chief Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court to convene a committee to identify at which point Veterans, returning Reservists, and National Guard members enter the justice system, and how best to address their needs, including the development of a Veterans Court.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Respectfully submitted,



Paul D. Kai Swigart, Ph.D., M.F.T., C.E.A.P., S.A.P., C.A.I.,
HAMFT President

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Testimony by:
P. D. Kai Swigart, PhD, MFT
HR200 Regarding Veterans Court and Advisory Committee
House Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business, & Military Affairs
March 23, 2010; 08:30 a.m.; Room 312
Position: Support

Honorable Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Choy, and EBM Committee Members:

My name is Paul D. Kai Swigart, Ph.D., M.F.T. I am writing as a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (MFT), member of the Hawaii Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (HAMFT), and owner of Employee Assistance Resources-Hawaii, LLC.

I strongly support the convening of a committee to identify at which point Veterans, returning Reservists, and National Guard members will enter the justice system; and how best to address their needs; including the development of a Veterans Court.

Since approximately 120,000 military veterans and 40,000 active duty military live in Hawaii; and since there has been an unprecedented rate of utilization and re-deployment of members of the United States armed forces, Reserves, and Hawaii National Guard in Afghanistan and Iraq since September 11, 2001; and since recent research confirms that a significant number of soldiers (as many as one in five) will return home from war with a combat related mental health condition such as post traumatic stress disorder; and since we know substance use/abuse is a concern among military personnel and their families; and since it is estimated that one in three homeless persons has served in the United States military, I am supporting the request for the Chief Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court to convene a committee to identify at which point Veterans, returning Reservists, and National Guard members enter the justice system, and how best to address their needs, including the development of a Veterans Court.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Respectfully submitted,



P. D. Kai Swigart, PhD, MFT, CEAP, SAP, CAI

**Testimony for House Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business, & Military Affairs
Hearing scheduled: Tuesday, March 23, 2010; 08:30 a.m.; Room 312**

Measure #: HR200

Support

Copies needed: 2

March 19, 2010

Rep. Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
Rep. Isaac W. Choy, Vice Chair
Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business, & Military Affairs
State Capitol, Conference Room 312
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: **HR200** Regarding Veterans Court and Advisory Committee

Honorable Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Choy, and EBM Committee Members:

My name is Cynthia Carlton-Jarmon. I am writing as a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (MFT), member of the Hawaii Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (HAMFT), and as a concerned citizen.

I strongly support the convening of a committee to identify at which point Veterans, returning Reservists, and National Guard members will enter the justice system; and how best to address their needs; including the development of a Veterans Court.

Since approximately 120,000 military veterans and 40,000 active duty military live in Hawaii; and since there has been an unprecedented rate of utilization and re-deployment of members of the United States armed forces, Reserves, and Hawaii National Guard in Afghanistan and Iraq since September 11, 2001; and since recent research confirms that a significant number of soldiers (as many as one in five) will return home from war with a combat related mental health condition such as post traumatic stress disorder; and since we know substance use/abuse is a concern among military personnel and their families; and since it is estimated that one in three homeless persons has served in the United States military, I am supporting the request for the Chief Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court to convene a committee to identify at which point Veterans, returning Reservists, and National Guard members enter the justice system, and how best to address their needs, including the development of a Veterans Court.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Carlton-Jarmon, MFT

Janet Covington, LMHC

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Testimony for House Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business, & Military Affairs
Hearing scheduled: Tuesday, March 23, 2010; 08:30 a.m.; Room 312

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March 19, 2010

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Rep. Isaac W. Choy, Vice Chair
Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business, & Military Affairs
State Capitol, Conference Room 312
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: **HR200** Regarding Veterans Court and Advisory Committee

Dear Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Choy, and EBM Committee Members:

I am writing as a licensed mental health counselor (LMHC), member of the Hawaii Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (HAMFT), and as a concerned citizen to strongly support the convening of a committee to identify at which point veterans, returning reservists, and National Guard members will enter the justice system and how best to address their needs, including the development of a Veterans Court.

My current position is as a Military Family Life Consultant and I work directly with soldiers and their families providing mental health counseling services. I have seen the toll that multiple, long-term deployments have had on these families and the value of early detection and intervention.

