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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1101

COMMITTEE ON
ARMED SERVICES
SUBCOMMITTEES:
READINESS
SEAPOWERS AND PROJECTION FORCES

COMMITTEE ON
NATURAL RESOURCES
SUBCOMMITTEES:
INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE AFFAIRS
(RANKING MEMBER)
ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES
PUBLIC LANDS AND
ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION

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

Re: HB2074, RELATING TO VETERANS
Date: Wednesday, February 5, 2014
Time: 8:30 a.m.
Place: State Capitol, Room 312

Testimony in Support of House Bill 2074

Chair Takai, Vice Chair Ito, and Members of the Committee,

I am pleased to submit this testimony in support of House Bill 2074, Relating to Veterans, which would authorize the State to issue general obligation bonds for the purpose of funding its portion of construction of a veterans' long-term care facility.

Hawaii's acute shortage of long-term care beds has the potential to directly impact the growing number of our veterans who are reaching a point in their lives where long-term care may become necessary. While the shortage of long-term care facilities will be felt across our community, we owe the men and women who have served our country a special duty. Having stood up for America in our times of need, they have earned the highest degree of support and consideration we are able to give. Providing safe and reliable care falls squarely within our commitment as a state and a nation.

Our state's experience with the Yukio Okutsu State Veterans Home in Hilo has demonstrated that these investments provide valuable and much-needed services to the

community. Its 95 beds have provided these veterans with the support they have earned by their service, and helps ensure safety, comfort, and dignity in their care. HB2074 will allow us to extend those benefits to still more veterans.

The benefits of providing additional long-term care facilities for veterans also extend to the community at large by reducing the overall shortage of long-term care beds.

Thank you for this opportunity to support our veterans and the needs of our community. Please feel free to contact me if I can offer additional information.

COLLEEN HANABUSA
Member of Congress

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
CIVIL DEFENSE DIVISION

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2074
A BILL RELATING TO THE VETERANS

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

BY
MAJ GEN DARRYLL D. M. WONG
STATE ADJUTANT GENERAL AND DIRECTOR OF STATE CIVIL DEFENSE
February 5, 2014

Chair Takai, Vice Chair Ito, and Members of the House Committee on Veterans, Military, & International Affairs, & Culture and the Arts:

I am Maj Gen Darryll D. M. Wong, State Adjutant General and Director of State Civil Defense. I am testifying in **SUPPORT** of House Bill 2074.

This bill requests authorization to issue general obligation bonds to fund the State's share of the construction costs of a new long-term care facility. There will be no bond issue unless the federal government appropriates their share of the facility's construction costs.

After construction, there will be no operational costs to the State. Currently, the Yukio Okutsu State Veteran's home in Hilo is owned and licensed by the State and managed by a contract administered by the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation. The new facility will operate in the same manner.

This new facility will mirror the success of the Okutsu facility built in 2004. It will be a step toward reducing the significant shortage of long-term care beds and services available to qualified veterans.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in **SUPPORT** of HB 2074.

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2074 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 2074, Relating to Veterans.

This measure authorizes the issuance of GO bonds for the construction of a long-term care facility for veterans contingent upon the receipt of federal funds. The offset is 35% state funding and 65% federal funding.

The State of Hawaii in partnership with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has an opportunity to fix an ever increasing critical need in our community: long-term care resources and services for our veterans. With the success of the Yukio Okutsu State Veterans Home in Hilo, a second Veterans State Home is needed to fill the 173 bed shortfall (verified by VA based on our Veterans population State-wide) we are currently experiencing. OVS is expecting our State Veteran population to grow due to the drawdown of troops in Iraq, the forthcoming pullout from Afghanistan in 2014, and with defense budget cuts targeting existing end strength. More military members are attaining Veteran status. Additionally, there are growing numbers of aging Korean and Vietnam War veterans in need of health care that a skilled nursing facility would bring. This new State Veterans Home would also bring additional jobs and provide training synergy with our current and future health care professionals and providers stimulating our local economy.

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 2074.



