

# **HCR 218**

**URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO  
AWARD THE CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR  
TO JOHN KUULEI KAUHAIHAO, OF HONAUNAU,  
HAWAII**

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

Date: Tuesday, April 16, 2013

Time: 9:30 am

Place: Conference Room 312

Testimony in Support of HCR218

Dear Chairman Espero, Vice Chairman Baker, and Members of the PSM Committee:

The Congressional Medal of Honor distinguishes extraordinary gallantry and courageousness while risking life and going beyond the call of duty:

While engaged in an action against an enemy of the US

While engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force,  
or

While serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict against an  
opposing armed force in which the US is not a belligerent party.

While serving in the Vietnam War, Lieutenant Kauhahao chose to sacrifice everything to protect the lives of his fellow brothers in battle. He was an extraordinary and remarkable man, deserving of this honor.

First Lieutenant Kauhahao excelled as a Hawaii National Guardsman. He received his commission and lieutenant bars after completing the Hawaii Army National Guard's Officer Candidate School. Lieutenant Kauhahao was presented with his certificate of completion of the school on May 10, 1968.

He and 3,200 other officers and soldiers of the 29<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade were soon called to active duty three days later, on May 13, 1968. Lieutenant Kauhahao became a platoon leader and served with Company B, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 8<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Division (Airmobile) in a reconnaissance operation in the hostile Tay Ninh province. His company's mission was to locate enemy North Vietnamese bunkers in the area.

During this operation, Lieutenant Kauhahao's company was outnumbered. Despite this disadvantage, he avoided reckless engagement with the enemy and instead worked to preserve the lives of his men. While leading his platoon through thick jungle terrain, his company was fired upon. Lieutenant Kauhahao took preventative measures, directing some of his men to seek cover behind bamboo-covered dirt mounds.

When engagement was necessary, Lieutenant Kauhahao took it upon himself to tactically and self-sacrificially protect his men. While the rest of his company was caught in a crossfire with the enemy, Lieutenant Kauhahao hacked through the bamboo and used it as cover, hurling more than 30 hand grenades through his makeshift opening. He drew enemy fire upon himself so that his men could locate and fire on the enemies. He then crawled over a hundred meters of gunfire-swept terrain to drag vital equipment to the rear and help wounded soldiers get to safety.

On September 5, 1969, after rejoining his company, Lieutenant Kauhahao saw another enemy squad closing in. He acted in a moment's notice and advanced to engage the enemy to protect his men. This resulted in being mortally wounded by grenade shrapnel and small arms fire. Lieutenant Kauhahao was immediately evacuated due to the severity of his wounds. However, the medivac helicopter could not safely land under heavy fire and crashed. By the time help arrived, Lieutenant Kauhahao had already died from his wounds.

I think you'll agree that the story of Lieutenant John Kauhahao is not defined by a single act, but rather multiple, extraordinary acts of bravery that reveal a soldier dedicated to his country and comrades, a leader unshaken in his values and honor, who went above and beyond to exemplify the ideals of our military today. Furthermore, his readiness and willingness to activate at the call of duty reminds each of us of the responsibilities of Guardsmen across the nation. He lived with dignity, courage and honor, and his immeasurable sacrifice will not be forgotten.

For these reasons, I support this resolution. Thank you for this opportunity to offer supporting testimony for HCR218.

With warmest aloha,

K. Mark Takai  
State Representative  
33<sup>rd</sup> House District

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 218 / HOUSE RESOLUTION 174  
URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO AWARD THE CONGRESSIONAL  
MEDAL OF HONOR TO JOHN KUULEI KAUHAIHAO, OF HONAUNAU, HAWAII

PRESENTATION TO  
THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY,  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

BY

MAJOR GENERAL DARRYLL D. M. WONG  
April 16, 2013

Chair Espero, Vice Chair Baker, and Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs.