Hawaii has approximately 120,000 military veterans and 40,000 active duty military living in our state. Never before has been such an unprecedented rate of utilization and re-deployment of members of the United States Armed Forces, Reserves, and Hawaii National Guard which has resulted in a significant number of soldiers (as many as one in five) returning home from war with a combat related mental health condition such as post traumatic stress disorder. We are also well aware that substance use/abuse is a concern among military personnel and their families; and that an estimated one in three homeless persons has served in the United States military.

Please help our active duty military and veterans by supporting the request for the Chief Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court to convene a committee to identify at which point Veterans, returning Reservists, and National Guard members enter the justice system, and how best to address their needs, including the development of a Veterans Court. Support **HR200** Regarding Veterans Court and Advisory Committee.

Aloha,

Janet Covington, LMHC

Testimony for House Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business, & Military Affairs

Hearing scheduled: Tuesday, March 23, 2010; 08:30 a.m.; Room 312

Measure #: HR200

Support

Copies needed: 2

March 18, 2010

Rep. Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
Rep. Isaac W. Choy, Vice Chair
Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business, & Military Affairs
State Capitol, Conference Room 312
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: **HR200** Regarding Veterans Court and Advisory Committee

Honorable Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Choy, and EBM Committee Members:

My name is (insert name). I am writing as a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (MFT), member of the Hawaii Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (HAMFT), and as a concerned citizen.

I strongly support the convening of a committee to identify at which point Veterans, returning Reservists, and National Guard members will enter the justice system; and how best to address their needs; including the development of a Veterans Court.

Since approximately 120,000 military veterans and 40,000 active duty military live in Hawaii; and since there has been an unprecedented rate of utilization and re-deployment of members of the United States armed forces, Reserves, and Hawaii National Guard in Afghanistan and Iraq since September 11, 2001; and since recent research confirms that a significant number of soldiers (as many as one in five) will return home from war with a combat related mental health condition such as post traumatic stress disorder; and since we know substance use/abuse is a concern among military personnel and their families; and since it is estimated that one in three homeless persons has served in the United States military, I am supporting the request for the Chief Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court to convene a committee to identify at which point Veterans, returning Reservists, and National Guard members enter the justice system, and how best to address their needs, including the development of a Veterans Court.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Donovan MA, MFT

Shelley Shane, MA, MFT
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Testimony for House Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business, & Military Affairs
Hearing scheduled: Tuesday, March 23, 2010; 08:30 a.m.; Room 312
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March 18, 2010

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Rep. Isaac W. Choy, Vice Chair
Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business, & Military Affairs
State Capitol, Conference Room 312
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: **HR200** Regarding Veterans Court and Advisory Committee

Honorable Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Choy, and EBM Committee Members:

My name is Shelley Shane. I am writing as a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (MFT), member of the Hawaii Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (HAMFT), and as a concerned citizen.

I strongly support the convening of a committee to identify at which point Veterans, returning Reservists, and National Guard members will enter the justice system; and how best to address their needs; including the development of a Veterans Court.

Since approximately 120,000 military veterans and 40,000 active duty military live in Hawaii; and since there has been an unprecedented rate of utilization and re-deployment of members of the United States armed forces, Reserves, and Hawaii National Guard in Afghanistan and Iraq since September 11, 2001; and since recent research confirms that a significant number of soldiers (as many as one in five) will return home from war with a combat related mental health condition such as post traumatic stress disorder; and since we know substance use/abuse is a concern among military personnel and their families; and since it is estimated that one in three homeless persons has served in the United States military, I am supporting the request for the Chief Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court to convene a committee to identify at which point Veterans, returning Reservists, and National Guard members enter the justice system, and how best to address their needs, including the development of a Veterans Court.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelley Shane, MA, MFT

March 20,

2010

Ariel Court, M.A., MFT Intern Iraqi Freedom War Veteran

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**Testimony for House Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business, & Military Affairs
Hearing scheduled: Tuesday, March 23, 2010; 08:30 a.m.; Room 312**

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March 20, 2010

Rep. Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
Rep. Isaac W. Choy, Vice Chair
Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business, & Military Affairs
State Capitol, Conference Room 312
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: **HR200** Regarding Veterans Court and Advisory Committee

Honorable Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Choy, and EBM Committee Members:

My name is Ariel Court and I am an Iraqi Freedom War Veteran. I am writing as not only a veteran but also as a Marriage and Family Therapist (MFT) Intern, member of the Hawaii Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (HAMFT), and as a concerned citizen.