LEAHI HOSPITAL

HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION

3675 Kilauea Avenue ■ Honolulu, Hawaii 96816 ■ Telephone: (808) 733-8000 ■ FAX: (808) 733-7914

**House Committee on Veterans, Military and International Affairs, and Culture and the Arts
Representative K. Mark Takai, Chair
Representative Ken Ito, Vice Chair**

Wednesday, February 5, 2014
Conference Room 312
8:30 a.m.
Hawaii State Capitol

Testimony Supporting House Bill 2074, Relating to Veterans. Authorizes the issuance of GO bonds for the construction of a long-term care facility for veterans contingent upon the receipt of federal funds.

Derek Akiyoshi
Interim Regional Chief Executive Officer
Hawaii Health Systems Corporation, Oahu Region

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in support of HB 2074.

The HHSC Oahu Region, comprised of Leahi Hospital and Maluhia, supports the intent of this measure. Upon completion of the feasibility study in April, we will likely have a much in-depth understanding of the some of the major components involved in the undertaking of this project, including project and business development, funding requirements and land ownership to name a few.

The HHSC Oahu Region looks forward to working with this Committee and the major stakeholders of this project, including the State Department of Defense, the State Office of Veterans Services, VA Rural Health and the Abercrombie Administration in the upcoming months.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify at today's hearing and look forward to continued discussions related to advancing a much needed VA State Home on the island of Oahu.



HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS

C O R P O R A T I O N

Quality Healthcare For All

**House Committee on Veterans, Military and International Affairs, and
Culture and the Arts
Representative K. Mark Takai, Chair
Representative Ken Ito, Vice Chair**

Wednesday, February 5, 2014
Conference Room 312
8:30 a.m.
Hawaii State Capitol

**Testimony Supporting House Bill 2074, Relating to Veterans. Authorizes the
issuance of GO bonds for the construction of a long-term care facility for
veterans contingent upon the receipt of federal funds.**

Alice M. Hall
Acting President and Chief Executive Officer
Hawaii Health Systems Corporation

On behalf of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (HHSC) Corporate Board of Directors, thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in support of HB 2074.

HHSC supports the intent of this bill which is to create a partnership between the state and the Veterans Association to build needed long term care facilities for veterans with no operational costs to the state or HHSC. At this time, we are waiting for the feasibility study before making final commitments on a project.

We appreciate the Committee's focus on improving healthcare for our island communities. Thank you for the opportunity to testify before this committee.

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www.hhsc.org <<http://www.hhsc.org>>

**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. 2074, 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. 2074, Relating To Veterans.

The measure proposes to authorize the issuance of general obligation bonds for the construction of a one hundred seventy three bed veterans long term care facility, provided that no bond issuance shall be unless the federal government appropriates a percentage of funds needed to complete the facility.

We concur that the state will face a significant shortage of long term care facilities statewide to meet the demands of an ever-growing veteran's population. Across the nation, the Veterans Affairs office estimates that more than one million members of the armed forces will become veterans within the next five years. There are an estimated one hundred twenty thousand veterans in Hawaii, with forty four thousand over age sixty-five.

Hawaii's only veterans care facility, jointly funded by the federal and state governments, was completed in Hilo, HI in 2004 and has successfully operated at no operational or maintenance cost to the state.

In light of the above, we recommend approval.

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: Strong Support for HB2074

As the current Chair, Advisory Board on Veterans' Services, let me state that we support HB2074. Our board has received several briefings on the shortfall of 173 beds for our increasingly aging veteran populations.

There is the Yukio Okutsu state veterans home on Hawaii, but it not sufficient for the needs of our veterans. Since the increase in the number of veterans is on Oahu, it is fitting that a new state veterans' home be located on Oahu. We need to move now to get federal funds committed to this project, which will take several years to clear all the necessary hurdles to be built.

This is another positive way to repay veterans for the sacrifices they made.

The Board strongly urges that you pass this measure and make funds available.

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

Roxanne Kamalu

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 04, 2014 12:14 PM
To: vmitestimony
Cc: sonnyfernan@msn.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2074 on Feb 5, 2014 08:30AM

HB2074

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 HB2074. Less than one percent of the national population serves in the military defending our freedom. The development of a long term care facility would serve as another means of "thank you" for their service to our country.

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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