

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2073
RELATING TO MEMORIALS

PRESENTATION TO THE
HOUSE 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

Good morning Chair Takai, Vice-Chair Ito, and members of the Committee:

I'm Ron Han, Director of the State Office of Veterans Services (OVS). I appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony to **in support** of House Bill 2073 Relating to Memorials which appropriates funds for the planning, design, and construction of the Hawaii Gulf War Memorial to be located at the Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery in Kaneohe, on the island of Oahu, and replicas of the Memorial to be located at State Veterans Cemeteries statewide. Also, that support of this bill does not impact or replace the priorities set forth in the Executive Budget for Fiscal Year 2015.

Since the Task Force has held meetings, a public hearing, and has used public inputs from a questionnaire, a formal legislative report has been published. Based on the data collected and proposed site selection; there is now a need to request for funds to build and establish a memorial honoring veterans of the Persian Gulf War, and campaigns that include Operation Desert Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, Global War on Terrorism, Homeland Defense, Operation Noble Eagle and Operation New Dawn.

Given the scope of the planning required to adequately represent the wars and campaigns mentioned, OVS would like to recommend that the same working Task Force ascend to Committee status and continue the planning and building of the Memorial. Resources to employ a contractor who would gather information concerning structures and symbols that represent each part of the memorials will be the first order of business with updates provided in an open forum.

Given our present economic situation, this project could also help create construction and other jobs that will aid in our economic recovery process.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer my comments.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



Dean H. Seki
Comptroller

Maria E. Zielinski
Deputy Comptroller

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING
AND GENERAL SERVICES
P.O. BOX 119
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WRITTEN TESTIMONY
OF
DEAN H. SEKI, COMPTROLLER
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE
ON
VETERANS, MILITARY, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, & CULTURE AND THE ARTS
ON
February 5, 2014

H.B. 2073

RELATING TO MEMORIALS

Chair Takai and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on H.B. 2073.

The Department of Accounting and General Services supports H.B. 2073 and will work collaboratively with the Office of Veterans Services and other interested parties to effectuate the purpose of this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on this matter.



HAWAII AIR NATIONAL GUARD
HEADQUARTERS 154TH WING

04 February 2014

CMSgt Willie P. Rafael
154th Wing Command Chief Master Sergeant
Hawaii Air National Guard
360 Mamala Bay Drive
JBPH-H Honolulu, HI 96853

To The Committee,
RE: House Bill 2073 Hawaii Gulf War Memorial

I am in support of House Bill 2073 Hawaii Gulf War Memorial Bill for appropriations of funds for the planning, design, and construction of a Hawaii Gulf War Memorial to be located at the Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery in Kaneohe, on the island of Oahu, and replicas of the memorial to be located at state veterans' cemeteries statewide.

Twenty years ago, American forces started a massive buildup in response to Saddam Hussein's invasion and occupation of Kuwait. Before it was over, more than half a million Americans found themselves in the Saudi desert or aboard an armada in the Persian Gulf, alongside large contingents from, among many other countries, Britain, France Egypt and Syria.

It's been called by several different names: Operation Desert Shield, Desert Storm, the First Gulf War, and the Mother of all Battles. In retrospect it's hard not to see it as the first part of a conflict that continues to this day.

To this day, as we continue to fight terrorism here and abroad, our service member have made the ultimate sacrifice and paid the price with their lives. The Gulf War Memorial is a small token of our appreciation for their sacrifices, a way to pay homage, give thanks, and remember them.

Please consider passing this bill and make this Gulf War Memorial a reality. Please contact me at willie.rafael@us.af.mil or 808-222-2076, should you have any questions regarding this written testimony. Mahalo!

Sincerely


WILLIE P. RAFAEL, CMSgt, HIANG

Roxanne Kamalu

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 04, 2014 12:10 PM
To: vmitestimony
Cc: sonnyfernan@msn.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2073 on Feb 5, 2014 08:30AM

HB2073

Submitted on: 2/4/2014

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stanley Y. Fernandez Sr.	Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States	Support	No

Comments: In full support of HB2073. Hawaii has a memorial at the state capitol which recognizes the Korean/Vietnam vets who gave their ultimate and supreme sacrifice to their nation. We, the members of the VFW fully supports the establishment of a memorial honoring our Hawaii Gulf War veterans.

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

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: Strong Support for HB2073

As the current Chair, Advisory Board on Veterans' Services, let me state that we support HB2073. It is fitting in the course of American tradition to recognize all service members who have serviced in various military combat missions since the initial Gulf War from August 2, 1990.

I can personally state that on a recent trip to the New England States, I found several memorials to the veterans of all services in several states. It is such a small way to pay back those who went off to protect our way of life.

It is fitting to this memorial to be located on the grounds of the Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery in Kaneohe.

I strongly urge that you pass this measure and make funds available.

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

February 5, 2014

SUBJECT: HB 2073 RELATING TO MEMORIALS

FROM: Allen K. Hoe

TESTIMONY FOR: Chair Representative K. Mark Takai, Vice Chair Representative Ken Ito and members of the Committee on Veterans, Military & International Affairs & Culture and the Arts.

Aloha Chair Takai and members. My name is Allen K. Hoe, I am here today to speak in support of HB 2073. This measure is the outcome of the efforts by this honorable body during last year's legislative session culminating in the establishment of ACT 139 signed by Governor Abercrombie on June 21, 2013 which directed that a "Plan to give tangible and visible recognition to the sacrifices and contributions of veterans from Hawaii" who served in the war which we refer to as the Global War on Terrorism;

Under the leadership of the Office of Veterans Services a Task Force was established to carry out this Sacred Mission; I had the honor of serving on the Task Force. Each of us who served, firmly believed in the importance and the necessity of the challenge to place a high priority on this task, "Honoring the Legacy and the Memory of all those young men and women in uniform" who stepped forward from this beautiful place we call home to "give their last full measure of devotion to their country."

You have before you a copy of the results of our work, which included numerous public meetings where we received input from interested groups and members of the general public. We also took advantage of a unique internet survey protocol which allowed individuals who perhaps would not have generally had the opportunity to provide in put into this process to do so.

Based upon our findings and conclusions the Task Force has respectfully submitted its report and thus requests that House Bill 2073 "Relating to Memorials" be approved by your committee and moved on for further action by the Legislature.

Mahalo for your continuing support in Hawaii's role in Honoring the Legacy and the Memory of our Fallen Heroes.

~

Allen K. Hoe
PO Box 3589
Honolulu, Hawaii 96811

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 2073, RELATING TO MEMORIALS

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 strongly **support** HB 2073, which appropriates funds for the planning, design, and construction of a Hawaii Gulf War Memorial to be located at the Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery in Kaneohe, on the island of Oahu and replicas of the memorial to be located at state veterans' cemeteries statewide. I was selected and served as a member of the Task Force which sought to determine the need and placement of this memorial. We met and a committee received public testimony and published and received comment through the use of a statewide survey. The results were presented to the legislature as a report. In short the Task Force found that there was sentiment for such a memorial, that the memorial should include the names and other information about the military members honored on the memorial and that placement of the memorial in the Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery was appropriate provided that replicas be placed within Neighbor Island Veteran Cemeteries.

Based upon public input and the need to complete the memorials the request for five million dollars appears reasonable.

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