

HB 1770 HD1

RELATING TO VETERANS.

Requires notation of veteran status on state driver's licenses and identification cards if desired by the applicant. Effective October 1, 2014. (HB1770 HD1)

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1770, HD1 (HSCR 574-14) RELATING TO
VETERANS

PRESENTATION TO THE

SENATE COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL &
MILITARY AFFAIRS AND TRANSPORTATION & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

BY

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

March 18, 2014

Chairs Espero & English; Vice Chairs Baker & Dela Cruz and respective
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
House Bill 1770, HD1, Relating to Veterans.

This measure requires notation of veteran status on state driver's licenses and
identification cards if desired by the applicant.

For the record, the legal definition as established in 38 United States Code
(U.S.C.) says that "a veteran is defined as a person who served in the *active*
military, naval, or air service, and who was *discharged or released* there from
under conditions other than dishonorable." For federal Veterans Affairs benefits
and entitlements, this definition remains in-tact. However, forty seven States in
the nation have passed some type of legislation to have "Veteran" notated on
their driver's license or on a separate card. Many of these states have
reinterpreted the meaning of "Veteran" within their respective States to include
those who served honorably in the National Guard and Reserves or those who
served honorably in uniform but did not retire or go on active duty.

Highly recommend that the State of Hawaii support this "all-inclusive" concept so
veterans will not need to carry their discharge or separation (i.e. DD Form 214 or
NGB Form 22) papers to prove that they are veterans with this "all-inclusive"
meaning.

Furthermore, many vendors across the United States give discounts to veterans
with a legal ID proving that they are veterans. Finally, some states who have had
this legislation enacted, found that it helped law enforcement officers be alerted

that they could be dealing with a veteran who may be suffering from a mental issue such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Officers were able to employ and to use the proper measures to prevent or de-escalate a potentially dangerous confrontation.

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 Budget for Fiscal Year 2015.

The OVS also supports the Department of Customer Services of the City and County of Honolulu in reviewing the measure for implementation on October 1, 2014.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of Hawaii's Veterans and their families in support of HB 1770, HD1.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

March 18, 2014
1:15 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 224

**H.B. 1770, H.D. 1
RELATING TO VETERANS**

Senate Committee(s) on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
& Transportation and International Affairs

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **opposes** this bill to place a "veteran" designation on driver's licenses if requested by the holder. The DOT appreciates the efforts and the contributions the veterans have sacrificed for our country. However, such designation does not contribute to the function of the driver's license, and it will take up limited space on the card that may be needed in the future to meet other license requirements.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony.

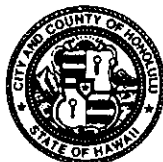
Testimony of
GLENN M. OKIMOTO
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
FORD N. FUCHIGAMI
RANDY GRUNE
AUDREY HIDANO
JADINE URASAKI

IN REPLY REFER TO:

DEPARTMENT OF CUSTOMER SERVICES
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLE, LICENSING AND PERMITS
ADMINISTRATION
P.O. BOX 30300
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96820-0300

KIRK CALDWELL
MAYOR



SHERI T. KAJIWARA
DIRECTOR

PRESTON P. H. K. KO
ACTING LICENSING ADMINISTRATOR

TESTIMONY OF PRESTON KO, ACTING LICENSING ADMINISTRATOR
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU, DEPARTMENT OF CUSTOMER SERVICES
Tuesday, March 18, 2014, 1:15 a.m., Conference Room 224

HOUSE Bill 1770 HD1, "RELATING TO Veterans"

Position: Comments

TO: The Honorable Will Espero, Chair
and Members of the Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and
Military Affairs

The Honorable J. Kalani English, Chair
and Members of the Committee on Transportation and International Affairs

The City and County of Honolulu has no objections to H.B. No. 1770 HD1 which
allow the designation of Veteran on the front of the driver license and identification
cards.

The City and County of Honolulu recommends your favorable action on
H.B. No. 1770 HD1.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Preston P. H. K. Ko".

Preston P. H. K. Ko
Acting Licensing Administrator

**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Transportation and
International Affairs and Committee on Public Safety,
Intergovernmental and Military Affairs**

Tuesday, March 18, 2014

1:15 PM

Conference Room 224

RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 1770, HD1, RELATING TO VETERANS

Chair English, Chair Espero, and members of the committee.

My name is Charles Ota and I am the Vice President for Military Affairs at The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii (The Chamber). I am here to state The Chamber's *support* of House Bill No. 1770, HD1, Relating To Veterans.

The measure proposes to require notation of veteran status on state driver's licenses and identification cards if desired by the applicant.

The adoption of this measure would amend Section 286-109, Section 286-111, Section 286-303, and Section 286-305, Hawaii Revised Statutes, as appropriate, by adding the designation "veteran" on the front of the driver's license/state ID card at the request of the veteran applicant who served in any of the uniformed services of the United States and was discharged under conditions other than dishonorable.

We concur with the proposed amendments to identify qualified veterans on driver's licenses and state ID cards, and recommend the measure be approved with the amended date of 1 October 2014.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

Headquarters: Department of State of
Hawaii 438 Hobron Lane, Suite 407
Honolulu, Hawaii 96815

March 17, 14

**Testimony in Support of HOUSE BILL 1770 HD1
Relating to Veterans Before the
Senate Committee On Transportation and International Affairs and the
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
Hearing On Tuesday, March 18, 2014, 1:15 P.M. In Conference Room 224**

Chairs Kalani and Espero, Vice Chairs Dela Cruz and Baker and Committee Members,

The Department of Hawaii, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) represents 3,800 members in 20 Posts located throughout the State of Hawaii. VFW is a federally chartered national association of soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen who have served the United States of America in wars, campaigns, and expeditions on foreign soil or in hostile waters.

H.B. 1770 HD1 Requires notation of veteran status on state driver's licenses and identification cards, if desired by the applicant.

This addition of veteran status on driver's licenses is already available in 43 other states and as pending in five others. It is long overdue for Hawaii to recognize its veterans in the same way.

VFW Hawaii members are grateful for your efforts to promote this tangible form of recognition for all men and women who served honorably in the uniformed services of the United States.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of H.B. 1770 HD1.

Lawrence M.G. Enomoto

Lawrence M.G. Enomoto
VFW Hawaii State Legislative Liaison