

STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF VETERANS' SERVICES
TESTIMONY ON S.B. No. 883, SD2, HD1
RELATING TO SPECIAL NUMBER PLATES

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

March 30, 2011

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

I am Gregory Jackson, Director of the Office of Veterans' Services (OVS), I appreciate this opportunity to support the intent of S.B. No. 883, SD2, HD1, as long as it does not replace or adversely impact priorities established in the Executive Biennium Budget Request. The intent of this measure, which is to provide a special license plate for Gold Star family members, is an excellent way to recognize these family members who experienced the loss of a loved one.

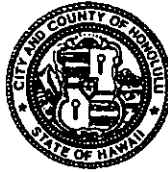
We defer to the director of finance of the city and county of Honolulu who has direct responsibility for program implementation.

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

I will respond to questions from the committee.

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

March 28, 2011

The Honorable Marcus 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: S.B. No. 883 S.D.2 H.D.1, Relating to Special Number Plates

The City and County of Honolulu has no objections to S.B. No. 883 S.D.2 H.D.1, which will allow the issuance of the Gold Star Family license plates to qualified applicants.

The letter numeral combination that will be used will not duplicate any other issued license plates.

The City and County of Honolulu urges your favorable consideration of S.B. No. 883 S.D.2 H.D.1.

Sincerely,


for Gail Y. Haraguchi
Director

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 883, SD2, HD1
RELATING TO SPECIAL NUMBER PLATES

by
Allen K. Hoe
Vietnam Combat Purple Heart Veteran

GOLD STAR FATHER
of
1LT NAINOA K. HOE

1st Brigade 25th Infantry Division
KIA, Iraq January 22, 2005

Committee on Finance
Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 30, 2011; 10:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

Aloha Chair Oshiro and Vice-Chair Lee and Members of the Committee:

It is an honor to appear once again before your committee to seek your support for the passage of the legislation to authorize a special vehicle license plate, one to honor our fallen heroes and their families. As a proud Vietnam Combat Veteran I seek your support in enacting SB 883 SD2, HD1.

The legislation pending before you today proposes to amend the Hawaii Revised Statutes, Section 249-9.2 which upon becoming law will authorize the issuance of a very unique motor vehicle License Plate; "The Gold Star Family."

This measure is simply about our society re-paying a huge debt of gratitude to the families of our servicemen and women who have given their lives for our freedoms. The very essence of our freedom to live in a free society is the direct result, of the bravery by those whose heroic acts and deeds this License Honors. Those who have died in combat or while on duty in uniform.

I was wounded in Vietnam during the TET Offensive in 1968 which allows me to have a Combat Wounded or "Purple Heart" license plate instead of a numbered plate. In addition to my combat wounded veterans status, I became a Gold Star Father. It is an official USA Department of Defense, title, which I would not wish upon any of you sitting here today. It represents perhaps the highest honor one can achieve in service to their country for it means that one of America's finest has given his or her life in combat or in service, for a higher purpose: the cause of liberty and freedom.

Senate Bill 883 SD2, HD1 provides the needed authorization which would establish a

"Gold Star Family" category allowing all of Hawaii to recognize and honor the family members who have given up one of their own upon that most sacred alter of freedom. SB 883 SD2, presents a very unique statement that the Hawaii Legislature have determined to honor those who have died in service to Hawaii and our Country.

The gold star emblem legacy is a tradition of our country which is traced back to WWI, and reminds everyone that freedom is not free. There is no better way to honor the lives of all of our fallen warriors then by recognizing their families who wear that badge of duty honor and country each day so that their loved one will never be forgotten.

With that legacy in mind, I humbly request that SB 883 SD2, HD1 be approved.

Respectfully,

Allen K. Hoe

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