

LATE

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 166, HD1, (HSCR70),
RELATING TO PROCUREMENT

PRESENTATION TO THE

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & BUSINESS

BY

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

February 12, 2013

Good morning Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Ward and Committee members:

I'm Ron Han, Director of the State Office of Veterans Services (OVS). I appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony in support of the intent of House Bill 166, HD1, (HSCR70).

This measure would create price preferences for bids and proposals submitted to procuring agencies by Hawaii small businesses, veterans and disabled veterans. It would give 7% preference for veterans and 9% preference for disabled veterans; however not less than 3% awarded to veterans and disabled veterans.

We defer to the agency with direct responsibility for implementation of the Procurement regulations.

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

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

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**Testimony to the House Committee on Economic Development
and Business**

Tuesday, February 12, 2013

9:00 AM

Conference Room 312

RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 166, HD 1, RELATING TO PROCUREMENT

Chair Tsuji and Vice Chair Ward, and members of the committee.

My name is Charles Ota and I am the Vice President for Military Affairs at The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii (The Chamber). I am here to state The Chamber's support House Bill No. 166, HD1, Relating to Procurement.

The measure proposes to require that at least three percent of the twenty percent set-aside for small businesses shall be awarded to veteran-owned businesses and service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses. It further provides that this preference is in addition to any other preferences provided under the procurement code.

The measure recognizes the plight of our returning veterans by providing qualified members with the opportunity to venture into the business sector. This sector of our community suffers from the highest unemployment rates and venturing into the business sector provides them with an opportunity to become productive citizens.

In light of the above, we recommend the measure be approved.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.