

GM 574

Report Title:

Advisory Board on Veterans' Services

Measure Title:

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Advisory Board on Veterans' Services, Gubernatorial Nominee, WILLIAM PARK, for a term to expire 6-30-2016

TESTIMONY
OF
WILLIAM C. S. PARK
TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE
ON

PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

GM 574

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Advisory Board on Veterans' Services, Gubernatorial Nominee, WILLIAM PARK, for a term to expire June 30, 2016.

Chair Espero and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today and to answer any questions you might have for me. I would like to thank Governor Neil Abercrombie for nominating me. It is an honor to be considered for a position which allows me to represent the veterans of this State on matters of concern to them, the Governor, and the members of the legislature. Let me also say mahalo to those who have submitted letters in support of my nomination and to those who have come here today to support me and share their aloha.

My name is William Clayton Sam Park, director of Papa Ola Lokahi's Native Hawaiian Veterans Program. I am a retired Master Sergeant with three years of active duty with the United States Army and 21 years of service with the Hawaii Army National Guard. I also am retired from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) with 28 years of service, and a disabled veteran.

I have a passion for helping veterans and their families in whatever way I can. This most recent journey began after encountering homeless veterans, newly discharged veterans from the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, and veterans from past and current wars who were not receiving services and benefits through the VA or the military. These veterans could not navigate the VA system, were not part of any outreach efforts, and often gave up seeking help after becoming confused and frustrated in their attempts to understand the various communications they would receive if they sought help. Family members could see the changes in their loved ones, but had no idea how to help.

In the tradition of the military culture that no one is left behind, and the local style of looking to those with wisdom who have gone before us, an “Uncles and Aunties” program was established. Veterans who had made it through were now helping veterans. Family members who knew the broader emotional impact that came with the veteran’s frustration or loss of hope were volunteering to help other families. It is through bringing together in the Uncles and Aunties program veterans and their families on every island who share a similar passion to mine which provides first hand information about what is happening or not happening in our veteran communities. This information, in turn, can be shared through the Advisory Board on Veterans Services, so that its mission of advising the Director of the Office of Veterans Services on veterans issues, legislative proposals and program operations can be successful. On a more personal level, the Uncles and Aunties program serves as a source of encouragement and emotional support to the veteran and family members – no one need be left behind.

Though the Uncles and Aunties program is a center piece of my efforts, my position as the Director of the Native Hawaiian Veterans Program often results in invitations to meetings, workshops and presentations sponsored by other organizations. These invitations have provided

additional opportunities and expanded avenues through which to share information about our veterans' needs, and influence how veterans issues are incorporated into those agendas. Among some of the more recent opportunities presented to me have been discussions about the Veterans Court, panel discussions for conferences sponsored by the Hawaii State Suicide Prevention Steering Committee and Task Force, and testimony to the United States Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs regarding the unique aspects of the diverse cultures of our Hawaiian veterans.

During my service for the past six months as an interim appointment to the Advisory Board, my vision for the role of a member of this board has become stronger. In keeping with my passion for helping our veterans, and the awareness that comes through my many conversations with our veterans and their families, there are several areas which I believe are challenges facing our veterans' benefits, health care and cemetery systems. If my appointment is confirmed, it is my intention that the Advisory Board would discuss and provide recommendations to address the issues underlying the following challenges: (1) All who have put on the uniform of the Armed Forces and have served honorably, whether still with us or deceased, shall have full recognition of their veteran status, with all honors and benefits, and the respect that veteran status conveys on them. (2) Full and equal access to veterans services and benefits must be provided for our women veterans, without regard for justifications based on numbers or financial cost. (3) Our veterans in the rural and remote areas of our island State shall have full and equal access to the benefits and services available to any other veteran. (4) Facilitate the VA's efforts to expand its capacity to address health and wellness issues not only of the veteran, but also the needs of the veteran's family. (5) Consistent with President Obama's August 12, 2012 Executive Order addressing the creation of partnerships between the VA and community providers, such as community health centers and rural health clinics to help meet the mental health needs of veterans in

From: Clay Park [mailto:CPark@papaolalokahi.org]
Sent: Thursday, February 21, 2013 5:22 PM
To: Sen. Will Espero
Cc:
Subject: Written Statement that addresses the following questions:

(1) Why do you wish to be a member of the Advisory Board on Veterans' Services?

A. I have this passion on helping Veterans and their families get the benefits they deserve.

(2) Given your understanding of the role and responsibilities of a member of the Advisory Board on Veterans Services, why do you believe that you are qualified for the position?

