

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1564 HD1
A BILL RELATING TO VETERANS

PRESENTATION TO
THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

BY
MAJOR GENERAL DARRYLL D. M. WONG
ADJUTANT GENERAL AND DIRECTOR OF STATE CIVIL DEFENSE
March 25, 2014

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and the Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means.

I am Major General Darryll D. M. Wong, Adjutant General and the Director of State Civil Defense. I am testifying in **SUPPORT** of House Bill 1564 House Draft 1.

Counties should coordinate and receive approval from the Office of Veterans' Services (OVS) when taking any action that impacts the State's obligation of maintaining veterans cemeteries in their counties. Counties should work with OVS during the process to establish a cemetery.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in **SUPPORT** of House Bill 1564 House Draft 1.



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**Testimony of
Thomas Smyth
Military Officers Association of America, Hawaii Chapter
Before the
Committee on Ways and Means
Tuesday, March 25, 2014, 9:10 pm, Room 211
HB 1564 HD1 Relating to Veterans
Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani and Committee Members**

Our chapter of 500 retired and currently serving officers of the Uniformed Services strongly supports HB 1564 HD1, as amended. This critically important bill requires the counties to get approval from the Office of Veteran Services, who manages our state wide network of VA cemeteries, before they can take any action that may negatively impact our VA cemeteries.

We understand that there have been incidents such as when the county controlled water to a cemetery was cut off, leaving it without irrigation. I suppose that county roads could be blocked for repairs or otherwise, denying access to family and cemetery workers.

This is not to deny the county the need to efficiently and economically manage its assets, just to require them to cooperate with cemetery officials with timely notice of activities and to understand the possible unusual impact on these important facilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.