

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HCR 60, HD1 REQUESTING THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF
DEFENSE TO ESTABLISH A VETERAN WOMEN SERVICES COORDINATOR
POSITION WITHIN THE OFFICE OF VETERANS SERVICES

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

BY

MR. RONALD P. HAN, JR.
DIRECTOR OF OFFICE OF VETERANS SERVICES

March 27, 2013

Chair morning Chair Takai, Vice Chair Ito, and Committee members:

I am Ron Han, Director of the Office of Veterans Services (OVS). I appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony in support of the concepts on House Concurrent Resolution 60, HD1.

This Resolution would establish a Veteran Women Services Coordinator within the Advisory Board on Veterans Services. The State of Hawaii has approximately 11,744 women veterans; this much needed position would gather and distribute information about services available to women military members and veterans; attend national conferences pertaining to programs and participate in workshops to ensure that women veterans have a knowledgeable contact person who is able to direct veterans to the appropriate resources and assist counselors of OVS with women veteran's issues.

The OVS and VA recognizes the strong need to develop programs and to address pertinent issues affecting this fastest growing group of veterans.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak on behalf of Hawaii's veteran community.

Carswell J. Ross, Jr., M.A.
94-1020 Puana Street
Waipahu, Hawaii 96797

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

Wednesday, March 27, 2013
8:30 Conference Room 312, State Capitol

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 60
REQUESTING THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO ESTABLISH A
VETERAN WOMEN SERVICES COORDINATOR POSITION WITHIN THE OFFICE OF
VETERANS SERVICES

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

I'm Carswell Ross, Veterans Services Coordinator Emeritus member of the Office of Veterans Services (OVS). I appreciate this opportunity to testify in strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 60.

This proposed Resolution would pave the way for the establishment of a Veteran Women Services Coordinator position within the Office of Veterans Services. As the Resolution states these are approximately 12,000 women veterans in Hawaii. Many of these women face hardships due to events which occurred while they were serving their county. A Veteran Women Services Coordinator can assist and refer these women to available services within the community.

I also request that Reservist (Air or Army) be added to list of military organization from which a candidate may be selected.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on House Concurrent Resolution 60.

vmitestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2013 11:14 AM
To: vmitestimony
Cc: greenlee@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HCR60 on Mar 27, 2013 08:30AM*

HCR60

Submitted on: 3/26/2013

Testimony for VMI on Mar 27, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ann Greenlee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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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vmitestimony

From: Rachel [mama.smurf.j@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2013 5:50 PM
To: vmitestimony
Subject: Testimony in support of HCR60 HD1

Hawaii Military Women's Task Force

Rachel James, Secretary

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS, MILITARY, INTRNL AFFAIRS, CULTURE AND THE ARTS

Rep. K. Mark Takai, Chair Rep. Ken Ito, Vice Chair

Hearing on HCR60 HD1 PROPOSED, **Requesting the State Department of Defense to establish a veteran women services coordinator position within the Office of Veteran's Services.**

DATE: Wednesday, March 27, 2013 TIME: 8:30 a.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 312

Aloha Chair Takai, Vice Chair Ito and Committee Members,

I am Rachel James secretary of The Hawaii Military Women's Task Force and, we are in **strong**

support of this measure.

The Task Force was formed by the Legislature in 2012 to address the needs of active duty and veteran military women in Hawaii. We submitted a report to the 2013 Legislature that detailed preliminary findings concerning our women warriors. We found that military sexual trauma (MST) is rampant in the armed services, that homelessness and joblessness along with PTSD are some of the major problems that our women face.

We began an assessment of services that are currently available and noted some gaps, most notably a lack of coordination between civilian services and our VA systems. We found that specific training at our medical schools does not include training for MST. We also recognized a need for more data on the numbers of military women in Hawaii, as well as data on the aforementioned issues of MST, homelessness, joblessness and PTSD.

We made a number of recommendations as to the way forward. Among them was the creation of a Military Women's Coordinator.

This proposed Resolution would pave the way for the establishment of a Veteran Women Services Coordinator position within the Office of Veterans Services. This coordinator could aid with the process of helping the approximately 12,000 women veterans in Hawaii to move forward in their lives. He or She can help the OVS to collect data, integrate services and move forward on the Task Force's recommendations.

Hawaii's military women have served our nation often at great cost to their health, their lives and too often to their human dignity. As a state we need to recognize their sacrifice by addressing their needs, in and out of the service.

We also request that Reservist (Air or Army) be added to list of military organizations from which a candidate may be selected.

Mahalo for allowing me to testify

Rachel James
Secretary, Hawai`i Military Women's Task Force

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Chelsea Fernandez
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COMMITTEE ON VETERANS, MILITARY, INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS,
CULTURE AND THE ARTS
Rep. K. Mark Takai, Chair
Rep. Ken Ito, Vice Chair

Hearing on HCR60 HD1 PROPOSED, Requesting the State Department of Defense to establish a veteran women services coordinator position within the Office of Veteran's Services.

