



January 29, 2013

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 161
RELATING TO RELATING TO FAMILY COURTS.**

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS MILITARY AND INTERNATIONAL
AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS**

**HEARING ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30TH AT 8:30 AM, IN CONFERENCE
ROOM 312**

Aloha Chair Takai: The Oahu Veterans Council is honored to serve at the pleasure of our veterans and their families. On January 26th, our delegates reviewed and voted unanimously to support House Bill 161.

We are extremely grateful for your efforts to prohibit courts from considering a person's federal veterans disability benefits in determining whether to award support and maintenance allowances or the amount of such allowance to the person's spouse or former spouse.

The Veterans Administration will equitably apportion a subject veterans disability compensation, for the purposes of providing support for their dependent children and custodian, when a claim is filed in their behalf.

Providing this legislative protection in state law supports and endorses the intent of United States Code', Title 10, Section 1408(a)(4)(C) and is very much appreciated by our veterans and military personnel who serve so selflessly and ask for no more recognition than we would expect for ourselves.

The Oahu Veterans Council respectfully urges your committee to consider passing House Bill 161 with the suggested comment included. Mahalo, for allowing us to testify, regarding this extremely important issue.

Dennis Egge

Dennis Egge; Chairman, Legislative Committee



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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

LATE TESTIMONY

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 161, RELATING TO
VETERANS DISABILITY BENEFITS

PRESENTATION TO THE

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

BY

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

January 30, 2013

Chair Takai, Vice Chair Ito 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 161.

This measure seeks to assure that Veteran's compensation benefits become exempt from the claim of creditors and cannot be subject to additional terms, levies, or seizure. The benefits may not be awarded to any other person. However, this amendment will allow children and spouses in such cases to receive some of the benefits of the veteran.

This law will allow Veterans' benefits to remain protected from institutions that intend to profit from the benefits while allowing dependents receive benefits should the need arise. There are Federal prohibitions on the distribution of compensation benefits provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

We defer to the Department of Veterans Affairs, which has direct responsibility for payments to veterans and their family members, in determining the legitimacy of creditors' claims for payment.

The OVS supports the intent expressed in this measure as long as its implementation does not impact or replace the priorities set forth in the Executive Supplemental Budget for Fiscal Years 2013-2015.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of Hawaii's Veterans and their families in support of HB 161.