

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2597 SD1
A BILL RELATING TO MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR A WAR MEMORIAL

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

BY

MAJOR GENERAL DARRYLL D. M. WONG
ADJUTANT GENERAL AND DIRECTOR OF STATE CIVIL DEFENSE
March 12, 2014

Chair Takai, Vice Chair Ito, and Members of the House Committee on Veterans, Military, & International Affairs, & Culture and the Arts

I am Major General Darryll D. M. Wong, State Adjutant General and the Director of State Civil Defense. I am testifying in **SUPPORT** of Senate Bill 2597 SD1.

We continue to move forward toward establishing a memorial honoring the veterans of the Persian Gulf War, Operation Desert Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation New Dawn, Global War on Terrorism, Homeland Defense, and Operation Noble Eagle, and those who have protected our borders by land, sea, and air.

This funding request follows the submittal of the Gulf War Memorial Task Force report required by Act 139 of the 2013 Legislature. The study solicited public comments of the best locations for the proposed memorial and for inputs on design comments. The Governor's office transmitted this report to the Speaker of the House and the Senate President on January 10, 2014.

This bill appropriates funds for the planning, design, and construction of this veteran's memorial. I ask this committee to support this bill so we can continue toward our goal of this memorial.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of Senate Bill 2597 SD1.

Carswell J. Ross, Jr. M.A., Chief Master Sergeant, USAF Ret.
94-1020 Puana Street
Waipahu, HI 96797

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2597, SD1
A BILL RELATING TO MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR A WAR MEMORIAL

Wednesday, March 12, 2014 @ 8:30 am

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

Chair Takai, Vice Chair Ito, and Members of the House Committee on Veterans, Military, & International Affairs, & Culture and the Arts, good morning.

I strongly **support** SB 2597, SD1 which appropriates funds for the planning, design, and construction of a Hawaii Gulf War Memorial to be located at the Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery in Kaneohe, on the island of Oahu and replicas of the memorial to be located at state veterans' cemeteries statewide. I was selected and served as a member of the Task Force which sought to determine the need and placement of this memorial. We met and a committee received public testimony and published and received comment through the use of a statewide survey. The results were presented to the legislature as a report. In short the Task Force found that there was sentiment for such a memorial, that the memorial should include the names and other information about the military members honored on the memorial and that placement of the memorial in the Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery was appropriate provided that replicas be placed within Neighbor Island Veteran Cemeteries.

Based upon public input and the need to complete the memorials the request for five million dollars appears reasonable.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony **in support** of this measure.



Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs

P. O. Box 1135
Honolulu, Hawai`i 96807

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS, MILITARY &
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS & CULTURE AND THE ARTS
**SB2597, SD1 (SSCR2772) MAKING AN APPROPRIATION
FOR A WAR MEMORIAL**

Aloha Chairman Takai, vice chair Ito and members of the House Committee on Veterans, Military and International Affairs and Culture and the Arts. I am Soulee Stroud, president of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs here to speak in support of this bill that would provide funds for a memorial to honor military veterans of the Persian Gulf War, Operation Desert Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation New Dawn, Global War on Terrorism, Homeland Defense and Operation Noble Eagle and others who have protected our borders.

As a result of Act 139, SLH 2013, a Gulf War Memorial Task Force of twelve distinguished members was created to come up with a plan to develop plans to build a memorial. The TF was given a year during which time public meetings were advertised, held, a survey taken and input invited.

Four primary locations that emerged from the meetings and deliberations were: Waikiki Natatorium Memorial Park, Fort DeRussy, the State Capitol District and the Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery(HSVC) in Kaneohe.

After careful consideration, the Task Force recommended the Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery as the best location for the Memorial. There are many reasons, among them: an EIS would not be needed; abundant parking; beauty of the site and mountainous background; it is State owned and maintained with weekend security. Among other issues, a goal is that at some future date the HSVC site will qualify for national shrine status, the highest standard that a State or Federal Veterans Cemetery can achieve.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

Roxanne Kamalu

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 09, 2014 3:21 AM
To: vmitestimony
Cc: dne39@isp.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2597 on Mar 12, 2014 08:30AM

SB2597

Submitted on: 3/9/2014

Testimony for VMI on Mar 12, 2014 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dennis Egge	NAUS Hawaii Chapter	Support	No

Comments: NAUS Hawaii Chapter is glad to see funding for this memorial moving forward, so soon after the hostilities have ended. We previously testified in favor of siting this memorial on the State Capitol grounds, adjacent to their fallen Korean and Vietnam war comrades. At your service, Dennis Egge; Chapter President

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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Date: March 9, 2014

To: The Honorable K. Mark Takai, Chair
The Honorable Ken Ito, Vice Chair
Committee on Veterans, Military, and International Affairs, and Culture and the Arts

From: Mike Golojuch, Lt Col, USAF (Ret), Chair, Advisory Board on Veterans' Services

Subject: Strong Support for SB2597, SD1

As the Chair, Advisory Board for the Office of Veterans' Services representing over 170,000 Hawaii veterans, let me state that we support SB2597. It is fitting in the course of American tradition to recognize all service members who have serviced in various military combat missions since the initial Gulf War.

It is extremely important that general obligation bonds be authorized for the Gulf War Memorial so the proper planning, design, and construction can be accomplished at the earliest opportunity.

I strongly urge that you pass this measure so the general obligation bonds are issued.