I am Major General Darryll D. M. Wong. I am testifying in **SUPPORT** of House Concurrent Resolution 218 / House Resolution 174

John K. Kauhahao enlisted in the Hawaii Army National Guard in 1959 while still in high school. He served honorably and rose to the rank of sergeant. Senior officers in his command recognized his leadership and management skills and provided him an opportunity to attend Officer Candidate School. John Kauhahao earned his commission just before the mobilization of the 29<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade, Hawaii Army National Guard, in 1968.

In Vietnam, 1LT Kauhahao was a member of Company B, 2d Battalion, 8<sup>th</sup> Cavalry, 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division (Airborne). In September 1969, he was leading his platoon on a reconnaissance operation in Tay Ninh Province when they were ambushed by more than 500 North Vietnamese regulars in bunker fortifications.

The following narrative is taken from a Honolulu Star Bulletin article dated April 28, 2009 which covered 1LT Kauhahao's induction to the U.S. Army Museum's Gallery of Heroes at Fort DeRussy.

Kauhahao directed his men to cover behind several large, bamboo covered dirt mounds. As the rest of the company moved up, they were caught in a crossfire from flanking enemy bunkers. Seizing upon a momentary lull in the exchange of fire, Kauhahao hacked an opening through the bamboo grove. In the next fifteen minutes, Kauhahao hurled more than 30 hand grenades through this opening at the enemy bunkers. In so doing, Kauhahao drew enemy fire on himself again and again so that his men could sight enemy gunners and bring them under suppressive fire. Kauhahao directed the withdrawal of his battered point element. He dragged vital equipment to the rear and helped wounded soldiers to a position of safety. While rejoining his men to the company's main force, Kauhahao sighted an enemy squad moving up on his tattered platoon. As he advanced to engage the approaching enemy, Kauhahao was mortally wounded by enemy fire.

For his courageous actions that day, he was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

We believe his heroic actions clearly warrant an upgrade to the Medal of Honor. The Honorable John McHugh, Secretary of the Army, should direct a reexamination of the facts surrounding these acts of heroism by 1LT Kauhahao.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 218  
URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO AWARD THE  
CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR TO JOHN KUULEI KAUHAIHAO, OF  
HONAUNAU, HAWAII

PRESENTATION TO THE

SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND  
MILITARY AFFAIRS

BY

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

April 16, 2013

Good morning Chair Espero, Vice Chair Baker, and Committee members:

I'm Ron Han, Director of the State Office of Veterans Services (OVS). I appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of the concepts in House Concurrent Resolution 218.

This measure ensures that First Lieutenant (Infantry) John Kuulei Kauhahao, a member of the United States Armed Forces, be awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. First Lieutenant Kauhahao's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty, at the cost of his life, were in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

The ultimate sacrifice displayed by Lt. Kauhahao on the battlefield and by members of the United States Military should not go unrecognized. They truly emulate the warrior ethos that has made our Country so great.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of Hawaii's Veterans and their families in strong support of H.C.R 218.

**HCR218**

Submitted on: 4/15/2013

Testimony for PSM on Apr 16, 2013 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stephen M. Lum	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Attached are stories written in the Hawaii National Guard publications and local newspapers over the years noting 1LT John K. Kauhahao's humble beginnings in Capt. Cook, Kona, Hawaii to his honorable service to our country in Vietnam. LT K joined the Hawaii Army National Guard while still in high school, in 1959. The sergeant earned his officer commission shortly before his unit, the 29th Infantry Brigade, was mobilized during the Vietnam War, in 1968. Like all the recipients of the Medal of Honor he took on the enemy without regards to his own life, keeping enemy at bay while protecting his platoon. The upgrade request is not without precedence, many the the Distinguished Service Cross recipients were deserving of the MoH, but their ethnicity prevented their presentation. His wife, Shirley Ann P. Kauhahao (Ikeuchi), was left to raised their four children. Prior to Jun. 21, 2000 the Hawaii Army National Guard had no heroes that had received the Medal of Honor,\* but all that changed when 22 Asian American's Distinguished Service Cross medals (eight of though recipients were with the mobilized Hawaii National Guard, prior to the creation of the famed 100th Infantry Battalion) from World War II were upgraded 57 years later. The award was upgraded to the Medal of Honor after Congress directed the Secretary of the Army to review all awards of the DSC to Americans of Japanese and Pacific Islands descent to determine if racial bias had influenced the awards process. Eight of the medal recipients have direct ties to the Hawaii Guard. Most were presented posthumously by then President William J. Clinton. A Distinguished Service Cross was also upgraded to Medal of Honor for a former HIARNG Soldier who served in the Korean War and was presented posthumously by President Barrack Obama on Oct. 28, 2009. \*Highest military honor awarded by Congress for risk of life in combat beyond the call of duty; the awardees are called recipients not winners; the official name is Medal of Honor not Congressional Medal of Honor thank you for your consideration Stephen M. Lum MSG(R) Hawaii Army National Guard Bosina and Afghanistan war veteran

