

# LATE TESTIMONY

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 541, RELATING TO VETERANS  
DISABILITY BENEFITS

PRESENTATION TO THE

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY  
AFFAIRS

BY

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

January 29, 2013

Chairs Espero, Vice Chair Baker 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 541**.

This measure seeks to assure that Veteran's compensation benefits become exempt from the claim of creditors and cannot be subject to additional terms, levies, or seizure. The benefits may not be awarded to any other person. However, this amendment will allow children and spouses in such cases to receive some of the benefits of the veteran.

This law will allow Veterans' benefits to remain protected from institutions that intend to profit from the benefits while allowing dependents receive benefits should the need arise. There are Federal prohibitions on the distribution of compensation benefits provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

We defer to the Department of Veterans Affairs, which has direct responsibility for payments to veterans and their family members, in determining the legitimacy of creditors' claims for payment.

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 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 541.