DATE: Wednesday, March 27, 2013
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PLACE: Conference Room 312

Aloha Chair Takai, Vice Chair Ito and Committee Members:

My name is Chelsea Fernandez, Governor's Advisory Board on Veterans Services, Maui Representative and Hawaii Women Military Veterans Task Force Board Member. I appreciate this opportunity to testify in **strong support** of House Concurrent Resolution 60 HD1 Proposed.

This proposed Resolution to open a Women Veteran Services Coordinator position within the Office of Veterans Services would help to establish our goal to provide a better way to help our growing population of women veterans in the State of Hawaii.

Being a woman veteran myself, it would be a great service to have a dedicated person to go to and that can be depended upon to direct me to programs that would be helpful. Also having this person be a veteran will help to build that trust and support that is needed for our women veterans.

I also request that Reservist (Air or Army) be added to list of military organizations from which a candidate may be selected.

Mahalo for allowing me to testify

Chelsea Fernandez
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Hawaii Military Women's Task Force
Ann S. Freed, Member

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS, MILITARY, INTRNL AFFAIRS, CULTURE AND THE ARTS

Rep. K. Mark Takai, Chair
Rep. Ken Ito, Vice Chair

Hearing on HCR60 HD1 PROPOSED, **Requesting the State Department of Defense to establish a veteran women services coordinator position within the Office of Veteran's Services.**

DATE: Wednesday, March 27, 2013

TIME: 8:30 a.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 312

Aloha Chair Takai, Vice Chair Ito and Committee Members,

I am Ann S. Freed, member of The Hawaii Military Women's Task Force and, we are in **strong support** of this measure.

The Task Force was formed by the Legislature in 2012 to address the needs of active duty and veteran military women in Hawaii. We submitted a report to the 2013 Legislature that detailed preliminary findings concerning our women warriors. We found that military sexual trauma (MST) is rampant in the armed services, that homelessness and joblessness along with PTSD are some of the major problems that our women face.

We began an assessment of services that are currently available and noted some gaps, most notably a lack of coordination between civilian services and our VA systems. We found that specific training at our medical schools does not include training for MST. We also recognized a need for more data on the numbers of military women in Hawaii, as well as data on the aforementioned issues of MST, homelessness, joblessness and PTSD.

We made a number of recommendations as to the way forward. Among them was the creation of a Military Women's Coordinator.

This proposed Resolution would pave the way for the establishment of a Veteran Women Services Coordinator position within the Office of Veterans Services. This coordinator could aid with the process of helping the approximately 12,000 women veterans in Hawaii to move forward in their lives. He or She can help the OVS to collect data, integrate services and move forward on the Task Force's recommendations.

Hawaii's military women have served our nation often at great cost to their health, their lives and too often to their human dignity. As a state we need to recognize their sacrifice by addressing their needs, in and out of the service.

We also request that Reservist (Air or Army) be added to list of military organizations from which a candidate may be selected.

Mahalo for allowing me to testify

Ann S. Freed
Member, Hawai'i Military Women's Task Force

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Hawaii Women's Military Veterans Task Force
Kathleen A. Eisenbrey, Chair

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS, MILITARY, INTRNL AFFAIRS, CULTURE AND THE ARTS

Rep. K. Mark Takai, Chair

Rep. Ken Ito, Vice Chair

Hearing on HCR60 HD1 PROPOSED, **Requesting the State Department of Defense to establish a veteran women services coordinator position within the Office of Veteran's Services.**

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PLACE: Conference Room 312

Aloha Chair Takai, Vice Chair Ito and Committee Members,

I am Kathleen A. Eisenbrey, chair of The Hawaii Women's Military Veterans Task Force. On 25 March 2013, 9 of 13 board members voted in support of HCR60 HD1 PROPOSED. According to our By Laws, this majority enables the Hawaii Women's Military Veterans Task Force to strongly support this measure.

Senate Resolution No. 6 S.D.1. directed the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Hawaii Office of Veterans Services to develop comprehensive programs and services to address the needs of women veterans and women serving on active duty orders. The Task Force submitted a report to the 2013 Legislature presenting an analysis of the challenges faced by women veterans, including Military Sexual Trauma (MST), homelessness and joblessness along with PTSD.

The Task Force has conducted a preliminary assessment of services currently available; noteworthy gaps in services include an inherent lack of coordination between civilian services, Tricare and VA systems. The Task Force recognized the need for accurate data to properly estimate the number of women serving on active duty orders in Hawaii, as well as statistical data regarding the number of women veterans and women serving on active duty orders who experience MST, homelessness, joblessness, and PTSD.

The Task Force has made a number of recommendations, including the creation of a Military Women's Coordinator.

This proposed Resolution will provide support for the establishment of a Veteran Women Services Coordinator position within the Office of Veterans Services. This coordinator could aid with the process of helping an excess of 12,000 women veterans by assisting OVS to identify and address the unique needs of women veterans, integrate services, utilize the Task Force's recommendations, and synergize various Federal and State agencies to influence health policy.

The Task Force requests the addition of a Reservist (Air Force, Army or Navy) in addition to the current criteria of a Hawaii National Guardsman (Air or Army).

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Kathleen A. Eisenbrey
Chair, Hawaii Women's Military Veterans Task Force

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