STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 551, RELATING TO MEMORIAL

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

Good afternoon Chair Espero, Vice-Chair Baker, and members of the Committee:

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 551 as long as its implementation does not impact or replace the priorities set forth in the Executive Biennium Budget for Fiscal Biennium 2013-2015.

This bill requests that the Office of Veterans' Services with the assistance of the State Department of Accounting and General Services and Defense to create on the State Capitol grounds near the Korean and Vietnam War Memorials, an additional memorial(s) recognizing veterans of the Persian Gulf War, Operation Desert Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operation New Dawn. The bill also requires a report to the Legislature by January 1, 2014.

The OVS would like to recommend adding the Global War on Terrorism Homeland Defense and Operation Noble Eagle as well as for those service members who have protected our borders on the land, sea, and air. Given the scope of the planning required to adequately represent the Wars mentioned, the OVS would like to recommend that a Memorial Commission be established to address Veteran and community concerns and specific criterion for these memorials. Upon concept development and public review, a legislative report will be finalized. Funds to employ a contractor who would gather information concerning structures and symbols that represent each part of the memorials will be addressed in the next legislative session.

Given our present economic situation, this project could help create construction and other jobs that may aid in the recovery process.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer my comments.