

# **SB 881**

RELATING TO HONOR AND REMEMBER FLAG.

Designates the Honor and Remember Flag as the State's emblem of service and sacrifice by the brave men and women of the United State Armed Forces who have given their lives in the line of duty.

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 881  
A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE HONOR AND REMEMBER FLAG

PRESENTATION TO THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS,  
AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

BY

MAJOR GENERAL DARRYLL D. M. WONG  
INTERIM ADJUTANT GENERAL  
February 3, 2011

Chair Espero, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

I am Major General Darryll D. M. Wong, Interim State Adjutant General. I am testifying on Senate Bill 881.

We strongly support Senate Bill 881. This measure designates the Honor and Remember Flag as the State's emblem of service and sacrifice by the brave men and women of the United States Armed Forces who have given the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

As we continue to support our nation's war on terrorism, passage of this bill would indicate that Hawaii truly cares for the men and women serving in the military.

This concludes my testimony. Are there any questions?

STATE OF HAWAII  
OFFICE OF VETERANS' SERVICES  
TESTIMONY ON S.B. No. 881, RELATING TO THE HONOR AND REMEMBER  
FLAG

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, AND  
MILITARY AFFAIRS

February 3, 2011

Good afternoon Chair Will Espero, Vice Chair Michelle Kidani, and members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations, and Military Affairs.

The interim Director of the Office of Veterans' Services (OVS), Mr. Mark Moses, appreciates this opportunity to express our concerns relating to S.B. No. 881. The OVS offices has received comments from the veteran's community that the only flag that truly recognizes and honors all veterans, to include those fallen members is the Flag of the United State of America. This is the Flag to which they swore their allegiance, which they carried into battle, which is draped on the casket of each active duty service member who makes the ultimate sacrifice, and which is given to the service member's or veteran's family when that person is provided burial honors before they are laid to permanent rest.

Based upon this input, we ask the committee to hold this bill in committee. Thank you for this opportunity to speak on behalf of Hawaii's veteran community.

I will respond to questions from the committee.

TESTIMONY OF ALLEN K. HOE  
COMBAT VETERAN - VIETNAM  
GOLD STAR FATHER

of  
1LT NAINOA K. HOE  
KIA, IRAQ 2005

**IN SUPPORT OF SB 881**

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, GOVERNMENT  
OPERATIONS and MILITARY AFFAIRS

February 3, 2011

Aloha Chairman Espero, Vice-Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee

My name is Allen Hoe, I am a Veteran. I had the honor and the privilege of serving our country during the Vietnam War.

Senate Bill 881 proposes to amend the Hawaii Revised Statutes, by adding a new section which would officially designate the "Honor and Remember Flag" as the State of Hawaii's official flag of honor and remembrance of its citizens who have died in service to Hawaii and the United States of America.

The Honor and Remember Flag is a fitting tribute to the thousands of Hawaii's young men and women who have proudly served their country. The flag represents the embodiment of freedom and democracy, for it shares the legacy of service of our kupuna in WWI, the historic legacy of the Go For Broke warriors of the 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion in WWII and my generation's service in Korea and Vietnam.

In your role as Hawaii's political leaders you have also demonstrated your commitment to these ideals as well with the creation of the Hawaii Medal of Honor presented to the family and loved ones of those who gave the most precious gift to us who are here today, the gift of their last full measure of service to their country.

SB 881 is another one of those special opportunities which presents it self and which is worthy of your consideration and support. I humbly request that you once again demonstrate to the rest of the Nation, Hawaii's resolve and commitment to honor those whose memory we will cherish for ever for their gift of freedom to the world.

My request is in keeping with the following statement of Mr. George Lutz and the organization heading the nationwide effort of the Honor and Remember Flag.

**Mission:** To create, establish and promote a nationally recognized flag that would fly continuously as a visible reminder to all Americans of the lives lost in defense of our national freedoms. All Military lives lost not only in action but also in service, from our

nation's inception.

**Rationale:** In our over 200 year history there has never been an official national symbol that recognizes in gratitude and respect the ultimate sacrifice made by members of the United States military in service to our nation. The Honor and Remember Flag was created for that purpose.

**Goals:**

1. To promote the vision of the Honor and Remember Flag and request that visitors to the website sign a petition and pass the word about the importance of this new symbol.
2. To build a consensus among the branches of the United States military, veterans organizations, service and civic groups, businesses and individuals in order to collectively solicit the Department of Defense and the United States Congress to propose and accept the Honor and Remember Flag as the official flag for honoring all fallen servicemen and servicewomen.
3. To promote broad national awareness of and groundswell interest in the flag, so that military, government and educational facilities as well as households throughout the country would begin flying the Honor and Remember Flag in recognition of our nation's fallen warriors.

Therefore, I respectfully request that you vote to adopt SB 881 which will establish the "Honor and Remember Flag" as an official flag of the State of Hawaii.

The flag shall recognize ALL military individuals from all wars or conflicts involving the United States who died while serving since our nation's inception. Not only killed in action, but also killed while serving. This flag will be a symbol of national gratitude for men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for the freedoms we enjoy and to remind us of the importance of each individual life lost.

With that legacy in mind, I humbly request that SB 881 be approved.

Respectfully,

Allen K. Hoe

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