- A. (1) I'am retired from the military with 24 years of service.
(2) I'am retired from the Department of Veterans Affairs with 28 years of service.
(3) I'am a Disable Veteran.
(4) I'am the Veteran Program Director with Papa ola lokahi.
(5) I care alot for our Veterans and their families.

(3) What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service?

A. (1) All who have put on the uniform of the Armed Forces and have served honorably, whether still with us or deceased, shall have full recognition of their status, with all honors and benefits, and the respect that veteran status conveys on them.

(2) Full and equal access to veterans services and benefits must be provided for our women veterans, with out regard for justifications based on numbers or financial cost.

(3) Our veterans in the rural and remote areas of our island State shall have full and equal access to the benefits and services available to any other veteran.

I would like to see some kind of resolution to these issues. During my term of service I plan to look for solutions.

(4) Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interests that could arise durning your service on the Advisory Board on Veterans' Servers?

A. I cannot see any conflict of interests at this time.

How would you overcome any possible conflicts of interests?

A. I would abide and comply with the provisions of chapter 84, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

Senator Will Espero thank you for this opportunity.

William C.S. Park
Veteran Program Director
Papa ola lokahi.

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY

GM 574 Submitting for consideration and confirmation
To the Advisory Board on Veterans Services,
Gubernatorial Nominee,
WILLIAM CLAYTON PARK for a term to expire
6-30-2016

PRESENTATION TO THE

SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND
MILITARY AFFAIRS

BY

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

February 26, 2013

Chair Espero, Vice Chair Baker and Committee members:

I'm Ron Han, Director for the State Office of Veteran's Services (OVS). The OVS supports GM 574 confirmation of William Clayton Park to be appointed to the Advisory Board on Veterans Services for a term to expire June 30, 2016.

Clay, as he prefers to be called, has a proven record of exceptional accomplishments as the Director of Veterans Programs for Papa Ola Lokahi. His outreach to every neighbor island where Veterans and their families reside has been truly phenomenal. In fact, the State Office of Veterans Services and the Department of Veterans Affairs in the Pacific have used Clay's template of meeting with the respective "uncles and aunties" in each community to ensure the right type of services and support are programmed and delivered.

Clay was also handpicked by Senator Daniel Akaka to be a part of a field hearing 2012 to review some of the support gaps that are hampering Veterans and their families from receiving adequate services

His superb discussion and suggestions have started to transform antiquated processes to help change the way these agencies do business. He has also been a prime facilitator helping other States like Alaska with their Veterans Outreach programs.

It's no secret why his work with Veterans and their families is a lifelong passion and one he continues to fulfill every day.

As a distinguished retired U.S. Army Guard Master Sergeant, William Clayton Park is the epitome of a Veteran's Veteran. He puts service before self in everything he does and is very deserved of this appointment to this prestigious board!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of William Clayton Park's confirmation and consideration.



Papa Ola Lokahi
Nana I Ka Pono Na Ma

Papa Ola Lokahi
894 Queen Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: 808.597.6550 ~ Facsimile: 808.597.6551

February 21, 2013

The Honorable Will Espero
Chairman, Public Safety and Military Affairs
Senatorial District 19
Hawaii State Capital, room 231
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator Espero:

I support and recommend Mr. William Clay Sam Park's nomination by Governor Abercrombie for membership on the Advisory Board on Veterans Services. (GM 574)

My name is Babette Lilinoe Galang and I am the Complementary Health Officer at Papa Ola Lokahi, a native Hawaiian health consortium. I have known Mr. Park for over 23 years. We met while I was employed at the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) and helped coordinate native Hawaiian culture sensitivity workshops for the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) staff who local veterans criticized as being "insensitive". Presently, I assist Mr. Park with his project, *Na Hana No'eau No Na Mea Pono* (The Work Toward Righteous Things), working with all veterans seeking his help.

As long as I have known Mr. Park he has always been both passionate and committed to helping veterans. His training and experiences as a Vietnam veteran, as an active member of the Hawaii National Guard and Master Sergeant instructor, as a dental laboratory technician with the DVA and finally as an outreach worker with Helping Hands Hawaii have all contributed to his unique background and connection to resources. More importantly, he is able to relate to other veterans who trust and respect him as he helps them to navigate the DVA benefits systems. He is able to respond to their questions, issues and concerns and through these relationships have learned and acquired exceptional information on their individual situation.

With all this acquired information, he is able to bring this knowledge to the advisory board; knowledge not found in books or reports, knowledge not documented in its entirety by the DVA and knowledge on DVA/military protocols not experienced or understood by non veterans. He is able to discern the source of the problem the veteran is facing and also the ability to encourage our local veterans to not give up.

