

## PBMtestimony

---

**From:** Jim Browne [barefoot@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 09, 2012 9:41 AM  
**To:** PBMtestimony  
**Subject:** FW: Testimony In Support of Passage of HB 1974

*This email was written to support the document sent by John Grogan on February 8<sup>th</sup> 2012. I totally support the suggested changes in HB 1974.*

*Jim Browne  
Cpl. of Marines  
USMC 1950-1954  
PO Box 383058  
Waikoloa, HI 96738  
(808) 883-0069*

---

**From:** John Grogan [mailto:rosemifsud@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 08, 2012 6:01 PM  
**To:** PBMtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Subject:** Testimony In Support of Passage of HB 1974

Aloha:

As a matter of introduction, I am a Navy veteran who lives in Kona, HI. While the titles are not meant to impress you, I am the President of the West Hawaii Veterans' Council which represents all of the active veterans' organizations in West Hawaii and I am also President of the West Hawaii Veterans' Cemetery Development and Expansion Association. While the County of Hawaii manages the State owned West Hawaii Veterans' Cemetery in Kona, our Cemetery Association works closely with County, State and Federal officials towards a common goal of providing for the Cemetery's welfare. Our collective efforts culminated not long ago in the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs designating West Hawaii Veterans' Cemetery as one of only three State owned veterans cemeteries in all of America to achieve "Shrine Status." The purpose of this email is to provide testimony in support of HB 1974.

While passage of HB 1974 will not affect me personally, it has never made any sense to me for a United States veteran to be denied interment in a federally funded, State owned, cemetery. In my opinion, inasmuch as federal tax dollars are used to design and construct veterans' cemeteries, any honorably discharged veteran and his or her qualified dependents ought to be able to be interred in any State owned, federally funded cemetery. Veterans, by definition, served in the United States military - not the Hawaii Island military. As I recall, no one asked me what State or County I was risking my life for while fighting in Vietnam.

Another point: Many active duty military personnel come to our island for training prior to a tour in Iraq and/or Afghanistan. While these men and women usually come from their bases in Japan or Oahu, their homes of record are from virtually every State in the Union. As a testimony to the character of these young people, a significant number of these troops come to our cemetery on their down time for several hours to pull weeds and plant native Hawaiian plants. We had 34 active duty Marines less than two weeks ago as State Representative Cindy Evans knows inasmuch as she was at the cemetery with them. Not one of these active military persons that I know of has ever asked if they could be interred at our cemetery if they are killed in action while keeping us safe at home. I thank God that I have not had to answer that question.

All gave some. Some gave all.

Thank you for considering my point of view.

John Grogan  
76-992 S Pueo Pl  
Kailua Kona, HI 96740  
808-326-2309

# LATE TESTIMONY

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1974, RELATING TO VETERANS  
PRESENTATION TO THE  
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY & MILITARY AFFAIRS

BY

MR. RONALD P. HAN  
DIRECTOR OF OFFICE OF VETERANS SERVICES

February 9, 2012

Chair Aquino and Committee members:

I am Ron Han, Director of the Office of Veterans Services (OVS). I appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony in support of the concepts in House Bill 1974 with the following recommended amendments:

**Recommend Line 1 of Page 2 be amended to read:**

2) Eligible Veterans set forth in the Department of Veterans Affairs established criterion: "entering military service after September 7, 1980, as an enlisted person, and service after October 16, 1980, as an officer, must be a minimum of 24 continuous months or the full period for which the person was called to active duty (as in the case of a Reservist)."

**Recommend Line 5 of Page 2 be amended to read:**

3) Eligible Veterans who were discharged under conditions other than dishonorable of the armed forces of the United States with either peacetime or wartime service.

**Recommend Line 9 on Page 2 be amended to read:**

(4) The wife, husband, or minor children, and unmarried disabled (Adult) children, who predecease a service member or veteran, who would be entitled to internment, are eligible to be interred in any State Veterans Cemetery.

Overall, this measure would allow Service members who died while in the Armed Forces of the United States; eligible Veterans under the criterion established by the Department of Veterans Affairs of the Armed Forces of the United States with either peacetime or wartime service; the widows, widowers, or minor

children, and unmarried disabled (Adult) children, of deceased service members or veterans; the wife, husband, or minor children who predecease a service member or veteran – all the above-mentioned would be allowed to be buried in the veterans cemeteries of each county without any residential commitments.

The OVS supports the concepts and intent of this bill with recommended amendments as long as its implementation does not impact or replace the priorities set forth in the Executive Supplemental Budget for Fiscal Years 2012-2013.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of Hawaii's Veterans and their families in support of HB 1974.

## PBMtestimony

---

**From:** John Grogan [rose milfsud@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 08, 2012 6:01 PM  
**To:** PBMtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony In Support of Passage of HB 1974

Aloha:

As a matter of introduction, I am a Navy veteran who lives in Kona, HI. While the titles are not meant to impress you, I am the President of the West Hawaii Veterans' Council which represents all of the active veterans' organizations in West Hawaii and I am also President of the West Hawaii Veterans' Cemetery Development and Expansion Association. While the County of Hawaii manages the State owned West Hawaii Veterans' Cemetery in Kona, our Cemetery Association works closely with County, State and Federal officials towards a common goal of providing for the Cemetery's welfare.

Our collective efforts culminated not long ago in the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs designating West Hawaii Veterans' Cemetery as one of only three State owned veterans cemeteries in all of America to achieve "Shrine Status." The purpose of this email is to provide testimony in support of HB 1974.

While passage of HB 1974 will not affect me personally, it has never made any sense to me for a United States veteran to be denied interment in a federally funded, State owned, cemetery. In my opinion, inasmuch as federal tax dollars are used to design and construct veterans' cemeteries, any honorably discharged veteran and his or her qualified dependents ought to be able to be interred in any State owned, federally funded cemetery. Veterans, by definition, served in the United States military - not the Hawaii Island military. As I recall, no one asked me what State or County I was risking my life for while fighting in Vietnam.

Another point: Many active duty military personnel come to our island for training prior to a tour in Iraq and/or Afghanistan. While these men and women usually come from their bases in Japan or Oahu, their homes of record are from virtually every State in the Union. As a testimony to the character of these young people, a significant number of these troops come to our cemetery on their down time for several hours to pull weeds and plant native Hawaiian plants. We had 34 active duty Marines less than two weeks ago as State Representative Cindy Evans knows inasmuch as she was at the cemetery with them. Not one of these active military persons that I know of has ever asked if they could be interred at our cemetery if they are killed in action while keeping us safe at home. I thank God that I have not had to answer that question.

All gave some. Some gave all.

Thank you for considering my point of view.

John Grogan  
76-992 S Pueo Pl  
Kailua Kona, HI 96740  
808-326-2309