

LATE TESTIMONY

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Sent: Monday, April 15, 2013 4:03 PM
To: PSMTestimony
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Subject: Submitted testimony for HCR60 on Apr 16, 2013 09:30AM
Attachments: HCR60 Vet Women's Coordinator.docx

HCR60

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
Ann S. Freed	Hawaii Military Women's Task Force	Support	Yes

Comments:

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

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Senator Will Espero, Chair
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

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

DATE: Tuesday, April 16, 2013
TIME: 9:30 a.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 312

Aloha Chair Espero, Vice Chair Baker 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 Women's Coordinator in the OVS.

This proposed Resolution would pave the way for the establishment of a Veteran Women Services Coordinator position. 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 recommend that "Reservists" be added to line 24 in regards to those qualified for the position.

Mahalo for allowing me to testify

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

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