I strongly support the convening of a committee to identify at which point Veterans, returning Reservists, and National Guard members will enter the justice system; and how best to address their needs; including the development of a Veterans Court.

Since approximately 120,000 military veterans and 40,000 active duty military live in Hawaii; and since there has been an unprecedented rate of utilization and re-deployment of members of the United States armed forces, Reserves, and Hawaii National Guard in Afghanistan and Iraq since September 11, 2001; and since recent research confirms that a significant number of soldiers (as many as one in five) will return home from war with a combat related mental health condition such as post traumatic stress disorder; and since we know substance use/abuse is a concern among military personnel and their families; and since it is estimated that one in three homeless persons has served in the United States military, I am supporting the request for the Chief Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court to convene a

committee to identify at which point Veterans, returning Reservists, and National Guard members enter the justice system, and how best to address their needs, including the development of a Veterans Court.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

Ariel Court, M.A., MFT Intern
Iraqi Freedom War Veteran

Page 2 of 2

From: Mark Matsushita [mmm_3x@msn.com]
Sent: Friday, March 19, 2010 3:54 AM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: HB200

March 19, 2010

Rep. Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
Rep. Isaac W. Choy, Vice Chair
Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business, & Military Affairs
State Capitol, Conference Room 312
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HR200 Regarding Veterans Court and Advisory Committee

My name is Mark Matsushita. I am writing as a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (MFT), member of the Hawaii Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (HAMFT), and as a concerned citizen. I strongly support the convening of a committee to identify at which point Veterans, returning Reservists, and National Guard members will enter the justice system; and how best to address their needs; including the development of a Veterans Court.

Since approximately 120,000 military veterans and 40,000 active duty military live in Hawaii; and since there has been an unprecedented rate of utilization and re-deployment of members of the United States armed forces, Reserves, and Hawaii National Guard in Afghanistan and Iraq since September 11, 2001; and since recent research confirms that a significant number of soldiers (as many as one in five) will return home from war with a combat related mental health condition such as post traumatic stress disorder; and since we know substance use/abuse is a concern among military personnel and their families; and since it is estimated that one in three homeless persons has served in the United States military, I am supporting the request for the Chief Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court to convene a committee to identify at which point Veterans, returning Reservists, and National Guard members enter the justice system, and how best to address their needs, including the development of a Veterans Court.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Matsushita
Mark Matsushita MFT, CSAC ICADC

OAHU VETERANS COUNCIL

OAHU VETERANS COUNCIL

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"a gathering place for veterans"
OAHU VETERANS CENTER

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
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March 21, 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 VAVS 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 CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 278, AND
HOUSE RESOLUTION 200 REQUESTING THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE
HAWAII SUPREME COURT TO CONVENE A COMMITTEE TO IDENTIFY
AT WHICH POINT VETERANS AND RETURNING RESERVISTS AND
NATIONAL GUARD MEMBERS ENTER THE JUSTICE SYSTEM, AND HOW
BEST TO ADDRESS THEIR NEEDS, INCLUDING DEVELOPING A
VETERANS COURT.**

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION, BUSINESS &
MILITARY AFFAIRS**

HEARING TUESDAY, MARCH 23, 2010, 8:30 AM, ROOM 312

Aloha Representatives Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair, Isaac W. Choy, 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 fully supports the intent and passage of HCR 278 and HR 200

The Council supports the intent of both resolutions; however, the need for the establishment of a Veterans Court needs to be met as soon as possible. The time involved in finding committee members and the decision making process takes precious time away from providing the help some of our returning service personnel need now. The Council also suggests that the language in the fifth Whereas be changed to "needs of service personnel" instead of soldiers to technically cover the other armed services. Additionally, the fourth Whereas speaks to homeless men. There are also homeless women veterans.

The Oahu Veterans Council strongly supports the intent of House Concurrent Resolution 278, and House Resolution 200.

Mahalo for allowing us the opportunity to testify in support of these very important resolutions.

Fred Ballard

Fred Ballard
President, Oahu Veterans Council



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