

Testimony on behalf of HB 196.

My name is Christopher Kimbrough; I served honorably with the United States Coast Guard from 1981 - 1989. I was fortunate to have been able to transition from the military to civilian life without much difficulty. This was due to the help I'd received from former servicemen who'd preceded me through the informal hui that existed in Hawaii at the time of my discharge.

Although this network still exists, I was noticing a lot of our young servicemen and women struggling to make the successful transition that I was able to achieve. Last October, I watched a segment on 60 minutes ; <http://www.cbsnews.com/video/watch/?id=50133128n> , that described a Veteran's court that had been established in Texas and the success they were having by using treatment in coordination with the Veterans administration to help our young people become productive members of society rather than a burden on the criminal justice system.

Not knowing what I was getting into, I immediately volunteered to become a mentor for Hawaii's Veteran court. I believe with the support of the legislature, this program can be successful in assisting our young men and women who've served this country but have fallen into difficult circumstances, rehabilitate themselves and become productive members of society.

In the short time I've been involved with the Hawaii program, I've seen an earnest effort put forth by Judge Kubo, the court system and the Veteran's Administration to work with the young men that have been selected for the initial part of this program to help them, help themselves become productive members of society.

The court is not a baby-sitting nor does it pamper these servicemembers. It sets goals and holds the members accountable for their actions in order to comply with strenuous conditions that they must meet in order to complete the program.

In as far as the mentors that have volunteered, I am proud to be associated with a group so dedicated to giving back to these young men. Support from the legislature would go a long way to ensure the success of Hawaii's veteran court as well as its ability to attract talented, dedicated members from Hawaii's Veterans community to provide the volunteer services necessary to assist the Court in its ability to function.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christopher K. Kimbrough

KIHEI, HI



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 196  
RELATING TO VETERANS TREATMENT COURT

PRESENTED TO THE  
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY



BY

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

February 8, 2013

Good afternoon Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Har and Committee members:

I'm Ron Han, Director of the State Office of Veterans Services (OVS). I appreciate this opportunity to support the concepts in House Bill 196. This measure would provide for the establishment of a temporary Veterans Treatment Court in Hawaii to include treating veterans that have been determined by VA as eligible for benefits. As noted, there are over 100 Veterans Treatment Courts and growing nation-wide. States which have instituted these programs have very low recidivism rates, have garnered successes in dealing with veterans for various issues, have established viable monitoring links towards rehabilitation, and have reduced the number of incarcerated veterans, thereby reducing our overall prison population.

We defer to the agency with direct responsibility for implementation of the Veterans' Treatment Court program.

The OVS supports the concepts and intent expressed in this measure as long as its implementation does not use State funds to establish the temporary court and 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 speak on behalf of Hawaii's Veterans and their families.