

STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF VETERANS SERVICES
TESTIMONY ON S.B. No. 571, RELATING TO VETERANS' MEMORIAL
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

FEBRUARY 10, 2009

Good afternoon Chair Will Espero, Vice-Chair Robert Bunda, and members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs.

I am Mark Moses, Director of the Office of Veterans Services (OVS). I appreciate this opportunity to support the intent of SB 571, which seeks to establish a memorial to the veterans of the Persian Gulf War and Operation Desert Storm, as long as its implementation does not impact or replace the priorities set forth in the Executive Biennium Budget for Fiscal Years 2009-2010.

Memorials are usually built after the conflict comes to resolution. Although it is a common misunderstanding that these are separate conflicts, the federal government considers the Gulf War as starting August 2, 1990, through a date to be set by law or Presidential Proclamation. This has not occurred as of this date.

Another concern is that many of the War memorials in Hawaii list the names of the fallen. Since planning for this memorial has not commenced, the form and other details of the memorial have yet to be decided.

Finally, given our current economic circumstances, it may not be practical to implement this measure at this time. It most definitely is a matter worthy of consideration when the war is declared ended, and the state's fiscal situation improves.

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