# A SPECIAL SORT OF MAN

Lieutenant John K. Kauhahao was a special sort of man. He spent most of his life on the Kona Coast of Hawaii, going to school, making a living, raising a family, and fishing when he wanted to relax and think. John died in Vietnam last year in a final effort that won him the Distinguished Service Cross, the nation's second highest combat award.

His handwritten autobiography in the OCS files sketches a man of quiet strength and determination, who was devoted to his wife and four children. There are other letters in the file with the autobiography—letters of recommendation from his clergyman, a family friend, and one from his company commander in Kona. Descriptive phrases recur in the letters, "learns quickly," "well coordinated," "has a great deal of strength and stamina." A sheaf of colored forms adds more to the picture of John's character. His OCS classmates thought of him as fair, enthusiastic, cooperative, and a man who was always ready to help someone else. The staff at OCS concurred, and John Kauhahao was selected to receive both the Hawaii National Guard Association and the Association of the United States Army awards for leadership.

The awards were presented on Friday, May 10, 1968. A short while later, his unit was activated. John was eventually reassigned to an infantry company of the First Cavalry Division.

On Friday, September 5, 1969, he was briefed by his OCS classmate, Lieutenant Zenon Wong, prior to a reconnaissance patrol near Tay Ninh. Later, during that mission, in the dense jungle, the patrol was fired upon by a battalion-size force of North Vietnamese regulars occupying bunker fortifications.

After John had directed his men to cover behind large bamboo-covered dirt mounds, the rest of the company moved up to lend support fire to the pinned down element,



John Kauhahao, Jr. receives the DSC from MG Sternberg as Mrs. Kauhahao, MG Webster and BG Schaefer look on.

only to be caught in a crossfire from flanking enemy bunkers. Seizing upon a momentary lull in the exchange of fire, Lieutenant Kauhahao hacked an opening through the bamboo growing over the dirt mound behind which he had taken cover. During the next 15 minutes, he hurled more than 30 hand grenades at the enemy bunkers, drawing enemy fire on himself again and again so that his men could sight the enemy gunners and bring them under suppressive fire.

Lieutenant Kauhahao then directed the withdrawal of his battered point element, crawling over a hundred meters of fire-swept terrain to drag vital equipment to the rear and helping wounded soldiers to positions of safety.

Later, as he and his men moved to rejoin the company's main force, John sighted an enemy squad mov-

ing up on them. He engaged the approaching enemy and was mortally wounded by their fire.

For his extraordinary heroism, which cost him his life, Lieutenant Kauhahao was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

Shirley Ann Kauhahao, John's wife, and John Jr, one of the four children, recently received the award from Major General Ben Sternberg, Commanding General of USARHAW.

John Kauhahao lived for 27 years. His life was shaped by his personal choices. He chose to join the National Guard. He chose to become an officer, and he chose to perform some difficult tasks as a leader. John was one of those special men whose service in uniform make the wearing of that uniform a very special privilege for the rest of us.

