

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1770, HD1 (HSCR 306-14) RELATING TO  
VETERANS

PRESENTATION TO THE

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

BY

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

February 20, 2014

Chair Luke, Vice Chairs Nishimoto & Johanson 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 concepts in House Bill 1770, HD1, Relating to Veterans.

This measure requires notation of veteran status on state driver's licenses and identification cards if desired by the applicant.

For the record, the legal definition as established in 38 United States Code (U.S.C.) says that "a veteran is defined as a person who served in the *active* military, naval, or air service, and who was *discharged or released* there from *under conditions other than dishonorable*." For federal Veterans Affairs benefits and entitlements, this definition remains in-tact. However, forty seven States in the nation have passed some type of legislation to have "Veteran" notated on their driver's license or on a separate card. Many of these states have reinterpreted the meaning of "Veteran" within their respective States to include those who served honorably in the National Guard and Reserves or those who served honorably in uniform but did not retire or go on active duty.

Highly recommend that the State of Hawaii support this "all-inclusive" concept so veterans will not need to carry their discharge or separation (i.e. DD Form 214 or NGB Form 22) papers to prove that they are veterans with this "all-inclusive" meaning. Additionally, request that the definition to obtain the State license plate with the term "Veteran" be also issued with this broader definition. No other military/Gold Star/Veteran license plate definitions require modification.

Furthermore, many vendors across the United States give discounts to veterans with a legal ID proving that they are veterans. Finally, some states who have had

this legislation enacted, found that it helped law enforcement officers be alerted that they could be dealing with a veteran who may be suffering from a mental issue such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Officers were able to employ and to use the proper measures to prevent or de-escalate a potentially dangerous confrontation.

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 Budget for Fiscal Year 2015.

The OVS also support the Department of Customer Services of the City and County of Honolulu, time in reviewing the measure for implementation on October 1, 2014.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of Hawaii's Veterans and their families in support of HB 1770, HD1.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR



Testimony of  
GLENN M. OKIMOTO  
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors  
FORD N. FUCHIGAMI  
RANDY GRUNE  
AUDREY HIDANO  
JADINE URASAKI

IN REPLY REFER TO:

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

February 20, 2014  
11:00 a.m.  
State Capitol, Room 308

**H.B. 1770, H.D. 1**  
**RELATING TO VETERANS**

House Committee on Finance

---

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **opposes** this bill to place a “veteran” designation on driver’s licenses if requested by the holder. The DOT appreciates the efforts and the contributions the veterans have sacrificed for our country. However, such designation does not contribute to the function of the driver’s license, and it will take up limited space on the card that may be needed in the future to meet other license requirements.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony.

DEPARTMENT OF CUSTOMER SERVICES  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**  
DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLE, LICENSING AND PERMITS  
ADMINISTRATION  
P.O. BOX 30300  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96820-0300

KIRK CALDWELL  
MAYOR



SHERI T. KAJIWARA  
DIRECTOR

PRESTON P. H. K. KO  
ACTING LICENSING ADMINISTRATOR

TESTIMONY OF PRESTON KO, ACTING LICENSING ADMINISTRATOR  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU, DEPARTMENT OF CUSTOMER SERVICES  
Thursday, February 20, 2014, 11:00 a.m., Conference Room 308

HOUSE Bill 1770 HD1, "RELATING TO Veterans"  
Position: Comments

TO: The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
and Members of the Committee on Finance

The City and County of Honolulu has no objections to H.B. No. 1770 HD1 which allow the designation of Veteran on the front of the driver license and identification cards.

The City and County of Honolulu recommends your favorable action on H.B. No. 1770 HD1.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Preston P. H. K. Ko".

Preston P. H. K. Ko  
Acting Licensing Administrator

Date: February 18, 2014

To: The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair  
The Honorable Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair  
Committee on Finance

From: Mike Golojuch, Lt Col, USAF (Ret), Chair, Advisory Board on Veterans' Services

Subject: Support for HB1770, HD1

---

As the Chair, Advisory Board on Veterans' Services, let me state that we support HB1770, HD1 to allow "Veterans" to be added to the front of the driver's license. Although it may seem to be a small issue, it was part of our last month's board meeting. It has also been brought up in the past by various military associations. There are various organizations that give veterans a discount. These discounts apply to all veterans whether or not they have retired from the military.

Since many non-retired veterans do not carry around a copy of their DD form 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty, this will be an expedited way for veterans to be identified. This will allow them the discounts they desire for their service to their country.

I strongly urge that you pass this measure and it becomes law as soon as possible.

Thank you for the opportunity to express the views of the Advisory Board.



