



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 540 (SSCR 96)
RELATING TO VETERANS

PRESENTATION TO THE

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

BY

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

February 21, 2013

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani 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 540 (SSCR 96).

This measure ensures Hawaii's eligibility requirements for the burial of members of the United States Armed Forces and their dependents conforms to the criteria established by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) regarding eligibility for burial in a national or state cemetery. Without approval of this Bill and subsequent amendment to the Hawaii Revised Statute, VA National Cemetery Administrators could preclude providing matching federal dollars for future Capital Improvement Projects or improvements for our aging cemeteries. Furthermore, VA could request restitution of funding previously provided for these programs if the residency requirement is enacted or enforced.

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

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of Hawaii's Veterans and their families in support of SB 540, (SSCR 96).