

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2074
A BILL RELATING TO THE 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 Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

I am Major General Darryll D. M. Wong, 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. The federal government will appropriate their share of the facility's construction costs after the bond issue.

After construction, there will be no operational costs to the State. Currently, the State owns and licenses the Yukio Okutsu State Veteran's home in Hilo. The Hawaii Health Systems Corporation administers the facility under contract with the State. 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.

Tuesday – March 25, 2014 – 9:05am
Conference Room 211

The Senate Committee on Ways and Means

To: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, 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.



Hawaii Chapter, MOAA
P.O. Box 1185
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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, 9:05 pm, Room 211
HB 2074 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 support HB 2074. This important bill would allow issuance of General Obligation Bonds for construction of a veteran’s Long-term Care Facility if federal funds are also provided.

We look forward to the opening of this important and much needed care program. With more and more veterans growing older and with many afflicted with PTSD and other mental illnesses, there is a very strong need for such a facility. Unfortunately Hawaii has a significant shortage of long-term care facilities across the state. This measure would allow a needed facility to be built and might well induce federal funding, not now available.

More and more of the increasing number of veterans, especially those who have served in the recent ongoing conflicts in the Middle East, are in need of these services.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.