

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1564
RELATING TO VETERANS

PRESENTATION TO THE

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS, MILITARY & INTERNATIONAL
AFFAIRS & CULTURE AND THE ARTS

BY

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

February 12, 2014

Chair Takai, Vice Chair Ito and Committee members:

I'm Ron Han, Director of the State Office of Veterans Services (OVS). I appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony on comments for the concepts in House Bill 1564 Relating to Veterans.

This measure requires the counties to obtain approval from the Office of Veterans Services prior to any action that may impact the State's obligation to establish and maintain Veterans' cemeteries.

The counties have somewhat proven to fulfill most of the requirements of the State and VA National Cemetery requirements. However, the OVS requires that each county should be compliance of federal laws and ask that members of the staff be trained in caring for the veterans cemeteries statewide. OVS would like for the counties to discuss major issues pertaining to the cemeteries should it occur.

The OVS provides comments on the concepts and intent of this bill as long as its implementation does not impact or replace the priorities set forth in the Executive Biennium Budget for Fiscal Years 2015.

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



Hawaii Chapter, MOAA
P.O. Box 1185
Kailua, Hawaii 96734-1185

**Testimony of
Thomas Smyth
Military Officers Association of America, Hawaii Chapter
Before the
Committee on Veterans, Military & International Affairs & Culture and the Arts
Wednesday, February 12, 2014, 8:30 am, Room 312
HB 1564 Relating to Veterans**

Chair Takai, Vice Chair Ito and Committee Members

Our chapter of 500 retired and currently serving officers of the Uniformed Services strongly supports HB 1564. This critically important bill requires the counties to get approval from the Office of Veteran Services, who manages our state wide network of VA cemeteries, before they can take any action that may negatively impact our VA cemeteries.

We understand that there have been incidents such as when the county controlled water to a cemetery was cut off, leaving it without irrigation. I suppose that county roads could be blocked for repairs or otherwise, denying access to family and cemetery workers.

This is not to deny the county to efficiently and economically manage its assets, just to require them to cooperate with cemetery officials with timely notice of activities and understand the possible impact on these important facilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

LATE

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1564
A BILL RELATING TO VETERANS

PRESENTATION TO
THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS, MILITARY,
& INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, & CULTURE AND THE ARTS

BY
MAJ GEN DARRYLL D. M. WONG
STATE ADJUTANT GENERAL
February 12, 2014

Chair Takai, Vice Chair Ito, and Members of the House Committee on Veterans, Military, & International Affairs, & Culture and the Arts:

I am Major General Darryll D. M. Wong, State Adjutant General, and I am testifying in **SUPPORT** of House Bill 1564.

Counties should coordinate and receive approval from the Office of Veterans' Services (OVS) when taking any action that impacts the State's obligation of maintaining veterans cemeteries in their counties. Counties should work with OVS during the process to establish a cemetery.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in **SUPPORT** of House Bill 1564.