

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
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IN REPLY REFER TO:

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

January 29, 2013

**SB 539
RELATING TO VETERANS**

Senate Committee(s) on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
& Transportation and International Affairs

The Department of Transportation (DOT) appreciates veterans and respectfully recognizes the merits to reward their sacrifices for duty, honor and country with lower fees and charges.

However, the DOT **opposes** SB 539 because it would have an adverse impact on fees that support the operations, maintenance, and construction of our highways.

This lower fee for the state vehicle weight tax will reduce the revenues deposited into the State Highway Fund. The state vehicle weight tax is estimated to make up 26 per cent of the total State Highway Fund Revenues for fiscal year 2014 and any proposed decrease would have a negative impact on the health of the State Highway Fund.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



LATE TESTIMONY

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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 539, RELATING TO VETERANS

PRESENTATION TO THE

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL
AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

AND

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

BY

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

January 29, 2013

Chair Espero and Chair English 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 Senate Bill 539.

This measure would exempt certain total and permanently disabled veterans from paying any motor vehicle registration expenses. People who qualify must be a resident of Hawaii and be a 100% disabled veteran as determined by the United States Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) or its predecessor and in receipt of disability retirement pay. These individuals shall not be required to pay any motor vehicle registration expenses.

Recommended Changes: Paragraph C(2) on Page 4

Discharge must be other than dishonorable from the United States uniformed armed forces;

I believe that this measure is necessary to give back to those who have served valiantly in uniform in support and in sacrifice to our country. The freedoms we enjoy today and been paved by their dedicated and honored service.

We defer to the agency with direct responsibility for implementation.

The OVS supports the concepts and intent expressed in this measure as long as its implementation does not impact or replace the priorities set forth in the Executive Biennium Budget for Fiscal Biennium 2013-2015.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of Hawaii's Veterans and their families in support of SB 539.