

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1564  
RELATING TO VETERANS

PRESENTATION TO THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

BY

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

February 20, 2014

Chair Luke, Vice Chairs Nishimoto & Johanson 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** for the concepts in House Bill 1564 Relating to Veterans.

This measure requires the counties to obtain approval from the Office of Veterans Services prior to any action that may impact the State's obligation to establish and maintain Veterans' cemeteries.

The counties have proven in most cases to upholding the standards of the State and VA National Cemetery Administration regulations. County maintenance staff members must be aware that any changes that could affect cemetery operations negatively should be addressed to OVS for discussion, planning, and resolution even though they may not be a breach of county laws and statutes.

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 Budget for Fiscal Year 2015.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of Hawaii's Veterans and their families.

Date: February 18, 2014

To: The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair  
The Honorable Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair  
Committee on Finance

From: Mike Golojuch, Lt Col, USAF (Ret), Chair, Advisory Board on Veterans' Services

Subject: Strong Support for HB1564

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As the Chair, Advisory Board on Veterans' Services, let me state that we support HB1564. We do not believe that it is taking away from home rule. The intent is to ensure that all of our state veterans' cemeteries comply with federal requirements to receive federal funding.

This measure will also provide a more uniform compliance within all state veterans cemeteries. We always want to make sure that veterans are honored but we do not want to jeopardize funding or other federal support.

The Board urges that you pass this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to express the views of the Advisory Board.



Hawaii Chapter, MOAA  
P.O. Box 1185  
Kailua, Hawaii 96734-1185

**Testimony of  
Thomas Smyth  
Military Officers Association of America, Hawaii Chapter  
Before the  
Committee on Finance  
Thursday, February 20, 2014, 11:00 am, Room 308  
HB 1564 Relating to Veterans**

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

**Our chapter of 500 retired and currently serving officers of the Uniformed Services strongly supports HB 1564. 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.**

**finance1**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
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**To:** FINTestimony  
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**HB1564**

Submitted on: 2/18/2014

Testimony for FIN on Feb 20, 2014 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ann Greenlee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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**FIN-Jo**

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**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1564 on Feb 20, 2014 11:00AM

**HB1564**

Submitted on: 2/18/2014

Testimony for FIN on Feb 20, 2014 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Stanley Y. Fernandez Sr.	Individual	Support	No

Comments: In support of HB1564

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To: FINTestimony  
Cc: keith.ribbentrop@gmail.com  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1564 on Feb 20, 2014 11:00AM



**HB1564**

Submitted on: 2/19/2014

Testimony for FIN on Feb 20, 2014 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Keith T. Ribbentrop	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support this Bill.

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