Mr. Clay Park would be an asset to the Advisory Board on Veteran Services and his contribution invaluable to help advise the Director of the Office of Veterans Services, legislative proposals and program operations.

Mahalo,

BABETTE L. GALANG
Complementary Health Officer

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 26, 2013 8:05 AM
To: PSMTestimony
Cc: hspoehr@papaolalokahi.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM574 on Feb 26, 2013 14:45PM

GM574

Submitted on: 2/26/2013

Testimony for PSM on Feb 26, 2013 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Hardy Spoehr	Papa Ola Lokahi	Support	No

Comments: Papa Ola Lokahi strongly supports the appointment of Mr. Clay Park. He has dedicated his life to addressing the health and wellbeing of veterans and has assisted hundreds of individuals with accessing their benefits. Thank you for the opportunity to support Mr. Park's appointment.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

GM574

Submitted on: 2/20/2013

Testimony for PSM on Feb 26, 2013 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ann Greenlee	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Clay Park has been involved with helping Hawaii's veterans for years and he will be a great addition to the Advisory Board.

From: Brent oto
Sent: Friday, February 22, 2013 6:21 AM
To: PSMTestimony
Subject: Testimony of behalf of William Park

To whom it may concern,

I Brent K. Oto, Hawaii Veteran Treatment Court Mentor and Hawaii Army National Guard Veteran support William Park as Hawaii Veteran's advocate. William's dedication and hard work has serviced hundreds of veterans in Hawaii and he continues to support the veterans in connecting into internal and external resources.

Brent Oto, MA, CPS
Hawaii Army National Guard Veteran
Hawaii Veterans Treatment Court Mentor

Honorable Senate Committee Members

My name is SFC Stephen Imamoto, Retired. Operations Iraqi Freedom Combat Veteran.

I strongly support the GM574 nomination of William "Clay" Park to the Advisory Board on Veterans Services for a full term to expire in 2016.

I first met Clay in 1990 when he was in the Hawaii Army National Guard and a Cadre in the Hawaii Military Academy in Waimanalo, Hawaii. I reconnected with Clay at a meeting held by U S Senator Daniel Akaka in 2007.

He's very knowledgeable and an asset to the Veterans. He always goes above and beyond in helping Veterans, like me, to apply and receive benefits and compensation.

Therefore, I urge this Committee to appoint William "Clay" Park to the Advisory Board on Veteran Services.

Aloha,

SFC Stephen Imamoto, Ret.

February 22, 2013

GM574

Submitted on: 2/22/2013

Testimony for PSM on Feb 26, 2013 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Keith T. Ribbentrop	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support confirmation to the Advisory Board on Veterans' Services, of WILLIAM PARK, He is a strong for our States Veterans.

Kathleen M. McNamara, Ph.D., ABPP
Diplomate in Clinical Psychology
P.O. Box 330489
Kahului, Hawai'i 96733
(Ph) 808-876-0098
(Fax) 808-878-8908

February 23, 2013

The Honorable Will Espero
Chairman, Public Safety and Military Affairs
Senatorial District 19
Hawaii State Capital, Room 231
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator Espero:

I am writing in support of Mr. William C.S. ("Clay") Park, who has been nominated by Governor Abercrombie for membership on the Advisory Board on Veterans Services. I am a clinical psychologist working with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Community Based Outpatient Clinic on Maui. I also serve in the role of chief psychologist for the VA Pacific Islands Health Care System. I have known Mr. Park for almost 25 years, initially as a fellow VA employee and more recently through his advocacy work on behalf of our veterans and their families as the Veterans Program Director with Papa Ola Lokahi.

I have seen the dedication Mr. Park exhibits in order to accomplish the mission in which he believes so strongly - that every veteran has access to the programs and services which will assist him or her to reach an improved quality of life. He has worked with combat veterans, as well as those whose service has been outside of the arena of war. His support has been available to our veterans across generations, from World War II through our current service members. His work on behalf of our veterans is responsive and thorough, and knows no gender, class, or cultural boundaries. Though working through the Hawaiian Health Care System, and clearly understanding the unique cultural issues of our Hawaiian veterans, Mr. Park is first and foremost a veteran. His efforts are conscientiously applied for each and every veteran, without regard for the individual's ethnicity or cultural background. His leadership in establishing and fostering the success of the "Uncles and Aunties Program" is an excellent example of the value he places on ohana and community, and the strong bond he has maintained to the traditions with which he grew up in Hawaii.

If appointed as a member of the Advisory Board, I am certain that Mr. Park will serve thoughtfully and responsibly. His contributions will be of benefit to the Office of Veterans Services and to our veterans and their families. I strongly support Mr. Park's nomination.