B.  
As  
me  
Ne  
ize  
pr  
se  
Ar  
tai  
pe  
dc  
ler  
im  
m  
Ar  
te  
in  
  
so  
sta  
ar  
an  
dc  
re  
re  
R.  
te  
qu



# Star Bulletin

HAWAII HEROES

## Wartime deeds of heroism are brought to the forefront



**1st Lt. John  
Kauhaihao**

POSTED: 01:30 a.m. HST, Apr 28, 2009

Seven Hawaii soldiers will be inducted into the U.S. Army Museum's Gallery of Heroes at Fort DeRussy on Thursday. All are recipients of the Distinguished Service Cross. These are their stories of heroism:

**1st Lt. John Kauhaihao** Vietnam War, Company B, 2d Battalion, 8th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) September 1969

Kauhaihao was leading his platoon during a reconnaissance operation in Tay Ninh Province when they were attacked by North Vietnamese regulars occupying bunker fortifications. Kauhaihao directed his men to cover behind several large, bamboo covered dirt mounds. As the rest of the company moved up, they were caught in a crossfire from flanking enemy bunkers.

Seizing upon a momentary lull in the exchange of fire, Kauhaihao hacked an opening through the bamboo grove. In the next 15 minutes, Kauhaihao hurled more than 30 hand grenades through this opening at the enemy bunkers. In so doing, Kauhaihao drew enemy fire on himself again and again so that his men could sight enemy gunners and bring them under suppressive fire.

Kauhaihao directed the withdrawal of his battered point element. He dragged vital equipment to the rear and helped wounded soldiers to a position of safety. While rejoining his men to the company's main force, Kauhaihao sighted an enemy squad moving up on his tattered platoon. As he advanced to engage the approaching enemy, Kauhaihao was mortally wounded by enemy fire.

Source: U.S. Army Museum

Posted on: Monday, April 27, 2009

## Vietnam acts earn soldier honors

By William Cole Advertiser Military Writer

The day he died in Vietnam, 1st Lt. John Kauhahao and his platoon were ambushed by 500 or more North Vietnamese regulars in bunker fortifications.

Kauhahao, a Hawai'i Army National Guard soldier from Honaunau on the Big Island, started throwing grenades. Lots of grenades.

In 15 minutes, he hurled more than 30 he carried and gathered from others, drawing fire and providing cover for his men to withdraw.

Later, as Kauhahao advanced on an enemy squad, he was mortally wounded. A medevac helicopter attempting to extract him was shot down.

Kauhahao is one of seven Distinguished Service Cross recipients being inducted into the Hawai'i Army Museum Society's Gallery of Heroes Thursday at Fort DeRussy.

The list includes one service member from World War II, one from Korea and five from Vietnam. All are deceased, with most dying as the result of combat injuries.

The Gallery of Heroes at the U.S. Army Museum of Hawai'i was conceived in 1980 by retired Maj. Gen. Herbert E. Wolff to honor service members with Hawai'i ties who served the nation. Wolff died April 17 in Honolulu. He was 83.

To be eligible for the Gallery of Heroes, a service member had to be born in Hawai'i, enter the service from Hawai'i, or live in Hawai'i for at least 10 years.

The gallery focuses on recipients of the nation's two highest awards for valor — the Medal of Honor and Distinguished Service Cross, or its equivalents, the Navy Cross and Air Force Cross.

With the addition of the latest seven, 21 Medal of Honor recipients and 58 recipients of the Distinguished Service Cross will have been memorialized.

Vicki Olson, executive director of the Hawai'i Army Museum Society, said approximately 25 relatives and friends of Kauhahao are coming in for the induction, including his wife and children from the Big Island.

At least two soldiers who served alongside Kauhahao are coming from the Mainland.

"We're hoping with the publicity, we can find (other) family members, and also, we're looking for pictures," Olson said.

Kauhahao's actions will be among those memorialized in the gallery.

