

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 68 / HOUSE RESOLUTION 47  
URGING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE UNITED STATES  
CONGRESS TO SUPPORT THE AUTHORIZATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL  
OBLIGATION BONDS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A LONG-TERM CARE FACILITY FOR  
VETERANS CONTINGENT UPON THE RECEIPT OF FEDERAL FUNDS

PRESENTATION TO  
THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

BY  
MAJ GEN DARRYLL D. M. WONG  
ADJUTANT GENERAL AND DIRECTOR OF STATE CIVIL DEFENSE  
April 2, 2014

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Morikawa, and Members of the House Committee on Health.

I am Major General Darryll D. M. Wong, Adjutant General and Director of State Civil Defense. I am testifying in **SUPPORT** of House Concurrent Resolution 68 / House Resolution 47.

Hawaii continues to have an acute shortage of long-term care beds. This shortage impacts many of our growing number of veterans in our state. The benefits of providing additional long-term care facilities for veterans also extend to the community at large by reducing the overall shortage of long-term care beds.

To finance this new facility, the State will issue general obligations bonds to fund the State's share of the construction costs. The United States Congress must provide the matching Federal funds to make this new long-term care facility a reality.

This new facility will mirror the success of the Okutsu facility built in 2004. It will be a step toward reducing the significant shortage of long-term care beds and services available to qualified veterans.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in **SUPPORT** of House Concurrent Resolution 68 / House Resolution 47.

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE RESOLUTION 47/HOUSE CONCURRENT  
RESOLUTION 68 URGING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND  
THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO SUPPORT AUTHORIZATION OF THE  
ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION  
OF LONG-TERM CARE FACILITY FOR VETERANS CONTINGENT UPON THE  
RECEIPT OF FEDERAL FUNDS

PRESENTATION TO THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

BY

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

April 8, 2014

Chair Au Belatti, Vice Chair Morikawa 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 concepts in House Resolution 47 and House Concurrent Resolution 68.

This measure authorizes the issuance of GO bonds for the construction of a long-term care facility for veterans contingent upon the receipt of federal funds. The offset is 35% state funding and 65% federal funding.

The State of Hawaii in partnership with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has an opportunity to fix an ever increasing critical need in our community: long-term care resources and services for our veterans. With the success of the Yukio Okutsu State Veterans Home in Hilo, a second Veterans State Home is needed to fill the 173 bed shortfall (verified by VA based on our Veterans population State-wide) we are currently experiencing. OVS is expecting our State Veteran population to grow due to the drawdown of troops in Iraq, the forthcoming pullout from Afghanistan in 2014, and with defense budget cuts targeting existing end strength. More military members are attaining Veteran status. Additionally, there are growing numbers of aging World War II, Korean and Vietnam War veterans in need of health care that a skilled nursing facility would bring. This new State Veterans Home would also bring additional jobs and provide training synergy with our current and future health care professionals and providers stimulating our local economy.

The OVS supports the intent expressed in this measure as long as its implementation does not impact or replace the priorities set forth in the Executive Budget for Fiscal Year 2015.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of Hawaii's Veterans and their families in support of HC 47/HCR 68.



**HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS**

C O R P O R A T I O N

*Quality Healthcare For All*

**House Committee on Health  
Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair  
Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair**

Wednesday, April 2, 2014  
Conference Room 329  
8:30 a.m.  
Hawaii State Capitol

**Testimony Supporting House Concurrent Resolution 68 and House Resolution 47,  
Urging the President of the United States and the United States Congress to  
support the authorization of the issuance of GO bonds for the construction of a  
long-term care facility for veterans contingent upon the receipt of federal funds.**

Alice M. Hall  
Acting President and Chief Executive Officer  
Hawaii Health Systems Corporation

On behalf of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (HHSC) Corporate Board of Directors, thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in support of HCR 68/HR 47.

HHSC supports the this resolution, which asks the President and Congress to support House Bill 2074, which authorizes general obligation bonds for the construction of a long term care veterans facility contingent on the receipt of federal funds to assist with the costs. At this time, we are waiting for the feasibility study before making final commitments on a project but we support asking the federal government to support it so that we are prepared to go forward, in the event it is feasible.

We appreciate the Committee's focus on improving healthcare for our island communities. Thank you for the opportunity to testify before this committee.

3675 KILAUEA AVENUE • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816 • PHONE: (808) 733-4020 • FAX: (808) 733-4028

---

HILO • HONOKAA • KAU • KONA • KOHALA • WAIMEA • KAPAA • WAILUKU • KULA • LANAI • HONOLULU  
[www.hhsc.org](http://www.hhsc.org) <<http://www.hhsc.org>>



Hawaii Chapter, MOAA  
P.O. Box 1185  
Kailua, Hawaii 96734-1185

**Testimony of  
Thomas Smyth**

**Military Officers Association of America, Hawaii Chapter**

**Before the**

**Committee on Health**

**Wednesday, April 2, 2014, 8:30 am, Room 329**

**HCR 68 / HR 47 Urging the President of the United States And  
the United States Congress To Support the Authorization of the  
Issuance of General Obligation Bonds For the Construction of a Long-  
Term Care Facility for Veterans Contingent Upon Receipt of Federal  
Funds**

**Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Morikawa and Committee Members**

**Our chapter of 500 retired and currently serving officers of the  
Uniformed Services strongly support HCR 68 and HR 47. These important  
resolutions would allow issuance of General Obligation Bonds for  
construction of a veteran's Long-term Care Facility if federal funds are also  
provided.**

**We look forward to the opening of this much needed care program.  
With more and more veterans growing older and with many afflicted with  
PTSD and other mental illnesses, there is a very strong need for such a  
facility. Unfortunately Hawaii has a significant shortage of long-term care  
facilities across the state. This measure would allow a needed facility to be  
built and might well induce federal funding, not now available.**

**Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.**

**LATE**

**Testimony to the House Committee on Health**

**Wednesday, April 03, 2014**

**8:30 AM**

**Conference Room 329**

**RE: HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 68/ HOUSE RESOLUTION 47, URGING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS SUPPORT THE AUTHORIZATION OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A LONG-TERM CARE FACILITY FOR VETERANS CONTIGENT UPON THE RECEIPT OF FEDERAL FUNDS**

Chair Au Belatti, Vice Chair Morikawa, and members of the committee.

My name is Charles Ota and I am the Vice President for Military Affairs at The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii (The Chamber). I am here to state The Chamber's *support* of House Concurrent Resolution No. 68 and House Resolution No. 47, Urging the President of the United States and the United States Congress to support the authorization of general obligation bonds for the construction of a long-term care facility for veterans contingent upon the receipt of federal funds.

The state has a significant shortage of long term care facilities to meet the demands of an ever-growing veteran's population. Across the nation, the Office of Veterans Affairs estimates that more than one million members of the armed forces will become veterans within the next five years. This will exacerbate an already severe shortage of long-term care facilities in Hawaii where there are currently an estimated one hundred twenty thousand veterans in Hawaii, with forty-four thousand over age sixty-five.

Despite Hawaii's large veteran population, we note that there is only one veteran's care facility, which was jointly funded by the federal and state governments and completed in 2004. This facility services veterans on the Island of Hawaii and has operated successfully over the years. However, an additional facility is sorely needed to properly service Hawaii's extremely high per capita veteran population.

We concur that no bond issuance should be made unless the federal government appropriates a percentage of funds needed to complete the facility.

In light of the above, we recommend approval.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.