Aloha,

Kathleen M. McNamara, Ph.D., ABPP
Clinical Psychologist

The Honorable Senator Will Espero
Chair, Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs Committee
Senate District 19
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 231
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
February 22, 2013

Re: GM 574 - In Strong Support of William Park's Nomination to the Advisory Board on Veterans' Services

Dear Chair Espero:

I am writing to you to express my strong support of William Park's nomination by Governor Abercrombie to the Advisory Board on Veterans' Services, for a term to expire June 30, 2016.

I have known William Park for many years and had the privilege of working and studying with him for several years in traditional health care. His experiences at many levels within the active and reserve armed services as well as the Veterans Administration in Hawaii are known to me.

He is a dedicated leader and shares of his vast life and occupational experiences with those in need through non-profit, social and professional organization activities. His outreach for veterans and their families continues through his work to this day.

Mr. Park impresses me as an independent and fair-minded person. He is and has been an advocate for public safety. In recent years, he has become a more active voice of the community. Since August 2012 he has been an active interim member on the Advisory Board on Veteran's Services. You can be assured that his professional opinions are informed, consistent and honest.

I feel his strong character, personal integrity, discipline and willingness to take on difficult challenges will make him a strong contributor to the Advisory Board on Veterans' Services. Thank you for this opportunity to express my strong support of William Park.

Sincerely yours,

Kathleen T. Kang-Kaulupali, Pharm. D.

GM574

Submitted on: 2/23/2013

Testimony for PSM on Feb 26, 2013 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joseph Lawrence Jr	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I went to the VA to get help for my problem. They gave me papers and sent me on my way. They did not explain to me what i had to do. I met Mr william Park who helped me a lot. He went over the paper work with me and walked me through the proper channels.He has an outstanding knowledge in his job.He took a lot of stress off of me.

24 February 2013

The Honorable Will Espero
Chairman, Public Safety and Military Affairs
Senatorial District 19
Hawaii State Capital, Room 231
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator Espero:

I am writing in support of Mr. William C.S. ("Clay") Park, who has been nominated by Governor Abercrombie for membership on the Advisory Board on Veterans Services.

I have known Clay Park for over four- years through his service as the Drum Major for the Celtic Pipes and Drums of Hawaii, a non-profit, civic-oriented organization—I am the Band president. Through his participation in our Pipe Band, I came to know Clay's work with and on behalf of our veterans and their families, especially through his work with Helping Hands Hawaii and Papa Ola Lokahi. This association provided a venue to really get to know him and his concern and support for Veterans.

I am currently employed as a DoD Contractor at the US Pacific Command. I am a retired U.S. Army Officer with forty-plus years of active U.S. military/government experience, including thirty-years in U.S. Army Infantry and Military Intelligence assignments; seven-years as a DoD/Defense Intelligence Agency Senior Civilian Supervisor; and eight-years as a Defense Contractor. I am also a Life member of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) and Military Officers of America Association (MOAA). My military and civilian service, continued employment with DoD, MOAA and DAV affiliation has kept me very aware of Veteran's issues, especially those resulting from Vietnam and today's issues from our troop's service in Iraq and Afghanistan.

In my many discussions with Clay about Veteran's affairs, issues, and needs, he always conveyed a deep understanding of and concern for Veterans, especially those in need of assistance. I am particularly impressed by Clay's knowledge and understanding of Veteran's rights and benefits available under the Veteran's Administration (VA). He has used his knowledge to assist many Hawaii and Mainland Veterans seek and obtain education, medical and other services available through the VA. Clay's support and assistance has been particularly helpful to Veterans with special needs—such as PTSD, medical issues and those with job and educational needs—and provides them with much needed guidance and mentoring. He does this without any expectation for reward; he gets satisfaction from helping other Veterans get the full measure of support, medical care and educational assistance available to them.

Clay is an outstanding advocate of Veteran's services and, as a member of the Advisory Board, I believe the Director of the Office of Veterans Services will have an active and constructive team player. Again, I strongly support Mr. Park's nomination—his experience and

dedication will serve the Office of Veterans Services and the State of Hawaii well. I cannot think of a better qualified person to represent Hawaii Veterans!

Thank you,

(Signed)

LTC Howard B. Lavy, USA, (Ret)

98-1820-H Kaahumanu Street

Pearl City, HI 96782

808-455-2429

The Honorable Will Espero
Chairman, Public Safety and Military Affairs
Senatorial District 19
Honolulu, HI 96813

February 24, 2013

Dear Senator Espero:

I am writing in support of Mr. William C.S. ("Clay") Park, nominated by Governor Abercrombie for membership on the Advisory Board on Veterans Services.