Tayloe Wise, now 63, who knew Kauhahao from Vietnam, is flying in from Virginia. Another fellow soldier is coming from Utah, and a third comrade is coming in from Hilo.

"I knew him as an officer," Wise said by phone. "One night he did something that has been an inspiration for me for the last 40 years. He was a very special person."

That night was in August 1969 in Tay Ninh Province, northwest of Saigon and close to the Cambodian border.

Many soldiers simply called Kauhahao "Lt. K."

"We just knew him as the Hawaiian lieutenant whose name we couldn't pronounce," Wise said.

A despised platoon sergeant ordered Wise and several other soldiers to head out in the jungle to a listening post. The men were ordered to go in the dark, which greatly increased their chances of being killed.

"Somebody, one of the four of us, chambered a round in our M-16, so the sergeant was about to become DOA (dead on arrival)," Wise said.

Out of the darkness stepped Kauhahao, who said, "Hey guys, what's the problem?" Wise recalled.

The lieutenant then agreed to lead the men partially out to the listening post, and with that, the men followed.

"It is that sort of leadership and ability of somebody to basically say, 'I'm going to lead here,' and you lead by example, and that's what John Kauhahao did," Wise said.

It stuck with him the rest of his life, and since then, Wise said he's always tried to lead by example.

The following month in September 1969, Kauhahao was leading his battered and wounded men back to his company's main force after encountering the dug-in enemy battalion.

He had advanced to engage an approaching group of enemy when he was mortally wounded. Wise also witnessed Kauhaihao's medevac chopper get shot down as he was being hauled up in a "penetrator basket."

Wise doesn't think "Lt. K." would have made it.

"I don't think so, based on what I knew about his wounds," Wise said. "He had received, I believe, three wounds in the chest."

Wise said he's pleased Kauhaihao is being inducted into the Gallery of Heroes.

"He certainly was a hero to the men that served under him," Wise said.

*Reach William Cole at [wcole@honoluluadvertiser.com](mailto:wcole@honoluluadvertiser.com).*

#### **WHO'S WHO**

Gallery of Heroes inductees, hometown and conflict

Army Capt. Robert Caliboso, Honolulu, Vietnam

Army Capt. Linus Chock, Honolulu, Vietnam

Army Sgt. Douglas Factora, Honolulu, Vietnam

Army Pvt. Paulino Hernaez, O'ahu, Korea

Army Staff Sgt. George Iida, Pearl City, World War II

Army Staff Sgt. Edward Kaneshiro, Honolulu, Vietnam

Army 1st Lt. John Kauhaihao, Honaunau, Vietnam

# Former TAG buried with full military honors

By Deborah M. S. Murray

The State of Hawaii Department of defense said farewell to one of its own in a military funeral service, Jan. 5, at Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery, Kaneohe.

Retired Maj. Gen. Valentine A. Siefertmann died Dec. 30, 1997. He was buried with full military honors including a 13-gun volley, performed by the U.S. Army's Bravo Battery, 3rd Battalion, 7th Field Artillery; 21-Gun Salute by the U.S. Air Force's 15th Air Base Wing Honor Guard; and an F-15 flyover by the Hawaii Air National Guard.

Pallbearers for the ceremony were soldiers and airmen of the Hawaii National Guard.

A prayer was given by Ron Faux, pastor of Kailua United Methodist Church.

"Today, we honor and bid farewell to Maj. Gen. Valentine A. Siefertmann a visionary leader, a pioneer, and a citizen-airman who lives on in his many accomplishments and contributions to the State of Hawaii, Department of Defense," said Maj. Gen. Edward V. Richardson, the adjutant general.

Siefertmann was the state adjutant general and director of State Civil Defense from 1973 to 1981. He served as the commander of the Hawaii Air National Guard from 1953 to 1973, before he was selected adjutant general.

