

SB 2603

RELATING 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. Effective July 1, 2014.

PSM/HTH/HMS, WAM

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COMMITTEE ON
ARMED SERVICES
SUBCOMMITTEES:
READINESS
SEAPOWERS 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 Will Espero, Chair
The Honorable Josh Green, Chair
The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair
Members of the Committees

Re: SB2603, RELATING TO VETERANS
Date: Wednesday, February 5, 2014
Time: 1:25 p.m.
Place: State Capitol, Room 229

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2603

Chairs Espero, Green, and Chun Oakland; Vice Chair Baker; and Members of the Committees,

I am pleased to submit this testimony in support of Senate Bill 2603, 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. SB2603 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
CIVIL DEFENSE DIVISION

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2603
A BILL RELATING TO THE VETERANS

PRESENTATION TO

THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

BY

MAJ GEN DARRYLL D. M. WONG
STATE ADJUTANT GENERAL AND DIRECTOR OF STATE CIVIL DEFENSE
February 5, 2014

Chair Espero, Chair Green, Chair Chun-Oakland, and Members of the Senate Committees:

I am Maj Gen Darryll D. M. Wong, State Adjutant General and Director of State Civil Defense. I am testifying in **SUPPORT** of Senate Bill 2603.

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 Senate Bill 2603.

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2603 RELATING TO VETERANS
PRESENTATION TO THE

COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY
AFFAIRS; HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

BY

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

February 5, 2014

Chairs Espero, Green, Chun Oakland; Vice Chairs Baker, Green & 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
Senate Bill 2603, 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 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 SB 2603.



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

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
Senator Will Espero, Chair
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Health
Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Human Services
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Josh Green, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 5, 2014
Conference Room 229
1:25 p.m.
Hawaii State Capitol

Testimony Supporting Senate Bill 2603, 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 SB 2603.

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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LEAHI HOSPITAL

HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION

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Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

Senator Will Espero, Chair

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Health

Senator Josh Green, Chair

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Human Services

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair

Senator Josh Green, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 5, 2014

Conference Room 229

1:25 p.m.

Hawaii State Capitol

Testimony Supporting Senate Bill 2603, 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 SB 2603.

The HHSC Oahu Region, comprised of Leahi Hospital and Maluhia, supports the intent of this measure. Upon completion of the feasibility study in April, we will likely have a much in-depth understanding of the some of the major components involved in the undertaking of this project, including project and business development, funding requirements and land ownership to name a few.

The HHSC Oahu Region looks forward to working with this Committee and 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.



Wednesday – February 5, 2014 – 1:25pm
Conference Room 229

The Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

To: Senator Will Espero, Chair
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

The Senate Committee on Health

To: Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

The Senate Committee on Human Services

To: Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Josh Green, Vice Chair

From: George Greene
President & CEO
Healthcare Association of Hawaii

Re: **Testimony in Support**
SB 2603 — 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 SB 2603, 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 SB 2603.

Testimony

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

Wednesday, February 05, 2014

Testimony on Senate Bill 2603, RELATING TO VETERANS

Presentation to the Senate Committee on public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs;
Committee on Health; and Committee on Human Services

Good morning Chairs Will Espero, Josh Green and Suzanne Chun Oakland and Vice Chair
Rosalyn Baker,

I strongly **support** SB 2603, which authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds for the construction of a long-term care facility for veterans contingent upon the receipt of federal funds. The Yukio Okutsu State Veterans Home located in Hilo, Hawaii has been in existence for several years. It has provided many veterans with long-term care and has relieved their family members of the chores associated with providing care to individuals requiring intensive medical monitoring. We find that Hawaii has a shortage of long-term beds. Major hospitals find it difficult to place patients requiring long-term care services. This causes hardship and financial concerns for the hospital and family as Medicare and Medicaid may not cover the services needed to be provided to the individual. As Oahu has the highest concentration of veterans, another veteran's long-term facility will relieve the problem associated with the placement of veterans in the appropriate facility. Provided the funding is provided by the state, the federal government will provide two thirds of the cost of construction and assist with cost of associated with selected medical services to eligible veterans.

As the Okutsu Veterans Home has demonstrated, the construction of another veteran's home in Hawaii is a win – win situation.

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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 04, 2014 9:57 AM
To: PSMTestimony
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2603 on Feb 5, 2014 13:25PM*

SB2603

Submitted on: 2/4/2014

Testimony for PSM/HTH/HMS on Feb 5, 2014 13:25PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	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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SB2603

Submitted on: 2/4/2014

Testimony for PSM/HTH/HMS on Feb 5, 2014 13:25PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Teresa Parsons	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Senators, Mahalo for allowing me to submit testimony in SUPPORT of SB 2603, to build a long term care facility for Veterans. As there are many more Veterans from 12+ years of conflict in Iraq and Afghanistan, there will be very large numbers of eligible Veterans needing assistance as they age. I am a Veteran who served this Nation for 30+ years, and this will be a benefit to so many who would otherwise find themselves depending on the mercy of the State and charitable organizations. I urge you to support this Bill and send a message support to Hawai'i's Veterans. I thank you for your kokua.