

LATE TESTIMONY

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2073, HD1 (HSCR 576-14)
RELATING TO MEMORIALS

PRESENTATION TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND
MILITARY AFFAIRS

BY

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March 13, 2014

Good morning 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 House Bill 2073, HD1 Relating to Memorials which appropriates funds for the planning, design, and construction of the Hawaii Gulf War Memorial to be located at the Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery in Kaneohe, on the island of Oahu, and replicas of the Memorial to be located at State Veterans Cemeteries statewide. Also, that support of this bill does not impact or replace the priorities set forth in the Executive Budget for Fiscal Year 2015.

The Task Force commissioned from the last legislative session has held monthly meetings, held a public hearing, used public inputs from a questionnaire, and has published a formal legislative report. Based on the data collected and proposed site selection; there is now a need to request for funds to build and establish a memorial honoring veterans of the Persian Gulf War, and campaigns that include Operation Desert Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, Global War on Terrorism, Homeland Defense, Operation Noble Eagle and Operation New Dawn.

Given the scope of the planning required to adequately represent the wars and campaigns mentioned, OVS would like to recommend that the same working Task Force ascend to Committee status and continue the planning and building of the Memorial. Resources obtained would be utilized to employ a contractor who would gather information concerning structures and symbols, planning, designing, and construction of this Gulf War Memorial with inputs from the Committee formed and from the public sector.

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

Thank you for this opportunity to offer my comments.