His accomplishments include working closely with the U.S. Air Force to allow the Hawaii Air Guard to assume the air defense alert mission of the Hawaiian



Sgt. 1st Class Stephen M. Lum

Islands in 1956; establishing a mobile communications squadron, which today is the 201st Combat Communications Group; helping to modernize the Post-Vietnam Hawaii Army National Guard aviation program; and, under his direction, Hawaii became the first state to get involved in marijuana eradication efforts in the 1970s.

"Much of what we ... are today can be traced to the hard work and vision of General Siefertmann," said Richardson. "He guided our growth, secured the funding to build a number of outstanding facilities, and forged our role in national defense, as well as an in-

creased role in the safety and well-being of our state and communities."

"Forty-two years after his vision became a reality, those of us who worked with him know that without his vision... without his guidance in building facilities... without his direction and unrelenting quest for excellence, this achievement would not have been possible."

His wife, the former Pauline F. Capanas of Kahuku; sons Franklin and Dickerson Smith, James, Robert, and John; daughters, Valarie Way and Gail Lawrence; 16 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren survive him.

30th anniversary of '68 activation remembered

## Lieutenant K's Vietnam heroics recalled

By Sgt. 1st Class Aaron R. Pollick  
Historical Section

Lieutenant K. That's what his men called him in Vietnam. They couldn't pronounce his name so they nicknamed him "Lieutenant K."

First Lt. John Kuulei Kauhahao, born and raised on the Kona coast of the Big Island, did what most local boys would do, went to school, made a living, raised a family and like most loved to fish. A devoted husband and father of four, John was a person who learned quickly, was athletic and had a great deal of strength and stamina said his family friends.

Hawaii Army National Guard Officer Candidate School, Class 06-68 classmates thought of him as fair, enthusiastic and cooperative. He was a man who was always willing to help someone else. Kauhahao, a member of the Hawaii Guard's Company C, 2nd Battalion, 299th Infantry out of Honokaa, was commissioned just two months after the call-up on May 13, 1968. Just a little over a year later, John was reassigned with Company B, 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry, of the 1st Cavalry Division.

### "The Mission"

Lieutenant K's story of heroism began Sept. 5, 1969. Kauhahao was briefed by his OCS classmate 2nd Lt.



Kauhahao

Zenon K. Wong prior to his reconnaissance patrol near Tay Ninh, South Vietnam.

He was advised that there were unknown numbers of enemy bunkers hidden in his sector of patrol. His mission: to seek and destroy the bunkers. He was willing and ready.

Kauhahao preferred hand grenades to rifle fighting and favored fragmentation grenades. At least 30 were fixed on and over his gear and clothing, so many that it looked like armor.

Lieutenant K's search for the enemy bunkers was relatively short. He and 25 men from his platoon found a strand of blue communication wire in the scrub brush. They carefully traced the wire to its source. Then the battle began.

Fire erupted savagely from a bunker complex on the platoon's flank. It was instantly clear that the GIs were

out numbered and they could only drop for cover. Kauhahao's cover was a mound of dirt. He knew his platoon was caught in a crossfire put down by a large North Vietnam force in thick jungle terrain. Recognizing his unit's precarious position, he hacked an opening through the bamboo growing over the dirt mound and began a one-man war. In the next 15 minutes he threw 30 hand grenades. When his own supply dwindled, his men tossed theirs up to him. The lieutenant kept grabbing and tossing. Minute after minute until the battleground was littered with enemy dead, he drew fire upon himself again and again so that his men could sight the enemy gunners and bring them under suppressive fire. Kauhahao then directed the withdrawal of his men and crawled more than 100 meters over

fire-swept terrain to drag vital equipment to the rear and help wounded soldiers to a position of safety.

Later, as he and his men moved to rejoin the company's main force, Kauhahao sighted an enemy squad moving toward his platoon. He advanced toward them, opened fire, and was mortally wounded by their fire. It was said that after the battle a newspaperman heard of John K. Kauhahao and wanted to do a story on him. The men eyed the newsman curiously. "Oh, you mean Lieutenant K. Listen man, you know, he saved our lives out there. Just say he was the greatest; that's all, the greatest."

