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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1101

COMMITTEE ON
ARMED SERVICES
SUBCOMMITTEES:
READINESS
SEAPOWER AND PROJECTION FORCES

COMMITTEE ON
NATURAL RESOURCES
SUBCOMMITTEES:
INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE AFFAIRS
(RANKING MEMBER)
ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES
PUBLIC LANDS AND
ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION

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

Re: HB2074, RELATING TO VETERANS
Date: Thursday, February 20, 2014
Time: 11:00 a.m.
Place: State Capitol, Room 308

Testimony in Support of House Bill 2074

Chair Luke, Vice Chairs Nishimoto and Johanson, and Members of the Committee,

I am pleased to submit this testimony in support of House Bill 2074, Relating to Veterans, which would authorize the State to issue general obligation bonds for the purpose of funding its portion of construction of a veterans' long-term care facility.

Hawaii's acute shortage of long-term care beds has the potential to directly impact the growing number of our veterans who are reaching a point in their lives where long-term care may become necessary. While the shortage of long-term care facilities will be felt across our community, we owe the men and women who have served our country a special duty. Having stood up for America in our times of need, they have earned the highest degree of support and consideration we are able to give. Providing safe and reliable care falls squarely within our commitment as a state and a nation.

Our state's experience with the Yukio Okutsu State Veterans Home in Hilo has demonstrated that these investments provide valuable and much-needed services to the

community. Its 95 beds have provided these veterans with the support they have earned by their service, and helps ensure safety, comfort, and dignity in their care. HB2074 will allow us to extend those benefits to still more veterans.

The benefits of providing additional long-term care facilities for veterans also extend to the community at large by reducing the overall shortage of long-term care beds.

Thank you for this opportunity to support our veterans and the needs of our community. Please feel free to contact me if I can offer additional information.

COLLEEN HANABUSA
Member of Congress

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2074
A BILL RELATING TO THE VETERANS

PRESENTATION TO
THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

BY
MAJ GEN DARRYLL D. M. WONG
STATE ADJUTANT GENERAL AND DIRECTOR OF STATE CIVIL DEFENSE
February 20 2014

Chair Luke, Vice Chairs Nishimoto and Johanson and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

I am Maj Gen Darryll D. M. Wong, State Adjutant General and Director of State Civil Defense. I am testifying in **SUPPORT** of House Bill 2074.

This bill requests authorization to issue general obligation bonds to fund the State's share of the construction costs of a new long-term care facility. There will be no bond issue unless the federal government appropriates their share of the facility's construction costs.

After construction, there will be no operational costs to the State. Currently, the Yukio Okutsu State Veteran's home in Hilo is owned and licensed by the State and managed by a contract administered by the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation. The new facility will operate in the same manner.

This new facility will mirror the success of the Okutsu facility built in 2004. It will be a step toward reducing the significant shortage of long-term care beds and services available to qualified veterans.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in **SUPPORT** of HB 2074.

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2074 (HSCR 219-14)
RELATING TO VETERANS

PRESENTATION TO THE

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** of the concepts in House Bill 2074, Relating to Veterans.

This measure authorizes the issuance of GO bonds for the construction of a long-term care facility for veterans contingent upon the receipt of federal funds. The offset is 35% state funding and 65% federal funding.

The State of Hawaii in partnership with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has an opportunity to fix an ever increasing critical need in our community: long-term care resources and services for our veterans. With the success of the Yukio Okutsu State Veterans Home in Hilo, a second Veterans State Home is needed to fill the 173 bed shortfall (verified by VA based on our Veterans population State-wide) we are currently experiencing. OVS is expecting our State Veteran population to grow due to the drawdown of troops in Iraq, the forthcoming pullout from Afghanistan in 2014, and with defense budget cuts targeting existing end strength. More military members are attaining Veteran status. Additionally, there are growing numbers of aging World War II, Korean and Vietnam War veterans in need of health care that a skilled nursing facility would bring. This new State Veterans Home would also bring additional jobs and provide training synergy with our current and future health care professionals and providers stimulating our local economy.

