

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON SCR 62 URGING CONGRESS TO ENACT REFORMS
ADDRESSING SEXUAL HAARASSMENT AND ASSAULT IN THE UNITED
STATES ARMED FORCES

SENATE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS, MILITARY, & INTERNATIONAL
AFFAIRS & CULTURE AND THE ARTS

BY

MR. RONALD P. HAN, JR.
DIRECTOR OF STATE OFFICE OF VETERANS SERVICES

April 16, 2014

Chairs Takai, Vice Chair Ito 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 on Senate Concurrent Resolution 62.

In response to the Resolution, the OVS has a Women's Military and Veteran Sub-Committee under the State Advisory Board on Veterans Services established to address issues affecting women who continue to serve and for those who have served in uniform. Undoubtedly, much more must be done in legislation and reform to stop these cases of military sexual trauma and assaults on women serving in the armed forces.

The OVS supports reform initiatives to help our Women Veterans, who comprise 10-12% of our Hawaii State Veterans population today and is our fastest growing group of Veterans.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak on behalf of Hawaii's Veteran community.

To: Hawaii State House of Representatives Committee on Veterans, Military & International Affairs, & Culture and the Arts
Hearing Date/Time: Wednesday, April 16, 2014, 9:00 a.m.
Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 312
Re: Testimony of Planned Parenthood of Hawaii in support of S.C.R. 62

Dear Chair Takai and Members of the Committee on Veterans, Military & International Affairs, & Culture and the Arts,

Planned Parenthood of Hawaii writes in support of S.C.R. 62, which encourages female members of the United States Senate to reform military investigatory and prosecutorial systems governing sexual assaults.

Planned Parenthood of Hawaii is dedicated to providing Hawaii's people with high quality, affordable and confidential sexual and reproductive health care, education, and advocacy. Military members and their families, in particular, use our services at a high rate because they are unable to obtain the same confidential care through the military's healthcare system. We support this resolution because it will promote the sexual and reproductive health of military members by deterring harassment and assault and encouraging reporting by victims.

Sexual harassment and violence in the military is a known and present crisis, and it is imperative that reforms are made to prevent harassment and assault and provide victims with appropriate and effective services and systems both during and after their military service. Enacting reforms to address sexual harassment and assaults will help to ensure that these brave women and men have the prevention and care that they need and deserve.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Laurie A. Temple
Director of Public Affairs & Government Relations

HONOLULU
1350 S. King Street, Suite 310
Honolulu, HI 96814
808-589-1149

KAUAI
357 Rice Street, Suite 101
Lihue, HI 96766
808-482-2756

KONA
Hualalai Medical Center
75-184 Hualalai Road, Suite 205
Kailua Kona, HI 96740
808-329-8211

MAUI
Kahului Office Center
140 Ho'ohana Street, Suite 303
Kahului, HI 96732
808-871-1176



Date: April 14, 2014

To: The Honorable K. Mark Takai, Chair
The Honorable Ken Ito, Vice Chair
Committee on Veterans, Military, and International Affairs, and Culture and the Arts

From: Mike Golojuch, Lt Col, USAF (Ret), Chair, Advisory Board to Office of Veterans' Services

Subject: Support for SCR62 – URGING CONGRESS TO ENACT REFORMS ADDRESSING SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND ASSAULT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES

As the Chair, Advisory Board to the Office of Veterans' Services, which represents over 170,000 Hawaii veterans, we fully support Senate Concurrent Resolution 62.

It is important to urge and support Congress to enact the bills currently introduced to address sexual harassment and assault in the United States Armed Forces. The resolution identifies such bills as: improve the services available to victims of sexual harassment and assault; extend victims' rights; modify the authority of commanders with respect to case prosecutions and convictions; professionalize the military justice system; mandate certain punishments for those convicted of specific sex crimes; and require the retention of sexual assault reports and the collection of better data.

Please pass the resolution in the honor of all service members, especially those who were a victim of a sexual assault or harassment. They volunteered to service their country and should have been protected from this type of unlawful behavior.

Thank you for letting me express the Board's view on this resolution.

Roxanne Kamalu

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, April 14, 2014 9:21 PM
To: vmitestimony
Cc: dne39@isp.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SCR62 on Apr 16, 2014 09:00AM

SCR62

Submitted on: 4/14/2014

Testimony for VMI on Apr 16, 2014 09:00AM in Conference Room 423

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dennis Egge	NAUS Hawaii Chapter	Support	Yes

Comments: Sexual harassment and assault of military personnel by their comrades in arms is a blight on the honor we associate with those who serve so selflessly in harms way. We sincerely appreciate and thank you for calling on Congress to resolve this shameful issue as quickly as possible. Still serving proudly, Dennis Egge; NAUS Hawaii Chapter President

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

LATE

LATE

To: Hawai'i State Senate Committees on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs, & Judiciary and Labor

I am Shane Williams, a uniformed member of the United States Military, writing and giving oral testimony in support of S.C.R. 62, which urges Congress to enact reforms addressing sexual harassment and assault in the United States Armed Forces.

A "Zero Tolerance" policy currently exists, and it is important that we uphold and enforce this policy so that we establish a culture where safety of our members is paramount. Even one instance of sexual harassment or assault is too many, and it negatively impacts the effectiveness of our mission.

Sexual harassment and violence in the military is a known and present problem, and it is imperative that reforms are made to prevent harassment and assault and provide victims with appropriate and effective services and systems both during and after their military service. Enacting reforms to address sexual harassments and assaults will help to ensure that these brave women and men have the prevention and care that they need and deserve.

Thank you for your time and considering my testimony.

Aloha,

Shane Williams