### Recognition

For his extraordinary heroism, Kauhahao was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, the highest award for valor to be given to anyone called up with the 29th Infantry Brigade.

Mrs. Shirley Kauhahao and her four children also received a Bronze Star medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster for heroism, earned by her husband in an earlier engagement, as well as the Air Medal, Purple Heart and seven other awards.

*Editor's notes: Story based on materials gathered from the Honolulu Star-Bulletin, Hawaii Army National Guard records and the Hawaii Guardsman (Guard's historical publication from 1950 to 1973, prior to the pupukahi).*

**"Build me a son, O Lord, who will be strong enough to know when he is weak, and brave enough to face himself when he is afraid, one who will be proud and unbending in honest defeat, and humble and gentle in victory."**

— General Douglas MacArthur

## In memory of Sgt. Maj. Harry T. Nishida

Sgt. Maj. Harry T. Nishida, 44, a full-time intelligence sergeant and security specialist with the Hawaii Army National Guard's plans, operations and military support section, passed away, March 22. Services, with full military honors, were held at Mililani Memorial Cemetery Chapel, March 30.

Nishida, graduated from Waipahu High School in 1971 and joined the Hawaii Guard's 487th Field Artillery in 1972. His mili-

tary career included tours with the Hawaii Military Academy and the Hawaii Army Guard aviation units. His full-time Guard career began as a supply sergeant for Troop E, 19th Cavalry and later as chief intelligence sergeant with the 1st Battalion, 193rd Aviation (Attack Helicopter). He joined the Army Guard headquarters in 1990.

Harry lived by two primary noncommissioned officer rules:

- 1- Lead by example
  - 2- Never forget rule number one.
- Nishida's leadership, enthusiasm, and hard work contributed significantly to the protection of our equipment, our readiness and our ability to provide emergency support to the state during disasters.

Ever the professional, Harry often quoted the NCO guide, noting "The good officer knows that a good NCO can get the job done. The good NCO knows that the good officer will let him do it."

"Harry was a good NCO," said

Col. Vern. T. Miyagi, his friend and co-worker.

His military awards include the Legion of Merit (posthumously awarded), Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, and Army Achievement Medal (3rd Oak Leaf Cluster).

The Hawaii National Guard family is deeply saddened by Sgt. Maj. Nishida's passing and our sympathy goes out to his parents Harry N. and Ella, brother Sheldon, sisters Wanda and Robin, and niece Ashley-Ann.



**HCR218**

Submitted on: 4/15/2013

Testimony for PSM on Apr 16, 2013 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Barbara Dalton	Individual	Support	No

PO Box 1011  
Captain Cook, HI 96704  
April 15, 2013

Senator Will Espero, Chair, and members of the  
State of Hawaii Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Aloha,

I'm writing today to support HCR218, encouraging the United States Congress to posthumously award the Congressional Medal of Honor to First Lieutenant John Kuulei Kauhahao of South Kona, Hawaii, who was killed in Vietnam in 1969.

Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs might not know that Hawaii Island became home to countless Vietnam veterans after the war. These quiet heroes found refuge in the Big Island's undiscovered beauty and isolation, and for years, survived virtually alone in the island's remote locales, asking nothing in return for their service.

In the 1980s, a traveling, half-size replica of Washington D.C.'s Vietnam Veterans Memorial visited Kona, and Vietnam veterans turned out in droves to honor their fallen comrades. In the early 1990s, the Veterans Administration opened the first "Vet Center" in Kailua-Kona and for the first time, these veterans began to find their voices and receive services.

To award the Congressional Medal of Honor to Lieutenant Kauhahao would honor all the Vietnam vets who have lived and died on Hawaii Island. As the spouse of one such veteran and the former co-worker of many more, I can assure you that they might not speak loudly for this posthumous honor to Lieutenant Kauhahao, but will most certainly appreciate the well-deserved recognition due their fellow soldier.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

Barbara Dalton  
808-328-0408