I am a disabled veteran who has had many contacts with Mr. Park over the years regarding his advocacy for disabled veterans. His willingness to help vets navigate the system and his passion for helping our vets is truly inspirational. Mr. Park's work on behalf of veterans and their families, through his position with Helping Hands Hawaii and now Papa Ola Lokahi has resulted in advocacy and services for our veterans across generations— from our WWII, Korean and Vietnam veterans through to today's veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan. His dedication to our veterans and their families is evident not only in what he accomplishes in his day-to-day work, but also in the efforts which often take him "above and beyond" those duties he considers routine, filling gaps in existing programs and services.

He has a unique ability to connect with veterans who have been left behind in this complicated Veterans benefits system, understanding their problems and offering constructive and practical solutions

With Mr. Park as a member of the Advisory Board, I believe the Director of the Office of Veterans Services will have a valuable voice for the veterans of Hawaii. Fellow Board members will have an active and constructive participant, who will partner with them to accomplish an agenda to serve our veterans in a most deserving manner. The citizens of Hawaii will benefit from the work of the Advisory Board as the contributions of our veterans are shared across their communities. As I have come to know Mr. Park, I am certain that in accepting this nomination, he considers this not only an honor and a privilege, but a major responsibility.

I strongly support Mr. Park's nomination. His experience and dedication will serve the Office of Veterans Services and the State of Hawaii well.

Aloha,

Patrick A. Borge
Makena, Maui, Hawaii

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]
Sent: Sunday, February 24, 2013 2:32 PM
To: PSMTestimony
Cc: kfe@aloha.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM574 on Feb 26, 2013 14:45PM

GM574

Submitted on: 2/24/2013

Testimony for PSM on Feb 26, 2013 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Edward Kawamura	Individual	Support	No

Comments: My name is Edward Kawamura. I have served on the Office of Veteran Services. Currently, I serve on the VA Advisoryboard I have known Mr. Clay Park for over 20 years. He is a veterans advocate committed to doing right for our comrades. He is a benefit to our veterans and the office in which he is recommended. I humbly ask you and your committee to support his nomination. Thank you very much.

February 23, 2013

The Honorable Will Espero
Chairman, Public Safety and Military Affairs
Senatorial District 19
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 231
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator Espero:

I am writing in support of Mr. William C.S. ("Clay") Park, who has been nominated by Governor Abercrombie for membership on the Advisory Board on Veterans Services. I am a retired veteran assisting fellow veterans in getting back into the civilian life and concerned for the health and welfare our veterans in the state of Hawaii.

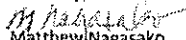
I am an Iraq and Afghanistan veteran who has worked with Mr. Park in Papa Ola Lokahi's program and has had many contacts with Mr. Park over the last several years with issues related to Korean, Iraq and Afghanistan veterans and homeless veterans.

Mr. Park's work with and on behalf of our veterans and their families, through his position with Helping Hands Hawaii and now Papa Ola Lokahi, has resulted in advocacy and services for our veterans across generations – from our WWII, Korean and Vietnam veterans through to today's veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan. His dedication to our veterans and their families is evident not only in what he accomplishes in his day-to-day work, but also in the efforts which often take him "above and beyond" those duties he considers routine, filling gaps in existing programs and services.

With Mr. Park as a member of the Advisory Board, I believe the Director of the Office of Veterans Services will have a valuable voice for the veterans of Hawaii. Fellow Board members will have an active and constructive participant, who will partner with them to accomplish an agenda to serve our veterans in a most deserving manner. The citizens of Hawaii will benefit from the work of the Advisory Board as the contributions of our veterans are shared across their communities.

As I have come to know Mr. Park, I am certain that in accepting this nomination, he considers this not only an honor and a privilege, but a major responsibility. I strongly support Mr. Park's nomination. His experience and dedication will serve the Office of Veterans Services and the State of Hawaii well.

Sincerely,


Matthew Nagasako

Allen K. Hoe

Attorney At Law

P.O. Box 3589
Honolulu, Hawaii 96811-3589

Telephone (808) 521-6927

February 25, 2013

The Honorable Will Espero
Chairman, Public Safety and Military Affairs
Senatorial District 19
Hawaii State Capital, Room 231
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator Espero:

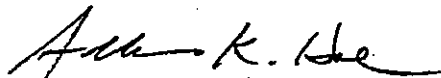
I am writing in support of Mr. William C.S. ("Clay") Park, who has been nominated by Governor Abercrombie for membership on the Advisory Board on Veterans Services. I am a Vietnam Combat Veteran, like Clay a Combat Medic.

