



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 540 (HSCR 1158)  
RELATING TO VETERANS

PRESENTATION TO THE

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

BY

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

April 1, 2013

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto 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 (HSCR 1158).

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, (HSCR1158).



**LATE**

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS  
Headquarters: Department of State of Hawaii  
438 Hobron Lane, Suite 407  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96815

April 1, 2013

**Testimony in Support of SENATE BILL 540  
Relating to Veterans  
Before the  
House of Representatives Committee on Finance,  
Hearing On Monday, April 1, 2013, 2:00 P.M.  
In Conference Room 308**

Chair Luke, Vice Chairs Nishimoto & Johanson, and Committee Members,

The Department of Hawaii, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW), represents more than 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. 540 Makes permanent provisions relating to residency requirements for the burial in veterans cemeteries of armed service members and their dependents.

Act 307, Session of 2012, amended Section 363-5 H.R.S. to remove the residency requirement for burial in veterans cemeteries; amended the eligibility requirements of Section 363-5 in accordance with current Veterans Affairs and National Cemeteries Administration Regulations; and repealed Section 363-7 H.R.S. that had given county councils discretion on whether to allow burial of nonresident servicemen and dependents. Act 307 was effective *“upon its approval provided that on June 30, 2015, this Act shall be repealed, and section 363-5 [H.R.S.] shall be reenacted in the form in which it read on the day prior to the effective date of [Act 307].”* S.B.540 would delete this proviso, thereby making permanent NO residency requirements for burial in veterans cemeteries on all islands of the State of Hawaii.

VFW Hawaii members fully support this measure that will completely repeal the pending reenactment of provisions to permit only resident service members, veteran and dependent to be buried in State veterans cemeteries.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of S.B. 540.

*Lawrence M.G. Enomoto*

Lawrence M.G. Enomoto  
VFW Hawaii State Legislative Liaison

**LATE**

**SB540**

Submitted on: 4/1/2013

Testimony for FIN on Apr 1, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

| Submitted By  | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Past VFW State<br>Commander Stanley Y.<br>Fernandez |              | Support            | No                 |

Comments: Urge Your kind support for SB540, Veterans Burial bill. On behalf of the Department of Hawaii, and 5000 members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, in Hawaii, we urge the Committee's strong support in the passage of this significant and important bill.

Stanley Y. Fernandez, Sr.  
Immediate Past State Commander  
Dept of Hawaii  
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States  
Phone: (808)256-5988  
Email: [sonnyfernan@msn.com](mailto:sonnyfernan@msn.com)

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