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.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of Hawaii's Veterans and their families in support of HB 2074.

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 HB2074

As the Chair, Advisory Board on Veterans' Services, our Board supports HB2074. Our board has received several briefings on the shortfall of 173 beds for our increasingly aging veteran population.

There is the Yukio Okutsu state veterans home on Hawaii, but it not sufficient for the needs of our veterans. Since the increase in the number of veterans is on Oahu, it is fitting that a new state veterans' home be located on Oahu. We need to move now to get federal funds committed to this project, which will take several years to clear all the necessary hurdles to be built.

This is another positive way to repay veterans for the sacrifices they made.

The Board strongly urges that you pass this measure and make funds available.

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



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

February 19, 2014

**Testimony in Support of HOUSE BILL 2074
Relating to Veterans Before the
House Committee On Finance**

Hearing On Thursday, February 20, 2014, 11:00 A.M. In Conference Room 308

Chair Luke, Vice Chairs Johansen and Nishimoto 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. 2074 Authorizes the issuance of General Obligation (GO) bonds for the construction of a long term care facility for veterans contingent upon the receipt of federal funds.

VFW Hawaii fully supports the urgent need to construct a 173-bed long-term care facility on Oahu; and urges that this committee pass this bill without delay, thereby authorizing the director of finance to issue sufficient GO bonds for fiscal years 2014-2015 to cover the state's portion of construction costs for that facility.

VFW Hawaii members are grateful for your efforts to promote this tangible benefit for veterans whose failing physical or mental health would require them to stay in such a long-term care facility.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of H.B. 2074.

Lawrence M.G. Enomoto

Lawrence M.G. Enomoto
VFW Hawaii State Legislative Liaison



HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS
C O R P O R A T I O N
Quality Healthcare For All

**House Committee on Finance
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair**

Thursday, February 20, 2014
Conference Room 308
11:00 a.m.
Hawaii State Capitol

Testimony Supporting House Bill 2074, Relating to Veterans. Authorizes the issuance of GO bonds for the construction of a long-term care facility for veterans contingent upon the receipt of federal funds.

Alice M. Hall
Acting President and Chief Executive Officer
Hawaii Health Systems Corporation

On behalf of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (HHSC) Corporate Board of Directors, thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in support of HB 2074.

HHSC supports the intent of this bill which is to create a partnership between the state and the Veterans Association to build needed long term care facilities for veterans with no operational costs to the state or HHSC. At this time, we are waiting for the feasibility study before making final commitments on a project.

We appreciate the Committee's focus on improving healthcare for our island communities. Thank you for the opportunity to testify before this committee.

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www.hhsc.org <<http://www.hhsc.org>>



Thursday– February 20, 2014 – 11:00am
Conference Room 308

The House Committee on Finance

To: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair

From: George Greene
President & CEO
Healthcare Association of Hawaii

Re: **Testimony in Support**
HB 2074 — Relating to Veterans

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH) is a 116-member organization that includes all of the acute care hospitals in Hawaii, the majority of long term care facilities, all the Medicare-certified home health agencies, all hospice programs, as well as other healthcare organizations including durable medical equipment, air and ground ambulance, blood bank and respiratory therapy. In addition to providing quality care to all of Hawaii's residents, our members contribute significantly to Hawaii's economy by employing nearly 20,000 people statewide.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2074, which would authorize the issuance of general obligation bonds for the construction of a second long-term care facility for veterans contingent upon the receipt of federal funds.

There are approximately one hundred twenty thousand veterans in Hawaii, forty-four thousand of whom are over the age of sixty-five. There is a serious shortfall of long-term care beds for veterans in the state, and the construction of a second long-term care facility would greatly expand access to quality long-term care for Hawaii's veterans.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2074.

The Uniformed Service Member's Voice in Government
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR UNIFORMED SERVICES
Hawaii Chapter (HI-1)

RELATING TO
VETERANS.

