

LATE TESTIMONY

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 542, RELATING TO VETERANS
RIGHTS AND BENEFITS

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL
AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

BY

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Chair 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 Senate Bill 542 which prohibits protest within 300 feet of the entrance of any cemetery under control of the Office of Veterans' Services from 60 minutes before and 60 minutes after a funeral.

The OVS supports 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.

The OVS has direct responsibility for the Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery in Kaneohe; however, there are seven other veterans' cemeteries which are located on the neighbor islands to include Molokai and Lanai; which fall under the Counties. We believe this bill seeks to balance the rights of family members seeking to memorialize the veterans and individual protesters free speech rights.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak on behalf of Hawaii's veteran community.