

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR UNIFORMED SERVICES,
Hawaii Chapter (HI-1)
1298 Kukila Street, Honolulu HI 96818
Naushawaii1@yahoo.com; 808-382-5833**

February 10, 2013

**TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HB 524
RELATING TO THE HONOR AND REMEMBER FLAG
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS, MILITARY, AND
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND CULTURE AND THE ARTS
HEARING , AT 8:30AM, ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH, 2013, IN
CONFERENCE ROOM 312**

Aloha Chair Takai and Vice Chair Ito: Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony regarding HB 524. The National Association for Uniformed Services (NAUS) is honored to be recognized as “The Service Member’s Voice in Government.” Here, in the great State of Hawaii, NAUS Hawaii Chapter (HI-1) serves at the pleasure of our nation’s largest per-capita uniformed service community.

NAUS and Hawaii Chapter (HI-1) members are concerned, regarding your efforts to amend Chapter 5 Hawaii Revised Statutes, in order to designate the Honor and Remember Flag as our State's emblem of service and sacrifice by the brave men and women of the United States Armed Forces who have given their lives in the line of duty.

Our State legislature, only recently, authorized flying the POW/MIA flag, on a very limited annual basis. We don’t know how many of our unaccounted for warriors suffer alone, on the many days when our great state does not to explicitly recognize them. NAUS and Hawaii Chapter (HI-1) does not approve this new memorial symbol flying in a superior position to the POW/MIA flag or alone, anywhere, in our State’s public domain.

NAUS Hawaii Chapter (HI-1) encourages your committee to consider deferring HB 524 as written.

D Egge

Dennis Egge; Chapter President

Endorsement:

Dennis, We at NAUS Headquarters concur with the position you have taken. There is one flag that should commemorate the fallen, the American Flag. That is the flag they fought under and died for. That is the flag that should commemorate their service and sacrifice. While this is a state issue, it has come up before and we have responded with the same answer.

LtGen Jack W. Klimp, USMC (Ret); President and Chief Executive Officer, National Association for Uniformed Services,
5535 Hempstead Way, Springfield VA 22151; (703) 750-1342 ext 1000



Headquarters: Department of State of Hawaii
438 Hobron Lane, Suite 407
Honolulu, Hawaii 96815

February 12, 2013

**Testimony in Support of HOUSE BILL 524
Relating to the Honor and Remember Flag
Before the
House Committee On Veterans, Military, & International Affairs,
& Culture and the Arts
Hearing On Wednesday, February 13, 2013, 8:30 A.M.
In Conference Room 312**

Chair Takai, Vice Chair Ito 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. 524 Designates the Honor and Remember Flag as the State's emblem of service and sacrifice by the brave men and women of the United States Armed Forces who have given their lives in the line of duty.

The Honor and Remember Flag has been adopted as an official state symbol by Delaware, Virginia, North Carolina and Oklahoma. This beautifully designed flag will serve to perpetually recognize the sacrifice of our fallen heroes of all generations and their families

VFW Hawaii members are grateful for your efforts to promote this tangible form of recognition for all men and women of the United States Armed Forces.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of H.B. 524.

Lawrence M.G. Enomoto

Lawrence M.G. Enomoto
VFW Hawaii State Legislative Liaison

Public Testimony
of
Allen K. Hoe
Honolulu, Hawaii

In Support of HB 524

Before the House:
Committee on Veterans, Military & International Affairs & Culture and the Arts
Wednesday, February 13, 2013
8:30 a.m., Conference Rm. 312

Aloha Chair Takai, Vice-Chair Ito and Members.

My name is Allen K. Hoe and I am a GOLD STAR FATHER. It has been 8 years now when that status was first thrust upon my family with the news that our beloved Nainoa was killed in combat in Mosul, Iraq while serving his country.

I continue to be puzzled by an apparent lack of appreciation by many in our country who somehow just do not get it. The price of our freedom is not free.

150 years ago, these words were penned by Abraham Lincoln to a mother who had lost her sons on the battlefield. No other words spoken have ever stated it as eloquently:

“I feel how weak and fruitless must be any word of mine which should attempt to beguile you from the grief of a loss so overwhelming. But I cannot refrain from tendering you the consolation that may be found in the thanks of the republic they died to save. I pray that our heavenly Father may assuage the anguish of your bereavement, and leave you only the cherished memory of the loved and lost, and the solemn pride that must be ours to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom. Yours very sincerely and respectfully, A Lincoln.”

HB 524 presents you with an opportunity worthy of the President Lincoln's tribute. I request that you demonstrate Hawaii's resolve and commitment to honor those whose memory we will cherish forever for their gift of freedom to the world.

Simply stated the Honor and Remember Flag will serve as the nationally recognized standard as a reminder of all our Patriots who have given their last full measure in defense of our national freedoms. The Vietnam Veterans of America, the largest veteran's advocacy organization has endorsed the Honor and Remember Flag. Numerous States have as well; don't let Hawaii be in the left behind category.

