

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1770 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 5, 2014

Chair Takai, Vice Chair Ito 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, 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.

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

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  
Wednesday, February 5, 2013, 8:30 a.m., Conference Room 312

HOUSE Bill 1770, "RELATING TO Veterans"

Position: Comments

TO: The Honorable K. Mark Takai, Chair  
and Members of the Committee on Veterans, Military and  
International Affairs and Culture and The Arts

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

Since this designation will require coordination with Hawaii's driver license card production vendor and computer programming, we recommend that the effective date be amended to October 1, 2014.

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

Sincerely,

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

Preston P. H. K. Ko  
Acting Licensing Administrator

## Testimony

Carswell J. Ross, Jr. M.A., Chief Master Sergeant, USAF Ret.  
94-1020 Puana Street  
Waipahu, HI 96797

Wednesday, February 05, 2014

Testimony on House Bill 1770, RELATING TO VETERANS

Presentation to the House Committee on Veterans, Military & International Affairs & Culture  
and the Arts

Good morning Chair K. Mark Takai and Vice Chair Ken Ito and members of the Committee on Veterans, Military & International Affairs & Culture and the Arts.

I **support** the intent of HB 1770, which requires notation of veteran status on Hawaii state driver's licenses and identification cards if desired by the applicant. Many businesses within Hawaii and Nation provide veterans with discounts of services and goods procured at their business. The only way a veteran could obtain these benefits was to carry around his or her Discharge document. Additionally, veterans may be eligible for medical treatment at a Department of Veterans Affairs medical facility, however as most veterans do not carry a copy of their Discharge document, this information would remain unknown to the medical provided. This might be critical if treating someone who received medical care and has an medical incident in the community where their condition or veteran status is unknown.

Providing veteran status on the driver's licenses and State ID card enable veterans to obtain discounts and services as needed during an emergency.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of this measure.

**Testimony to the House Committee on Veterans, Military and  
International Affairs, and Culture and the Arts**

**Wednesday, February 5, 2013**

**8:30 AM**

**Conference Room 312**

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

Chair Takai, Vice Chair Ito, 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 amend Section 286-109, Section 286-111, Section 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Date: February 2, 2014

To: The Honorable K. Mark Takai, Chair  
The Honorable Ken Ito, Vice Chair  
Committee on Veterans, Military, and International Affairs, and Culture and the Arts

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

Subject: Support for HB1770

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As the current Chair, Advisory Board on Veterans' Services, let me state that we support HB1770, 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.

**Roxanne Kamalu**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 04, 2014 5:53 PM  
**To:** vmitestimony  
**Cc:** cavinjm@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB1770 on Feb 5, 2014 08:30AM\*

**HB1770**

Submitted on: 2/4/2014

Testimony for VMI on Feb 5, 2014 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
James Cavin	Hawaii Alliance of Student Veterans	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.

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