

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR



ROBERT G.F. LEE
MAJOR GENERAL
ADJUTANT GENERAL

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
OFFICE OF VETERANS' SERVICES
459 PATTERSON ROAD, E-WING, ROOM 1-A103
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96819-1522

MARK S. MOSES
MAJOR, USMC, RETIRED
DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF VETERANS SERVICES
TESTIMONY ON SB 2139, SD2 to the
COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION, BUSINESS, & MILITARY AFFAIRS
March 11, 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 SB 2139 SD2, which requires the director of the office of veterans' services to act on behalf of deceased veterans found to be indigent at the time of death and without surviving immediate family members to ensure the burial or cremation and interment of the veteran's remains in a state veterans cemetery

This issue has come to our attention and we believe it must be addressed. As veterans' age and the number of World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War and those who participated in the Global War on Terrorism spend their final days alone their remains are discovered in their residence or elsewhere. In some cases there are family members who are willing to sign documents allowing for either cremation or burial, however, our experience has been that there is a significant number of veterans without family who require assistance from OVS to make their final arrangements. There is no need for funding, as the veterans' cemetery will receive reimbursement from the Federal Government.

We ask the committee amend line 15 to read "cremation and interment or inurnment." Inurnment is appropriate for cremated remains.

Our goal is to assure that each veteran who is entitled to military honors and placement in a veteran's cemetery receives these appropriate services.

Thank you for allowing me to present the Veterans' perspective on this issue. I will respond to any questions.

OAHU VETERANS COUNCIL

OAHU VETERANS COUNCIL

President - Fred Ballard
1st V.P. - Cecil Meadows
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Secretary - John Harms
Treasurer - Eugenia Woodward
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"a gathering place for veterans"
OAHU VETERANS CENTER

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Sandy Ballard

March 9, 2010

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

5th Regimental Combat Team
15th 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
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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 SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 2139, SD2 RELATING TO VETERANS

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION, BUSINESS & MILITARY AFFAIRS

HEARING TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2010, 8:30 AM, ROOM 312

Aloha Representatives Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair, Issac 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.

Every veteran who served our country deserves a decent burial and military honors if they can be provided. It is unfortunate that some find themselves indigent, and with no family to turn to for burial assistance. The State Office of Veterans Services is the logical agency to ensure they receive a proper burial in a state veterans cemetery. It is only right that they receive their last military related benefit and be afforded the decency of a veterans burial where they can rest with their comrades in arms.

The Oahu Veterans Council strongly supports the passage of Senate Bill 2139, SD2.

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

Fred Ballard
Fred Ballard
President
Oahu Veterans Council



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