



January 29, 2013

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 525
RELATING TO RELATING TO FAMILY COURTS.**

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS MILITARY AND INTERNATIONAL
AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS**

**HEARING ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30TH AT 8:30 AM, IN CONFERENCE
ROOM 312**

Aloha Chair Takai: The Oahu Veterans Council is honored to serve at the pleasure of our veterans and their families. On January 26th, our delegates reviewed and voted unanimously to support House Bill 525.

We are extremely grateful for your efforts to Prohibits courts from considering a person's federal veterans disability benefits in determining whether to award support and maintenance allowances or the amount of such allowance to the person's spouse or former spouse.

The Veterans Administration will equitably apportion a subject veterans disability compensation, for the purposes of providing support for the subject veterans dependent children and/or custodian, when a claim is filed in their behalf.

Providing this legislative protection in state law supports and endorses the intent of United States Code', Title 10, Section 1408(a)(4)(C) and is much appreciated by our veterans and military personnel who serve so selflessly and ask for no more recognition than we would expect for ourselves.

The Oahu Veterans Council respectfully urges your committee to consider passing House Bill 525 with the suggested comment included. Mahalo, for allowing us to testify, regarding this extremely important issue.

Dennis Egge

Dennis Egge; Chairman, Legislative Committee



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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 525, RELATING TO FAMILY COURTS
PRESENTATION TO THE

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

BY

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

January 30, 2013

Good morning 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 intent of House Bill 525.

This measure determines whether to award allowance for the support and maintenance of a spouse or former spouse, or the amount of any such allowance, the court shall not consider any federal disability benefits awarded to the obligor for service-connected disabilities pursuant to title 38 United States Code Chapter 11. The court should consider retirement instead of disability awards to the veteran. A disability award is to help the veteran cope with their lifetime injuries, and to be able to survive the day to day stressors of survival.

We defer to the agency with direct responsibility for implementation of the special funds regulations.

The OVS supports the concepts and intent expressed in this measure as long as its implementation 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 provide testimony on behalf of Hawaii's Veterans and their families in support of HB 525.