I have known Clay for many years and have admired his steadfast commitment to his profession and his continuing service to our veteran community. His dedication to our local veteran's community has been one of stellar accomplishments. He is a tireless advocate for our WWII, Korean and Vietnam veterans. His efforts to provide services for today's veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan and their families are admirable. He often provides personal services "above and beyond."

His insights and leadership ability will enhance the Advisory Board as it strives to fulfill its duty of serving our Veterans in Hawaii.

I strongly support Mr. Park's nomination and urge his confirmation by the Senate.

Sincerely,



Allen K. Hoe

AKH/ms

February 24, 2013

The Honorable Will Espero
Chairman, Public Safety and Military Affairs
Senatorial District 19
Hawaii State Capital, Room 231
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator Espero:

I am writing in support of Mr. William C.S. ("Clay") Park, who has been nominated by Governor Abercrombie for membership on the Advisory Board on Veterans Services.

I am a retired City government worker and wore a uniform and took an oath as a citizen soldier with the Hawaii Army National Guard in the early 1970's.

I knew Clay for the last several years because of our mutual interest in serving our community with a bagpipe band. Our band is an all volunteer band, with many members who were former soldiers, or are current active duty military personnel. I am a piper and Clay served for several years as our Drum Major. During that time, we found we had served in the Hawaii Army National Guard.

Clay demonstrated sincere dedication and discipline, both while learning his role and duties of the Drum Major, and later, leading the band at many community sponsored events. It is not easy to lead a diverse and dynamic group such as our band, but Clay did an outstanding job. He often spoke of his advocacy work for our veterans (of WWII, Korea and Vietnam, as well as those in Iraq and Afghanistan). Clay has always shared his concerns regarding veteran's entitlements and getting the information out to people.

I believe the Director of the Office of Veterans Services will have a dedicated and compassionate voice for the veterans of Hawaii with Clay as a member on the Advisory Board. I believe many throughout this state will benefit from the work he and the other members of the Advisory Board will initiate, and wish them much success.

Finally, I believe Clay considers serving on the Advisory Board an honor and a privilege, and a serious responsibility. His commitment to duty, honor, and country, and willingness to serve under the Office of Veterans Services and the State of Hawaii, is a testament of this person's character.

Therefore please consider Mr. William C.S. ("Clay") Park as a member of the Advisory Board.

Sincerely,

Alan Miyamura

KATHRYN MONET
4706 WOODCREST CT.
SUITLAND, MD 20746
KATHRYN.MONET@GMAIL.COM
808.298.5322

February 25, 2013

To Whom it May Concern:

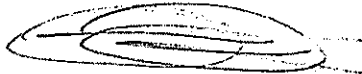
I write to express my personal support for Clay Park's nomination to serve as a member of the Advisory Board on Veterans Services. As a Senior Legislative Assistant for the United States Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I work closely with Clay to gauge the impact of overarching veterans legislation and oversight initiatives on veterans across the State of Hawai'i and Native Hawaiians.

I met Clay in a professional capacity, while the Committee was under the Chairmanship of Senator Daniel K. Akaka. In the nearly four years that I have been employed by the Committee, I have come to know Clay and rely on his insights regarding the state of veterans affairs in Hawai'i. As a Baldwin High School graduate, I appreciate his willingness to advocate for veterans whether they live on O'ahu or the neighbor islands. I also appreciate his willingness to keep Congress informed about the unique issues facing veterans in Hawai'i.

Clay has testified before our Committee on several occasions, helping move the ball forward on issues related to Native American, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian veterans and returning members of the National Guard and Reserve. His personal experiences as a veteran and professional experiences as a former VA employee and Director of Papa Ola Lōkahi's Native Hawaiian Veterans Project make him a credible voice on behalf of veterans across the state.

I recommend Clay without reservation, because of his impact on Congressional work on veterans. Should you have any further questions regarding his background or qualifications, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,



Kathryn Monet
Senior Legislative Assistant
U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs
Bernard Sanders (I-VT), Chairman

From: Devin Forrest [mailto:dforrest@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2013 9:00 AM
To: PSMTestimony
Subject: Letter of Support

Aloha e nā Kōmike,

This is a letter of support for the nomination of Annelle Amaral to the position of Parole Authority. I have known Annelle for many years and have known her to be a fair and competent person who gets the job done in the most pono way possible. I have complete faith that she would be an asset to the Authority and will execute her position with integrity.

na'u nō me ka ha'aha'a

na Devin Kamealoha Forrest
Hanalei, Hawai'i

MATTHEW J. LUM
RETIRED, U.S. ARMY, MSG

February 25, 2013

The Honorable Will Espero
Chairman, Public Safety and Military Affairs
Senatorial District 19
Hawaii State Capital, Room 231
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator Espero:

I am writing in support of Mr. William C.S. ("Clay") Park, who has been nominated by Governor Abercrombie for membership on the Advisory Board on Veterans Services. I am a retired Master Sergeant & an Army/national Guard Vietnam Veteran of 37 years of service. I am supporting Mr. Park because he has all the knowledge and experience with dealing with our veterans. I have worked with him with veterans who need help in processing for their benefits.