Thank you for the opportunity to express the views of the Advisory Board.

Roxanne Kamalu

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2014 11:30 AM
To: vmitestimony
Cc: keith.ribbentrop@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2597 on Mar 12, 2014 08:30AM

SB2597

Submitted on: 3/11/2014

Testimony for VMI on Mar 12, 2014 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Keith T. Ribbentrop	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly encourage your support of this measure.

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LATE

March 11, 2014

**Testimony in Support of SENATE BILL 2597 SD1
Relating to Making an Appropriation for a War Memorial Before the
House Committee on Veterans, Military, & International Affairs & Culture and the Arts
Hearing On Wednesday, March 12, 2014, 8:30 A.M.
In Conference Room 312**

Chair Takai, Vice Chair Ito and Committee Members,

The Department of Hawaii, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) represents 3,800 members in 20 Posts located throughout the State of Hawaii. VFW is a federally chartered national association of soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen who have served the United States of America in wars, campaigns, and expeditions on foreign soil or in hostile waters.

S.B. 2597, SD1 Authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds and appropriates the proceeds therefrom for fiscal year 2014-2015 to the office of veterans' services for the planning, design, and construction of a memorial honoring the veterans of the Persian Gulf War, Operation Desert Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation New Dawn, Global War on Terrorism, Homeland Defense, and Operation Noble Eagle, and those who protected our borders by land, sea, and air.

VFW Hawaii concurs with the findings of the Committee on Ways and Means: "veterans have made tremendous sacrifices for the State and country" and with that committee's recommendation to fund and raise a memorial for those veterans who served in the periods of war identified in this measure. VFW Hawaii understands that the site for this memorial on Oahu will be the Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery in Kaneohe; and that replicas of this memorial will be located at State Veterans Cemeteries on each neighbor island.

VFW Hawaii members are grateful for your efforts to recognize, by this memorial, the service and sacrifice of men and women from Hawaii during the periods of war identified in this measure,

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of S.B. 2597, SD1.

Lawrence M.G. Enomoto

Lawrence M.G. Enomoto
VFW Hawaii State Legislative Liaison

LATE

Roxanne Kamalu

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2014 10:12 PM
To: vmitestimony
Cc: sonnyfernan@msn.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2597 on Mar 12, 2014 08:30AM

SB2597

Submitted on: 3/11/2014

Testimony for VMI on Mar 12, 2014 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stanley Y. Fernandez Sr.	Individual	Support	No

Comments: In Support of SB2597. Many of our Hawaii soldiers, airmen, marines, sailors , and Coast Guardsmen have given the ultimate sacrifice for our Nation. It is fitting to honor these heroes with a permanent memorial for all to remember their sacrifice. We have memorials for the Korean/Vietnam, WWII but none for OEF/Iraq/Afghanistan heroes. Urge your support for funding for SB2597.

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LATE

Roxanne Kamalu

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2014 8:19 PM
To: vmitestimony
Cc: greenlee@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2597 on Mar 12, 2014 08:30AM*

SB2597

Submitted on: 3/11/2014

Testimony for VMI on Mar 12, 2014 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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LATE

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2597, SD1
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR A WAR MEMORIAL

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

BY

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

March 12, 2014

Good morning Chair Takai, Vice Chair Ito and members of the Committee:

I'm Ron Han, Director of the State Office of Veterans Services (OVS). I appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony to **in support** of Senate Bill 2597, SD1, Making Appropriation for a War Memorial which appropriates funds to the office of veterans services for the planning, design, and construction of the Hawaii Gulf War Memorial to be located at the Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery in Kaneohe, on the island of Oahu, and replicas of the Memorial to be located at State Veterans Cemeteries statewide. Also, that support of this bill does not impact or replace the priorities set forth in the Executive Budget for Fiscal Year 2015.

Since the Task Force has held meetings, a public hearing, and has used public inputs from a questionnaire, a formal legislative report has been published. Based on the data collected and proposed site selection; there is now a need to request for funds to build and establish a memorial honoring veterans of the Persian Gulf War, and campaigns that include Operation Desert Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, Global War on Terrorism, Homeland Defense, Operation Noble Eagle and Operation New Dawn.

Given the scope of the planning required to adequately represent the wars and campaigns mentioned, OVS would like to recommend that the same working Task Force ascend to Committee status and continue the planning and building of the Memorial. Resources to employ a contractor who would gather information concerning structures and symbols that represent each part of the memorials will be the first order of business with updates provided in an open forum.

Given our present economic situation, this project could also help create construction and other jobs that will aid in our economic recovery process.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer my comments.

LATE



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 Veterans, Military & International Affairs, & Culture and the Arts
Wednesday, February 12, 2014, 8:30 am, Room 312
SB 2597 SD1 Making an Appropriation for a War Memorial
Chair Takai, Vice Chair Ito and Committee Members**

Our chapter of 500 retired and currently serving officers of the Uniformed Services strongly supports SB 2597 SD1, as amended, which funds the planning, design and construction of a War Memorial to honor those who have fought in the several conflicts since the end of the Vietnam War.

We note that the very public process to develop the design concepts and possible location of such an important and long overdue memorial allowed veterans and their families and friends to offer specific thoughts on such a memorial. I don't believe that such an open transparent process has ever been used before. I do believe that this process will result in a well designed and important addition to the existing memorials to earlier wars.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.