

STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF VETERANS' SERVICES
TESTIMONY ON H.B. No. 1632, RELATING TO CEMETERIES
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY & MILITARY AFFAIRS

February 10, 2011

Good morning Chair Henry Aquino, Vice Chair Ty Cullen, and members of the House Committee on Public Safety & Military Affairs.

The interim Director of the Office of Veterans' Services (OVS), Mr. Mark Moses, appreciates this opportunity to support HB. No. 1632, as long as it does not replace or adversely impact priorities established in the Executive Biennium Budget Request. This bill seeks to provide funds to expand the Makawao Veteran's or acquire land for a veteran's cemetery in Maui.

The Makawao Veteran's Cemetery has approximately 3 to 5 years of in ground burial space and many more years of columbarium space. Now is the time to acquire adjacent land so that we can provide adequate burial plots for Maui veterans and their family members.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak on behalf of Hawaii's veteran community.

I will respond to questions from the committee.

THE OAHU VETERANS COUNCIL

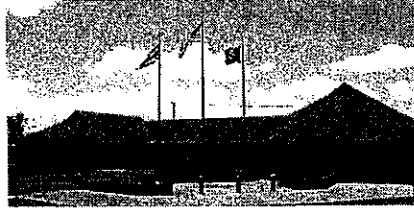
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Samoan Providers
Society of Military Widows - Aloha Chapter
Sons & Daughters of Pearl Harbor Survivors
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Veterans of Foreign Wars - Post 970
Vietnam Veterans of America - Chapter 858
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Women Veterans of America #26



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OAHU VETERANS CENTER

January 27, 2011

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 1632 RELATING TO CEMETARIES

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

HEARING ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH, AT 9AM, IN
CONFERENCE ROOM 309

Aloha Chair Aquino: The Oahu Veterans Council's member organization's identified in the left margin represent the interests of over 80,000 veterans and their families. On Thursday, January 27th, our legislative committee voted to testify, in support of House Bill 1632, as follows:

We firmly believe funds should be provided for the acquisition of land to expand the veteran's cemetery in Makawao, Maui.

Oahu Veterans Council delegates performed creditable military service under the flags of the United States of America and the State of Hawaii. We honor our Nation and State, and firmly believe proceeding with this capitol improvement will resonate positively in the affected community and pay huge dividends in terms of good will, State-wide.

We thoughtfully and respectfully encourage your committee to remind those who chose to ignore this traditional display of patriotism, of the limitations placed on their sentiments by the US Constitution, in recommending approval of HB1632 as written.

Mahalo for allowing us to testify in support of this very important Bill.

Fred Ballard

Fred Ballard; President



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