Respectfully,
Allen K. Hoe

9 February 2013

Testimony

Support of HB 524

I fully support the adoption of the Honor and Remember Flag by the State of Hawaii. Less than one percent of the American population is serving in the US Military. A very small fraction of this one percent has given the ultimate sacrifice in combat. The last eleven years of war, mainly the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, have gone largely unnoticed by our American society. This public indifference to the sacrifices of our military will undoubtedly increase as news reports focus on the current and memories fade. Most people when they look at "Old Glory" do not understand everything our flag represents and the sacrifices of those who have defended and protected our freedom. The majority of our American citizens do not know what the "Gold Star" represents. The Honor and Remember Flag will be graphic reminder both in symbol and words that we should never forget and to honor those who are serving, have served and have given their lives to protect those freedoms we take so granted.

David P. Brostrom

Father 1LT Jonathan P. Brostrom

KIA Wanat Afghanistan 13 July 2008

vmitestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2013 1:12 PM
To: vmitestimony
Cc: outpost101@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB524 on Feb 13, 2013 08:30AM

HB524

Submitted on: 2/11/2013

Testimony for VMI on Feb 13, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Hank Elsworth	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am a Viet Nam veteran that will do anything asked of me to show support of our currently serving military, all veterans past and present and the families that have sacrificed their sons and daughters to defend our countries freedom. This is why I support establishing and promoting a nationally recognized flag that would fly continuously as a visible reminder to all Americans of the lives lost in defense of our national freedoms. All Military lives lost not only in action but also in service, from our nation's inception. I believe The Honor and Remember Flag can become national symbol that specifically recognizes in gratitude and respect the ultimate sacrifice made by members of the United States military in service to our nation.

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vmitestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2013 6:53 AM
To: vmitestimony
Cc: lenny.stowell@mcclabel.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB524 on Feb 13, 2013 08:30AM

HB524

Submitted on: 2/11/2013

Testimony for VMI on Feb 13, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lenny Stowell	Honor and Remember	Support	No

Comments: I am a VN veteran, serving with the 101st in Phu Bai, 1970. I lost more than one friend in that war, plus many more that I never knew. I have lost friends in wars since then. As in prior wars, and in the wars since, many have fought and died for our great country. If it were possible to interview them, I would dare say that without exception, they would all say that they would do it again. They loved their country that much! We cannot, should not and will not ever forget their ultimate sacrifice. Yes, I have heard the negative comments concerning the H&R flag.....I strongly disagree with them. The positive, far out weighs the negative. The few negative comments are from those who "CHOOSE" to live in the past. The positive? To create a symbolic daily reminder of our brothers and sisters who gave their lives for their country, and our freedom. I urge you to pass the bill to Honor and Remember those soldiers! Respectfully, Leonard E Stowell

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vmitestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2013 8:27 AM
To: vmitestimony
Cc: jmusheno@metrocast.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB524 on Feb 13, 2013 08:30AM

HB524

Submitted on: 2/12/2013

Testimony for VMI on Feb 13, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeff Musheno	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Speaking on behalf of ALL Viet Nam Veterans, I think the concept of honoring and remembering all of those who have died in battle is a worthy effort! Tragically, those lost in the Viet Nam War are the least remembered

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vmitestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2013 9:51 AM
To: vmitestimony
Cc: paulinkayakblu@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB524 on Feb 13, 2013 08:30AM

HB524

Submitted on: 2/11/2013

Testimony for VMI on Feb 13, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
paul Tremblay	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Hello. I am Paul Tremblay. I reside in Sutherlin, Oregon & I am a 2 tour Vietnam Veteran. I passionately support the Honor and Remember Flag. I fly the H&R Flag along w/ 'Old Glory' on my motorcycle wherever i go & educate folks about it. I am a Patriot Guard Rider also & I fly it at all PGR events I attend. Please adopt this flag. It is for the Gold Star Families. They need the Honor and Remember Flag to help them in their pain. Thank you & God bless you, Paul Tremblay 541 698 7059

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vmitestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 09, 2013 12:15 PM
To: vmitestimony
Cc: 9dfce45c@opayq.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB524 on Feb 13, 2013 08:30AM*

HB524

Submitted on: 2/9/2013

Testimony for VMI on Feb 13, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Troy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Testimony for HB 524 February 13, 2013

My name is Brandy Williams and I am the widow, of Sgt. Eugene Williams who was killed on March 29, 2003 in Najaf, Iraq. My husband and three other soldiers were killed while manning a roadside check point. A taxi cab pulled up, waived for help, then detonated a bomb killing my husband, Cpl. Michael Curtin, PFC Diego Rincon and PFC Michael Creighton.

In 2010 I was honored to receive the Honor and Remember Flag at the Hawaii State Capitol. The flag is a symbol of my husband's sacrifice to his country. Not all Americans are aware of what a Gold Star is or yet alone a Gold Star Family. The Honor and Remember Flag would bring awareness and would be a symbol to Americans that we should never forget those who serve our country and who have given the ultimate sacrifice. My husband and all those who have died fighting for their country deserve a national symbol that recognizes what they have given to our nation.

I support HB 524 so that Gold Star Families will have a recognized flag to remind Americans of the service members who have lost their lives so that we may continue to live in a free country.

Sincerely,

Brandy Williams

Wife of Sgt. Eugene Williams

KIA 3/29/2003 OIF