

# **SB 882**

## RELATING TO A MEMORIAL.

Directs the Office of Veterans' Affairs, Department of Accounting and General Services, and Department of Defense to establish a memorial to the veterans of the Persian Gulf War, Operation Desert Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operation New Dawn.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR



BRUCE A. COPPA  
Comptroller

RYAN OKAHARA  
Deputy Comptroller

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING  
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TESTIMONY  
OF  
BRUCE A. COPPA, COMPTROLLER  
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES  
TO THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE  
ON  
PUBLIC SAFETY, GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS  
ON  
February 3, 2011

S.B. 882

RELATING TO A MEMORIAL

Chair Espero and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on S.B. 882.

The Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) opposes passage of this bill because it does not have the “in-house” resources (because of staff vacancies; “furlough days”; and operating budget reductions) and FY 2011-2012 funding will need to be appropriated to address this unfunded Legislative requirement. It is noted that:

1. The State Capitol property is a “historic preservation site” that will need Department of Land and Natural Resources, State Historic Preservation Division (DLNR-SHPD) approval to construct another veterans memorial on the State Capitol lawn. The State Capitol property is also within the City and County of Honolulu, Department of Planning and Permitting (CCH-DPP) “State Capitol District” boundary, which will

impose land use/zoning ordinance restrictions on any new developments constructed on the State Capitol lawn.

2. To achieve the Legislative intent of this proposed bill, DAGS estimates about \$225,000 (total) in FY 2011-2012 funds will need to be appropriated for that purpose

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

STATE OF HAWAII  
OFFICE OF VETERANS' SERVICES  
TESTIMONY ON S.B. No. 882, RELATING TO MEMORIAL

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 support the intent of S.B. No. 882, as long as it does not replace or adversely impact priorities established in the Executive Biennium Budget Request. This measure instructs the office of veteran's services, with the assistance of the departments of accounting and general services and defense to develop a plan to establish a memorial on the capitol grounds near the Korean and Vietnam Memorials for veterans of Persian Gulf period.

As we support the intent of this measure, usually memorials are designed and constructed at the conclusion of the war. Presently there is no end date for this conflict period and we do not have a final number of individuals who will be memorialized on the memorial. These factors will affect the planning and placement process. We ask the committee to hold this measure in committee until this conflict has ended.

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

I will respond to questions from the committee.



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**Testimony of  
Thomas Smyth, President  
Military Officers Association of America, Hawaii Chapter  
Before the Committee on  
Public Safety, Government Operations and Military Affairs  
Thursday, February 3, 2011, 2:45 pm, Room 224  
SB 882 Relating to a Memorial**

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

**Our organization of over 400 retired and currently serving officers of the Uniformed Services, supports development of a plan for the creation of a memorial to veterans of Operations Desert Shield, Desert Storm, Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom and New Dawn.**

**We ask that you consider adding Operations Northern and Southern Watch to the list of commemorated campaigns. These long operations involved hundreds of US and allied aircraft and supporting personnel, some of whom lost their lives because of Iraqi ground-to-air missiles.**

**We recognize the notion that Operations Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and New Dawn in Iraqi are not yet “officially” over, but we are still sending our troops there at great risk. They deserve equal remembrance along with those who served in the earlier campaigns.**

**Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.**