February 19, 2014

**Testimony in Support of HOUSE BILL 1770 HD1  
Relating to Veterans Before the  
House Committee On Finance  
Hearing On Thursday, February 20, 2014, 11:00 A.M. In Conference Room 308**

Chair Ige, Vice Chairs Johansen and Nishimoto and Committee Members,

The Department of Hawaii, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) represents 3,800 members in 20 Posts located throughout the State of Hawaii. VFW is a federally chartered national association of soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen who have served the United States of America in wars, campaigns, and expeditions on foreign soil or in hostile waters.

H.B. 1770 HD1 Requires notation of veteran status on state driver's licenses and identification cards, if desired by the applicant.

This addition of veteran status on driver's licenses is already available in 43 other states and as pending in five others. It is long overdue for Hawaii to recognize its veterans in the same way.

VFW Hawaii members are grateful for your efforts to promote this tangible form of recognition for all men and women who served honorably in the uniformed services of the United States.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of H.B. 1770 HD1.

*Lawrence M.G. Enomoto*

Lawrence M.G. Enomoto  
VFW Hawaii State Legislative Liaison

**The Uniformed Service Member's Voice in Government**  
**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR UNIFORMED SERVICES**  
**Hawaii Chapter (HI-1)**

18 February, 2014

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 1770 HD1**  
**RELATING TO VETERANS**  
**COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**  
**HEARING ON THURSDAY, 02-20-14 AT 11:00 AM**  
**IN CONFERENCE ROOM 308**

Aloha Chair Luke and Vice Chairs Nishimoto and Johanson: Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 1770 (HB1770 HD1): On Capitol Hill the National Association for Uniformed Services (NAUS) is "The Service Member's Voice in Government." Here, in the great State of Hawaii, NAUS Hawaii Chapter (HI-1) serves at the will and pleasure of our nation's largest per-capita uniformed service personnel and veterans community.

NAUS Hawaii Chapter (HI-1) is extremely grateful, regarding your thoughtful efforts to amend Hawaii Revised Statutes, Section 286-109, subsection (a) to include the term "veteran" on the front of the qualified applicant's license, if desired..

Providing this proposed recognition is highly appreciated, by our veterans, who served us so selflessly. We respectfully encourage you to pass HB 1770 HD1 as written

At your service,

*D Egge*

Dennis Egge; Chapter President



1298 Kukila Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96818  
[Naushawaii1@yahoo.com](mailto:Naushawaii1@yahoo.com); 808-382-5833

## **Testimony to the House Committee on Finance**

**Thursday, February 20, 2013**

**11:00 AM**

**Conference Room 308**

**RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 1770, HD1, RELATING TO VETERANS**

Chair Luke, Vice Chairs Nishimoto and Johanson, 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* of House Bill No. 1770, Relating To Veterans.

The measure proposes to require notation of veteran status on state driver's licenses and identification cards if desired by the applicant.

The adoption of this measure would amend Section 286-109, Section 286-111, Section 286-303, and Section 286-305, Hawaii Revised Statutes, as appropriate, by adding the designation "veteran" on the front of the driver's license/state ID card at the request of the veteran applicant who served in any of the uniformed services of the United States and was discharged under conditions other than dishonorable.

We concur with the proposed amendments to identify qualified veterans on driver's licenses and state ID cards, and recommend the measure be approved with the amended date of 1 October 2014.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



**FIN-Jo**

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 18, 2014 3:20 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** greenlee@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB1770 on Feb 20, 2014 11:00AM\*

**HB1770**

Submitted on: 2/18/2014

Testimony for FIN on Feb 20, 2014 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ann Greenlee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2014 4:40 PM  
To: FINTestimony  
Cc: keith.ribbentrop@gmail.com  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1770 on Feb 20, 2014 11:00AM



**HB1770**

Submitted on: 2/19/2014

Testimony for FIN on Feb 20, 2014 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Keith T. Ribbentrop	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I strongly support this Bill.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

February 20, 2014  
11:00 a.m.  
State Capitol, Room 308

**H.B. 1770, H.D. 1  
RELATING TO VETERANS**

House Committee on Finance

Testimony of  
GLENN M. OKIMOTO  
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors  
FORD N. FUCHIGAMI  
RANDY GRUNE  
AUDREY HIDANO  
JADINE URASAKI

IN REPLY REFER TO:

**LATE**

---

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **opposes** this bill to place a “veteran” designation on driver’s licenses if requested by the holder. The DOT appreciates the efforts and the contributions the veterans have sacrificed for our country. However, such designation does not contribute to the function of the driver’s license, and it will take up limited space on the card that may be needed in the future to meet other license requirements.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony.