

SB 2597

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR A WAR MEMORIAL

Appropriates funds to the office of veterans services for the planning, design, and construction of a veterans' memorial.

PSM, WAM

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2598
A BILL RELATING TO MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR A WAR MEMORIAL

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

BY

MAJOR GENERAL DARRYLL D. M. WONG
ADJUTANT GENERAL AND DIRECTOR OF STATE CIVIL DEFENSE
February 11, 2014

Chair Espero, Vice Chair Baker, and Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs.

I am Major General Darryll D. M. Wong, State Adjutant General and the Director of State Civil Defense. I am testifying in **SUPPORT** of Senate Bill 2597.

We continue to move forward toward establishing a memorial honoring the veterans of the Persian Gulf War, Operation Desert Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation New Dawn, Global War on Terrorism, Homeland Defense, and Operation Noble Eagle, and those who have protected our borders by land, sea, and air.

This funding request follows the submittal of the Gulf War Memorial Task Force report required by Act 139 of the 2013 Legislature. The study solicited public comments of the best locations for the proposed memorial and for inputs on design comments. The Governor's office transmitted this report to the Speaker of the House and the Senate President on January 10, 2014.

This bill appropriates funds for the planning, design, and construction of this veteran's memorial. I ask this committee to support this bill so we can continue toward our goal of this memorial.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of Senate Bill 2597.

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2597
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR A WAR MEMORIAL

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

BY

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

February 11, 2014

Good afternoon 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 to **in support** of Senate Bill 2597 Making Appropriation for a War Memorial which appropriates funds to the office of veterans services 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.

Since the Task Force has held meetings, a public hearing, and has used public inputs from a questionnaire, a formal legislative report has been published. 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 to employ a contractor who would gather information concerning structures and symbols that represent each part of the memorials will be the first order of business with updates provided in an open forum.

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.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 10, 2014 2:33 PM
To: PSMTestimony
Cc: tj Smyth6@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2597 on Feb 11, 2014 14:50PM
Attachments: MOAA SB257_2.11.14_War Memorial.docx

SB2597

Submitted on: 2/10/2014

Testimony for PSM on Feb 11, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 224

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Tom Smyth | MOAA HI Chapt. | Support | Yes |

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov



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 Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

Tuesday, February 11, 2014, 2:50 pm, Room 224

SB 257 Making an Appropriation for a War Memorial

Chair Espero, Vice Chair Baker and Committee Members

Our chapter of 500 retired and currently serving officers of the Uniformed Services strongly supports SB 257, which funds the planning, design and construction of a War Memorial to honor those who have fought in the several conflicts since the end of the Vietnam War.

We note that the very public process to develop the design concepts and possible location of such an important and long overdue memorial allowed veterans and their families and friends to offer specific thoughts on such a memorial. I don't believe that such an open transparent process has ever been used before. I do believe that this process will result in a well designed and important addition to the existing memorials to earlier wars.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Testimony

Carswell J. Ross, Jr. M.A., Chief Master Sergeant, USAF Ret.
94-1020 Puana Street
Waipahu, HI 96797

Wednesday, February 11, 2014 @ 2:50 pm

Testimony on Senate Bill 2597, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR A WAR MEMORIAL

Presentation to the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

Good afternoon Chair Will Espero and Vice Chair Rosalyn Baker and members of the Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

I strongly **support** SB 2597, which appropriates funds for the planning, design, and construction of a 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. I was selected and served as a member of the Task Force which sought to determine the need and placement of this memorial. We met and a committee received public testimony and published and received comment through the use of a statewide survey. The results were presented to the legislature as a report. In short the Task Force found that there was sentiment for such a memorial, that the memorial should include the names and other information about the military members honored on the memorial and that placement of the memorial in the Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery was appropriate provided that replicas be placed within Neighbor Island Veteran Cemeteries.

Based upon public input and the need to complete the memorials the request for five million dollars appears reasonable.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of this measure.

February 8, 2014

SUBJECT: SB 2597 MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR A WAR MEMORIAL

FROM: David P. Brostrom

TESTIMONY FOR: Chair, Senator Will Espero, Vice Chair, Senator Rosalyn Baker, Members of the Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs.

My name is David Brostrom and request this testimony be submitted in my absence. I am in support of SB 2597. This Bill is the outcome of the dedicated efforts by a distinguished group during last year's legislative session culminating in the establishment of ACT 139 signed by Governor Abercrombie on June 21, 2013 which directed that a "Plan to give tangible and visible recognition to the sacrifices and contributions of veterans from Hawaii" who served in the war which we refer to as the Global War on Terrorism;

A Task Force was established to carry out this important task; I had the honor of volunteering and serving on the Task Force as the Co-Chair with Mr. Allen Hoe. The Task Force conducted a detailed study which included live, written, internet testimony and surveys from the public. A copy of the Task Force recommendations has been distributed to appropriate members of the legislature.

Based upon our findings and conclusions the Task Force recommended that Senate Bill 2597 "Making an Appropriation for a War Memorial" be approved by your committee and moved on for further action by the Legislature.

Hawaii is unique in that it is the only state that embraces all of the armed services of the United States, National Guard, and Reserves to include the United States Coast Guard. The state of Hawaii owes its gratitude to the hundreds of our young men and woman stationed here who gave the ultimate sacrifice. It is only fitting that the memorial be located at our beautiful Kaneohe Veterans Cemetery as a constant reminder of the horrors of war and that freedom is not free. The funding requested will be used to construct a memorial that is suitable to remember those who died in combat and to upgrade the existing infrastructure that will support the memorial. Remaining funds will be used to construct smaller but equally fitting memorials on the outer islands.

~

David P. Brostrom
99-405 Aiealani Place
Aiea, Hawaii 96701
480-241-3037

February 5, 2014

SUBJECT: SB 2597 MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR A WAR MEMORIAL

FROM: Allen K. Hoe

TESTIMONY FOR: Chair, Senator Will Espero, Vice Chair, Senator Rosalyn Baker, Members of the Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs.

Aloha Chair Espero and members. My name is Allen K. Hoe, I am here today to speak in support of SB 2597. This measure is the outcome of the efforts by this honorable body during last year's legislative session culminating in the establishment of ACT 139 signed by Governor Abercrombie on June 21, 2013 which directed that a "Plan to give tangible and visible recognition to the sacrifices and contributions of veterans from Hawaii" who served in the war which we refer to as the Global War on Terrorism;

Under the leadership of the Office of Veterans Services a Task Force was established to carry out this Sacred Mission; I had the honor of serving on the Task Force. Each of us who served, firmly believed in the importance and the necessity of the challenge to place a high priority on this task, "Honoring the Legacy and the Memory of all those young men and women in uniform" who stepped forward from this beautiful place we call home to "give their last full measure of devotion to their country."

You have before you a copy of the results of our work, which included numerous public meetings where we received input from interested groups and members of the general public. We also took advantage of a unique internet survey protocol which allowed individuals who perhaps would not have generally had the opportunity to provide in put into this process to do so.

Based upon our findings and conclusions the Task Force has respectfully submitted its report and in furtherance of Hawaii's efforts to recognize and honor the legacy of our fallen respectfully requests that Senate Bill 2597 "Making an Appropriation For a War Memorial" be approved by your committee and moved on for further action by the Legislature.

Mahalo for your continuing support in Hawaii's role in Honoring the Legacy and the Memory of our Fallen Heroes.

~

Allen K. Hoe
PO Box 3589
Honolulu, Hawaii 96811