



LATE TESTIMONY

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

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To: Representative Henry J.C. Aquino
PBM Committee Chair
Representative Ty Cullen
PBM Committee Vice Chair

From: Representative Marilyn B. Lee

Subject: Re: PBM Hearing on HCR19, HR13

3/29/2012

Chair Aquino and Vice Chair Cullen:

I would like to offer my comments in support of HCR19 and its companion bill HR13, URGING THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND THE HAWAII OFFICE OF VETERANS SERVICES TO DEVELOP COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES TO ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF WOMEN VETERANS.

On behalf of the Women's Caucus, which has adopted the cause of women veterans as its legislation package this session, I urge you to support these measures. Women have a proud history of military service to our beloved country. But the unique struggles faced by women soldiers abroad resurface at home, as women veterans must assimilate back into civilian life while coping with the depression, fearfulness, and anger associated with post-MST (military sexual trauma). The surging number of homeless female veterans in the past several years is sad indication of the traumas endured during deployment. Many newly homeless veterans are single mothers. Yet, women veterans who served are returning home to find a lack of appropriate service for women.

The health and welfare of our former servicewomen should be a paramount concern. Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Members, I urge your support of these two resolutions which will raise awareness of the struggles of female veterans in Hawaii, and address these struggles with support from programs and services.

Thank you for your consideration.