I have known Mr. Park for thirteen years. We met while I was attending my Senior NCO Academy at Bellows in Waimanalo. After my retirement in 2005, I have worked with Mr. Park as an "Uncle" in Papa Ola Lokahi's Program on the Island of Hawaii.

Mr. Park's work with and on behalf of our veterans and their families, through his position with Helping Hands Hawaii and now Papa Ola Lokahi, has resulted in advocacy and services for our veterans across generations – from our WWII, Korean and Vietnam veterans through to today's veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan. His dedication to our veterans and their families is evident not only in what he accomplishes in his day-to-day work, but also in the efforts which often take him "above and beyond" those duties he considers routine, filling gaps in existing programs and services.

With Mr. Park as a member of the Advisory Board, I believe the Director of the Office of Veterans Services will have a valuable voice for the veterans of Hawaii. Fellow Board members will have an active and constructive participant, who will partner with them to accomplish an agenda to serve our veterans in a most deserving manner. The citizens of Hawaii will benefit from the work of the Advisory Board as the contributions of our veterans are shared across their communities.

As I have come to know Mr. Park, I am certain that in accepting this nomination, he considers this not only an honor and a privilege, but a major responsibility. I strongly support Mr. Park's nomination. His experience and dedication will serve the Office of Veterans Services and the State of Hawaii well.

Sincerely,

Matthew J. Lum

Trudy Fernandez
91-1370 Karayan Street #A
Ewa Beach, Hawaii 96706
(808)783-8772
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February 25, 2013

The Honorable Will Espero
Chairman, Public Safety and Military Affairs
Senatorial District 19
Hawaii State Capital, Room 231
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator Espero:

I am writing in support of Mr. William C.S. ("Clay") Park, who has been nominated by Governor Abercrombie for membership on the Advisory Board on Veterans Services.


As the former Quality Assurance Coordinator and Mr. Park's colleague at Helping Hands Hawai'i, I can attest to his integrity, generosity and dedication in working with veterans of war and their families. In his tireless commitment, Mr. Park provided this population with compassionate guidance and the resources needed to obtain assistance in what was then considered an incredibly difficult system to comprehend. Despite the challenges, he always remained determined to help a veteran in need.

Mr. Park's work with and on behalf of our veterans and their families, through his position with Helping Hands Hawaii and now Papa Ola Lokahi, has resulted in advocacy and services for our veterans across generations – from our WWII, Korean and Vietnam veterans through to today's veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan. His dedication to our veterans and their families is evident not only in what he accomplishes in his day-to-day work, but also in the efforts which often take him "above and beyond" those duties he considers routine, filling gaps in existing programs and services.

With Mr. Park as a member of the Advisory Board, I believe the Director of the Office of Veterans Services will have a valuable voice for the veterans of Hawaii. Fellow Board members will have an active and constructive participant, who will partner with them to accomplish an agenda to serve our veterans in a most deserving manner. The citizens of Hawaii will benefit from the work of the Advisory Board as the contributions of our veterans are shared across their communities.

I strongly support Mr. Park's nomination. His experience and dedication will serve the Office of Veterans Services and the State of Hawaii well.

Sincerely,



Trudy Fernandez

Lee-Ann Kida McClain
leemcclainct@yahoo.com
(808) 489-4774

February 25, 2013

The Honorable Will Espero
Chairman, Public Safety and Military Affairs
Senatorial District 19
Hawaii State Capital, Room 231
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator Espero:

I am writing in support of Mr. William C.S. ("Clay") Park, who has been nominated by Governor Abercrombie for membership on the Advisory Board on Veterans Services. I was previously employed as the Military Liaison in the Governor's Congressional office from 2008-2010 and worked on defense and veterans' issues.

I first met Mr. Park in 2008 while in my aforementioned position as a staffer in then-Congressman Abercrombie's office. Since 2008, I have been closely associated with Mr. Park's advocacy on behalf of our veterans and the one-on-one work he does with them.