Report Title: Long-term Care Facility; Veterans; General Obligation Bonds (\$)
Description: . Effective July 1, 2014.

18 February, 2014

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 2074
RELATING TO VETERANS
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
HEARING ON THURSDAY, 02-20-14 AT 11:00AM
IN CONFERENCE ROOM 308

Aloha Chair Luke and Vice Chairs Nishimoto and Johanson : Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 2074 (HB2074). On Capitol Hill the National Association for Uniformed Services (NAUS) is well known by its peers as "The Service Member's Voice in Government." Here, in the great State of Hawaii, NAUS Hawaii Chapter (HI-1) serves at the will and pleasure of our nation's largest per-capita uniformed service personnel and veterans community.

NAUS Hawaii Chapter (HI-1) is extremely grateful, regarding your thoughtful efforts to Authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds for the construction of a long-term care facility for veterans contingent upon the receipt of federal (matching) funds.

Funding this proposed health care benefit, is very much appreciated by our veterans who served us so selflessly. We respectfully encourage you to pass HB 2074 as written

At your service,

D Egge

Dennis Egge; Chapter President



1298 Kukila Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96818
Naushawaii1@yahoo.com; 808-382-5833



Thursday– February 20, 2014 – 11:00am
Conference Room 308

The House Committee on Finance

To: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair

From: George Greene
President & CEO
Healthcare Association of Hawaii

Re: Testimony in Support
HB 2074 — Relating to Veterans

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH) is a 116-member organization that includes all of the acute care hospitals in Hawaii, the majority of long term care facilities, all the Medicare-certified home health agencies, all hospice programs, as well as other healthcare organizations including durable medical equipment, air and ground ambulance, blood bank and respiratory therapy. In addition to providing quality care to all of Hawaii's residents, our members contribute significantly to Hawaii's economy by employing nearly 20,000 people statewide.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2074, which would authorize the issuance of general obligation bonds for the construction of a second long-term care facility for veterans contingent upon the receipt of federal funds.

There are approximately one hundred twenty thousand veterans in Hawaii, forty-four thousand of whom are over the age of sixty-five. There is a serious shortfall of long-term care beds for veterans in the state, and the construction of a second long-term care facility would greatly expand access to quality long-term care for Hawaii's veterans.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2074.

Testimony to the House Committee on Finance

Thursday, February 20, 2013

11:00 AM

Conference Room 308

RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 2074, RELATING TO VETERANS

Chair Luke, Vice Chairs Nishimoto and Johanson, 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. 2074, Relating To Veterans.

The measure proposes to authorize the issuance of general obligation bonds for the construction of long term care facility for veterans contingent upon the receipt of federal funds.

We concur that the state will face a significant shortage of long term care facilities statewide to meet the demands of an ever-growing veteran's population. Across the nation, the Office of Veterans Affairs estimates that more than one million members of the armed forces will become veterans within the next five years. There are an estimated one hundred twenty thousand veterans in Hawaii, with forty-four thousand over age sixty-five.

We also concur that no bond issuance be made unless the federal government appropriates a percentage of funds needed to complete the facility.

Hawaii's only veterans care facility, jointly funded by the federal and state governments, was completed in Hilo, HI in 2004 and has successfully operated at no operational or maintenance cost to the state.

In light of the above, we recommend approval.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



LEAHI HOSPITAL

HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION

3675 Kilauea Avenue ■ Honolulu, Hawaii 96816 ■ Telephone: (808) 733-8000 ■ FAX: (808) 733-7914

**House Committee on Finance
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair**

Thursday, February 20, 2014
Conference Room 308
11:00 a.m.
Hawaii State Capitol

Testimony Supporting House Bill 2074, Relating to Veterans. Authorizes the issuance of GO bonds for the construction of a long-term care facility for veterans contingent upon the receipt of federal funds .

