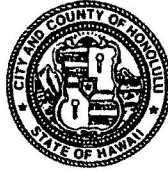


DEPARTMENT OF CUSTOMER SERVICES  
**CITY & COUNTY OF HONOLULU**  
DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLE, LICENSING AND PERMITS  
ADMINISTRATION  
P.O. BOX 30300  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96820-0300

PETER B. CARLISLE  
MAYOR



GAIL Y. HARAGUCHI  
DIRECTOR

DENNIS A KAMIMURA  
LICENSING ADMINISTRATOR

February 22, 2011

The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair  
and Committee Members  
Committee on Finance  
House of Representatives  
State of Hawaii  
State Capitol, Room 306  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Oshiro and Committee Members:

Subject: H.B. No. 668 H.D.1, Relating to Veterans

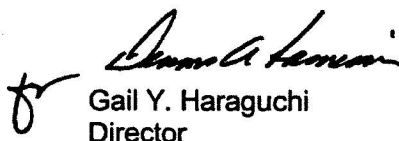
The City and County of Honolulu is opposed to H.B. No. 668 H.D.1 which will establish a working group on expanding the number of military specialty license plates.

We are concerned with the impact and proliferation of specialty license plates. The primary purpose of license plates is to identify a vehicle in actual traffic conditions. All military specialty license plates have the numerals which Section 249-9, HRS, requires that it be not less than three inches in height and the strokes not less than three-eighths inch in width. Identity of the vehicle with military specialty requires that a person also determine the words that are printed on the left side of the plates. Currently a police officer or the public has to remember the number and ascertain whether the words printed on the left side of the license plate were one of the currently 8 other military specialty license plates. Due to the difficulty in identifying vehicles with specialty license plates, the International Association of Chiefs of Police has adopted a resolution opposing the continued proliferation of such license plates.

Section 249-9.3, HRS, implements the organizational license plate decal program. This program allows the issuance of decals representing the organization to non-duplicative license plate numbers. Amending this Section, by allowing the Office of Veteran Services to order and issue decals to veterans issued unique organizational license plates, would resolve the duplicity issue of the current military specialty license plate program.

The City and County of Honolulu recommends that H.B. No. 668 H.D.1, be amended to implement a veteran decal program.

Sincerely,

  
Gail Y. Haraguchi  
Director

# THE OAHU VETERANS COUNCIL

## OAHU VETERANS COUNCIL

President - Fred Ballard  
1st V.P. - Cecil Meadows  
2nd V.P. - Jim Santos  
Secretary - John Harms  
Treasurer - Eugenia Woodward  
Chaplain - Frank Lamson

## OAHU VETERANS CENTER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Sandy Ballard

## MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

5th Regimental Combat Team -  
45th Infantry Division Association.  
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 VAWS - Hawaii Dist.  
China-Burma-India Veterans Association.  
Chosin Few - Aloha Chapter  
Combat Infantrymen's Association.  
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 Association. for Atomic Veterans  
National Association. 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 Association. - 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



"a gathering place for veterans"  
OAHU VETERANS CENTER

January 27, 2011

## TESTIMONY REGARDING HOUSE BILL 668 RELATING TO VETERANS

### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

### HEARING ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24<sup>TH</sup>, AT 10AM, IN CONFERENCE ROOM 308

Aloha Chairman Oshiro: The Oahu Veterans Council's member organization's identified in the left margin represent the interests of over 80,000 veterans and their families. The Veterans Specialty License Plates/Working Group issue was brought to the full council's attention, in Saturday January 22<sup>nd</sup>. On Thursday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, our legislative committee voted to testify, in support of House Bill 668, as follows:

We firmly believe establishing this proposed working group will satisfy the need to thoughtfully explore the feasibility of providing specialty license plates for all veterans who desire them; the Oahu Veterans Council would be honored, if asked to participate this effort. We firmly believe this first measured step toward establishing new official recognition tradition will further improve our relationship with the general public and vice versa.

We thoughtfully and respectfully encourage your committee to remind those who view this traditional display of patriotism and love of Country and State, as unimportant, of the limitations that can be placed on their sentiments by the US Constitution, in recommending approval of HB668 as written.

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

*Fred Ballard*

Fred Ballard; President



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[www.oahuveteranscenter.com](http://www.oahuveteranscenter.com)

STATE OF HAWAII  
OFFICE OF VETERANS' SERVICES  
TESTIMONY ON H.B. No. 668, HD1, RELATING TO VETERANS  
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

February 24, 2011

Good morning Chair Marcus Oshiro, Vice Chair Marilyn Lee and members of the House Committee on Finance.

I Gregory Jackson, Jr., Director of the Office of Veterans' Services (OVS), appreciate this opportunity to support the intent of HB. No. 668, HD1; as long as it does not replace or adversely impact priorities established in the Executive Biennium Budget Request. This measure seeks to establish a working group to explore the feasibility of expanding the present number of specialty license plates. I note that examples of other state's license plate programs were mentioned in the bill. I would like to share that many states have several veteran's nursing homes, education benefits, financial assistance and state bonuses. I believe that veterans would appreciate an opportunity to upgrade their education and obtain short-term financial assistance as a demonstration of Hawaii's tribute to veterans. Presently, there are decals and license plate covers that are available to address identifying branch of service and which war a veteran served. Allowing veterans to place these decals or license plate covers on their vehicles offers the recognition they seek and supports our business community and jobs.

The measure asks the office of veterans' services to provide all administrative, technical, professional and clerical support required by the working group. The OVS has several staff vacancies and cannot offer this type of support without additional resources, including personnel or the ability to contract for services.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak on behalf of Hawaii's veteran community. I will respond to questions from the committee.

## **FINTestimony**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**ent:** Wednesday, February 23, 2011 12:40 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** dne39@isp.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB668 on 2/24/2011 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/24/2011 10:00:00 AM HB668

Conference room: 308  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: Yes  
Submitted by: Dennis Egge  
Organization: Oahu Veterans Council  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [dne39@isp.com](mailto:dne39@isp.com)  
Submitted on: 2/23/2011

**Comments:**

Our previously submitted written testimony incorrectly stated our position as  
&quot;regarding&quot;

I apologize for this error, Dennis Egge