

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

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY & MILITARY AFFAIRS

March 17, 2011

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

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, 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 speak 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 15, 2011

The Honorable Henry J.C. Aquino, Chair  
and Committee Members  
Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs  
House of Representatives  
State of Hawaii  
State Capitol, Room 323  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Aquino and Committee Members:

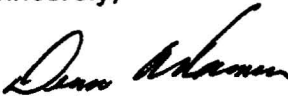

Subject: S.B. No. 883 S.D.2, Relating to Special Number Plates

The City and County of Honolulu has no objections to S.B. No. 883 S.D.2, 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 that the effective date be corrected and your favorable consideration of S.B. No. 883 S.D.2.

Sincerely,

  
for  Gail Y. Haraguchi  
Director

# THE OAHU VETERANS COUNCIL

## OAHU VETERANS COUNCIL

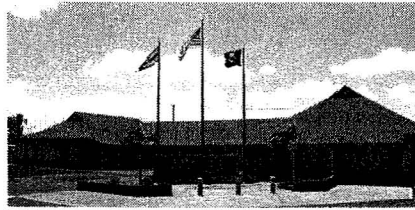
President - Fred Ballard  
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## OAHU VETERANS CENTER

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 VAVS - 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 IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 883 RELATING TO SPECIAL NUMBER PLATES.

### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

### HEARING ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH, AT 8:30AM, 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 27<sup>th</sup>, our legislative committee voted to testify, in support of Senate Bill 883, as follows:

We firmly believe a new special design Gold Star Family plate should be provided for the children, parents, grandparents, spouses, and siblings of our fallen military service personnel. Oahu Veterans Council delegates performed creditable military service under the flag of the United States of America and the State of Hawaii. We honor our fallen comrades under these flags, and sincerely appreciate anything positive you can do to provide comfort and recognition for their survivors.

We thoughtfully and respectfully encourage your committee to remind those who willfully undermine this new traditional display of patriotism and love of Country and State, of the limitations placed on their sentiments by the US Constitution, in recommending approval of SB883 as currently written.

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

*Fred Ballard*

Fred Ballard; President



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TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 883, SD2  
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 Public Safety & Military Affairs  
Representative Henry J.C. Aquino, Chair  
Representative Ty Cullen, Vice Chair

**Thursday, March 17, 2011; 8:30 a.m.**  
**State Capitol, Conference Room 309**

Aloha Chair Aquino and Vice-Chair Cullen 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.

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 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 amended with the effective date of October 1, 2011 and be approved as SB 883 SD2, HD1.

Respectfully,

Allen K. Hoe

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Honolulu, HI 96811

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