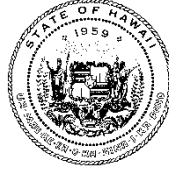


NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



Dean H. Seki
Comptroller

Maria E. Zielinski
Deputy Comptroller

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING
AND GENERAL SERVICES
P.O. BOX 119
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

WRITTEN TESTIMONY
OF
DEAN H. SEKI, COMPTROLLER
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE
ON
VETERANS, MILITARY, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, & CULTURE AND THE ARTS
ON
January 30, 2013

H.B. 163

RELATING TO A MEMORIAL

Chair Takai and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on H.B. 163.

The Department of Accounting and General Services supports the intent of H.B. 163 and defers to the Office of Veterans' Services, Department of Defense and other interested parties on the substantive provisions of this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on this matter.



January 29, 2013

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 163
RELATING TO A MEMORIAL.**

**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 163.

We are extremely grateful for your efforts to direct the Office of Veterans' Affairs, with the assistance of the Department of Accounting and General Services and Department of Defense, to develop a plan to establish a memorial honoring the veterans of the Persian Gulf War, Operation Desert Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operation New Dawn. Requires a report to the Legislature.

We respectfully request that consideration be given to locating this new memorial on the State Capitol Grounds, adjacent to the existing Vietnam War memorial

Providing this legislative appreciation in state law is so important to our Veterans, and military/guard 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 163 as written. Mahalo, for allowing us to testify, regarding this extremely important issue.

Dennis Egge

Dennis Egge; Chairman, Legislative Committee



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LATE TESTIMONY

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 163, RELATING TO MEMORIALS

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

Good morning Chair Takai, Vice-Chair Ito, and members of the Committee:

I am Ron Han, Director of the Office of Veterans Services (OVS). I appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 163, as long as its implementation does not impact or replace the priorities set forth in the Executive Supplemental Budget for Fiscal Years 2013-2015.

This bill requests the Office of Veterans' Services with the assistance of the State Departments of Accounting and General Services and Defense to create on the State Capitol grounds near the Korean and Vietnam War Memorials, an additional memorial(s) recognizing veterans of the Persian Gulf War, Operation Desert Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operation new Dawn. The bill also requires a report to the Legislature by January 1, 2014.

The OVS would like to recommend adding the Global War on Terrorism Homeland Defense and Operation Noble Eagle as well as for those service members who have protected our borders on the land, sea and air. Given the scope of the planning required to adequately represent the Wars mentioned, the OVS would like to recommend that a Memorial Commission be established to address Veteran and community concerns and specific criterion for these memorials. Upon concept development and public review, a legislative report will be finalized. Funds to employ a contractor who would gather information concerning structures and symbols that represent each part of the memorials will be addressed in the next legislative session.

Given our present economic situation, this project could help create construction and other jobs that may aid in the recovery process.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer my comments.