Derek Akiyoshi
Interim Regional Chief Executive Officer
Hawaii Health Systems Corporation, Oahu Region

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in support of HB 2074.

The HHSC Oahu Region, comprised of Leahi Hospital and Maluhia, supports the intent of this measure. The veteran population on Oahu supports the demand for in-patient and out-patient services and an appropriately sized multi-million dollar facility to accommodate our veterans' needs. Upon completion of the feasibility study in April, we will have an in-depth understanding of the major components involved in the undertaking of this project, including facility location, cost estimates, federal funding requirements, number of beds, and land transfer and ownership.

The HHSC Oahu Region looks forward to working with this Committee and continuing meeting with the major stakeholders of this project, including the State Department of Defense, the State Office of Veterans Services, VA Rural Health and the Abercrombie Administration in the upcoming months.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify at today's hearing and look forward to continued discussions related to advancing a much needed VA State Home on the island of Oahu.

FIN-Jo

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2014 3:23 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: greenlee@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2074 on Feb 20, 2014 11:00AM*

HB2074

Submitted on: 2/18/2014

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2014 4:00 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: sonnyfernan@msn.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2074 on Feb 20, 2014 11:00AM

HB2074

Submitted on: 2/18/2014

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

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

Comments: In Support of HB2074

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Testimony to House

LATE

To: House Committee on Finance, Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair;
House Committee on Finance, Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair;
House Committee on Finance, Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair

Date: Thursday, February 20, 2014, 11:00AM Conference Room 308 State Capitol.

Re: RELATING TO VETERANS

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair Johanson and Committee Members, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in SUPPORT of this measure Relating To Veterans.

My name is Keith Ribbentrop, I am United States Air Force retired, a disabled combat veteran of the Vietnam War and retired Hawaii State employee; my last position was as the Hawaii State Veterans Home Liaison Officer. I live in Volcano on Hawaii Island.

Hubert H. Humphrey once said “that the moral test of government is how that government treats those who are in the dawn of life, the children; those who are in the twilight of life, the elderly; and those who are in the shadows of life, the sick, the needy and the handicapped”. Our senior veterans through this bill, deserve your support.

Hawaii’s veteran population represents nearly ten percent of her total population. According to the Department of Veterans Affairs Hawaii’s veteran population aged 60 and older number 52,837, 42,878 of which are over the age of 65. Of Hawaii’s total veteran population approximately 13,000 are service connected disabled veterans living in Honolulu County; of that number approximately 1,127 are 100 percent service connected disabled veterans. There is significant need for a new State Home construction on Oahu.

The Department of Veterans Affairs has allocated 268 State Veterans Homes beds to Hawaii, 95 of these allocated beds are in place at the Yukio Okutsu State Veterans Home – Hilo leaving 173 beds available for future State Veterans Homes. A 2003 study by Health Dimensions Group projected at a 90 percent occupancy rate, Oahu’s 2015 veterans home bed need at 185 beds. Consider the Yukio Okutsu State Veterans Home – Hilo while a skilled and interim care nursing facility it also offers an Adult Day Health Care Program; it fills a wide purpose of need. The facility is owned lock stock and license by the State of Hawaii, managed by contract - at no operational or maintenance cost to the State. Additionally, it provides many well-paying blue collar and professional jobs. Further, it greatly enriches the University of Hawaii at Hilo student’s education by providing internship opportunities for students in the schools of Nursing, Social Work, and the College of Pharmacy.

Medical science has advanced to the point where we live longer, however, longer does not necessarily mean healthy and independent. Hawaii’s disabled and senior veterans have earned the right to age with dignity respect and quality of life that for some will only be found in long-term care facility. These men and women have made valuable contributions and made significant personal sacrifices to our country by defending the freedoms you enjoy every day and protecting our Nation’s ideals. Passage of this HB 2074 in part this is a good way for Hawaii to say Thank You for Your Service.

Testimony to House

LATE

To: House Committee on Finance, Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair;
House Committee on Finance, Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair;
House Committee on Finance, Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair

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