

**LATE**



February 20, 2013

Chair Luke and Committee Members:

On behalf of the National Association of Veteran-Owned Business Association (NaVOBA) representing vetpreneurs and veteran owned businesses (VOB) and Service disabled owned businesses (SDVOB) nationally, we strongly support HB 166 HD2, with a suggested amendment. We request that you reinstate 3% as the defined benefit in this bill.

Many of our vets are substantially disadvantaged. Many suffer from PTSD and TBI. All have sacrificed their lives, personal dreams and goals as well as future financial opportunities to protect and defend this country. They have selflessly sacrificed everything for this nation. They have given their all. Now, many will find it difficult to readjust back into civilian society. And, many will struggle to re-establish their businesses and means of support for themselves and their families.

Like the federal government and other states have already done, the State of Hawaii has an opportunity to express its gratitude by investing in our vets and service disabled vets, by extending a helping hand through its state procurement laws and regulations. The federal Veterans Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development Act of 1999 (Public Law 106-50) represented one of the most significant leaps forward for the veteran-owned business movement. This law established a goal for all federal agencies to spend 3 percent of procurement dollars with SDVOB's.. To date at least 13 states have enacted variations of both set aside and preference legislation for both VOB's and SDVOB's. Hawaii is now very close to joining the ranks of these other states by honoring our Hawaii vets and extending a very important financial helping hand.

On behalf of all of estimated 10,000 vet owned businesses in Hawaii, thank you for considering our written testimony and moving this historic legislation, with amendment, forward.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Bateman", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

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