Mr. Park has made a distinct difference in the lives of numerous veterans in Hawaii and across the nation. I have heard firsthand from many veterans and their spouses about the tremendous positive impact that Mr. Park has had in helping them to improve their quality of life. He has helped many move forward from various war-related ailments and conditions, that in some cases had been plaguing them for decades. His understanding of what these veterans were going through, and his ability to help them through a system that often befuddled them (to a point where they often gave up on getting the treatments that they needed), were in most cases life-changing circumstances for them.

With Mr. Park as a member of the Advisory Board, I believe the Director of the Office of Veterans Services will have one of the most committed, caring, and action-oriented veterans' advocates in the State working with him. Mr. Park is a team player and a knowledgeable leader who will undoubtedly give 110 percent as a member of the Advisory Board.

As a veteran myself, I strongly support Mr. Park's nomination without reservation. His experience, knowledge, and dedication are essential to the formation of an Advisory Board which will produce results for the veterans of the State of Hawaii.

Sincerely,


Lee-Ann Kida McClain

Thomas K. Kaulukukui, Jr.
Circuit Court Judge (Ret.)
C/o 1132 Bishop Street, #1890
Honolulu, HI 96734

February 25, 2013

The Honorable Will Espero
Chairman, Public Safety and Military Affairs
Senatorial District 19
Hawaii State Capital, Room 231
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator Espero:

I am writing in support of Mr. William C.S. ("Clay") Park, who has been nominated by Governor Abercrombie for membership on the Advisory Board on Veterans Services. I have known Clay Park for several years, and I am pleased to support his nomination.

I am a retired Circuit Court Judge and am currently the Chair and Managing Trustee of the Queen Lili'uokalani Trust. I am also an Army veteran who served as a paratrooper platoon sergeant in the Vietnam War many years ago. I have been active in veterans affairs for many years. I served as president of the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program, and I have served on a U.S. congressional advisory committee on minority veterans issues. I have been privileged to speak many times at various memorial events over the years. On July 24, 1994, in my role as a veteran I was a keynote speaker on behalf of Vietnam veterans at the dedication of Hawaii's Korean War and Vietnam War memorials. I have spent the last 30 years of my life involved in various veterans issues.

Over the years, I have had the many opportunities to meet with Mr. Park and to discuss various issues, programs and projects which assist veterans. Mr. Park is intelligent and intuitive, creative and committed, and tirelessly loyal to the cause of veterans. He has worked hard with and on behalf of our veterans and their families, through his positions with Helping Hands Hawaii, and Papa Ola Lokahi. He is relentless in his advocacy for veterans, and he is well-known for his ability and willingness to reach out to veterans wherever they may be.

Mr. Park will be an important member of the Advisory Board, assisting the Director of the Office of Veterans Services in serving well the veterans of Hawaii. His impassioned advocacy, balanced by his common sense, will be valuable asset to the Advisory Board.

For these reasons, I strongly support Mr. Park's nomination. I respectfully request that you and your fellow committee members act favorably upon Mr. Park's nomination.

Sincerely,

Thomas K. Kaulukukui, Jr.

P.O. BOX 393
HALEIWA, HAWAII 96712
February 25, 2013

The Honorable Will Espero
Chairman, Public Safety and Military Affairs
Senatorial District 19
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 231
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator Espero:

Chair Espero and members of the Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations and Military Affairs, mahalo for the opportunity to submit my very strong recommendation for approval of Mr. William Clay Park to the Advisory Board on Veterans Services.

I am sure there have been outstanding members in the Advisory Board on Veterans Services in the past and presently and I am grateful for their services. However, I can personally vouch for Mr. Park as a member of this elite group of outstanding advisors for veteran's services. My strong recommendation is based on his past and present record of advice and personal involvement to and with veterans and veterans' affairs. For example, as the Chairman for the Waialua Lions Club 65th Annual Memorial Service for veterans of World War II, Vietnam, and Korean at the Lions Memorial Tower at Haleiwa Beach Park, I was responsible for the coordination with the military, veterans groups, the Lions and the community to implement this annual event. In the execution of this event, Mr. Park volunteered and used his initiative and wide knowledge of the military, the National Guard, and various veterans groups to insure the program went as planned and on time. Needless to say that numerous veterans representatives from national and state organizations were present and participated.

Mr. Chair and members of this committee, I could go on and on to cite other outstanding attributes of Mr. Park on his knowledge of veterans affairs which would make him a contributing member of the Advisory Board on Veterans Services. Needless to say, I strongly recommend support for Mr. William Clay Park's candidacy to the board.

Sincerely yours,

Jacob (Jake) Ng

Immediate Past President