

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON SCR 63/SR 30 ENCOURAGING FEMALE MEMBERS OF THE
UNITED STATES SENATE TO REFORM MILITARY INVESTIGATORY AND
PROSECUTORIAL SYSTEM GOVERNING SEXUAL ASSAULTS

SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND
MILITARY AFFAIRS & SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

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 63.

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.

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.



Planned Parenthood of Hawaii

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. 63

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. 63, 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

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Kahului Office Center
140 Ho'ohana Street, Suite 303
Kahului, HI 96732
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Date: April 14, 2014

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

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

Subject: Support for SCR63 – ENCOURAGING FEMALE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE TO REFORM MILITARY INVESTIGATORY AND PROSECUTORIAL SYSTEMS GOVERNING SEXUAL ASSAULTS

As the Chair, Advisory Board to the Office of Veterans' Services, which represents over 170,000 Hawaii veterans, we fully support Senate Concurrent Resolution 63.

It is important to urge the female members of the United States Senate to reform the military investigatory and prosecutorial systems governing sexual assaults.

Please pass the resolution in respect of all service members, especially female service members, who have honorably serviced their country.

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2014

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

Rep. K. Mark Takai, Chair
Rep. Ken Ito, Vice Chair
Rep. Karen Awana
Rep. Richard H.K. Onishi
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Rep. Romy M. Cachola
Rep. Bob McDermott
Rep. Isaac W. Choy
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**RE: SCR 63 ENCOURAGING FEMALE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE
TO REFORM MILITARY INVESTIGATORY AND PROSECUTORIAL SYSTEMS
GOVERNING SEXUAL ASSAULTS**

DATE:

Wednesday, April 16, 2014

TIME:

9:00 a.m.

PLACE:

Conference Room 423
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Takai and Esteemed Committee Members,

I strongly support the Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 63. This resolution seeks to address the epidemic of sexual violence in our U.S. Military and support bipartisan efforts to adjudicate sex offenses. Our service men and women deserve a military judicial system that is equitable and impartial. I urge you to pass this resolution and support federal efforts to protect our soldiers.

Aloha,
Tatjana Johnson, Esq.

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

**Rep. K. Mark Takai, Chair
Rep. Ken Ito, Vice Chair**

**DATE: Wednesday, April 16, 2014
TIME: 9:00 a.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 423**

Aloha Chair Takai, Vice Chair Ito and Committee members.

Strong Support of SCR 63 ENCOURAGING FEMALE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE TO REFORM MILITARY INVESTIGATORY AND PROSECUTORIAL SYSTEMS GOVERNING SEXUAL ASSAULTS.

The Hawai'i Women's Coalition strongly supports this resolution. Sexual assault and its lesser counterpart, sexual harassment are pernicious epidemics in our Armed Forces. As a 28-year Army veteran who loves the service and our veterans, I am appalled. We must eradicate this crime, support and treat the victims and erase the rape culture that allows this to happen. The cover-ups and avoidance behavior, so long condoned, have got to stop.

It is clear that the current system of reporting and prosecution within the chain of command is not working. Rape is severely underreported in the military with an overwhelming number of victims rightfully believing that nothing will be done and that there will be retaliation.

According to a 2012 SAPRO (Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office) report, 62 percent of respondents who experienced unwanted sexual contact perceived some form of social, administrative, and/or professional retaliation, and of those women who experienced unwanted sexual contact and did not report it, 47% indicated fear of retaliation or reprisal as the reason for not reporting.

Here follows some highlights of the Department of Defense's own analysis of the problem.

According to Pentagon estimates, the vast majority of victims — 89 percent — do not report sex crimes. By comparison, in the civilian justice system, about 65 percent of sexual assaults goes unreported, according to the Justice Department.

According to the 2012 Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office (SAPRO) Analysis

- The number of estimated unwanted sexual contact and sexual assault incidents **skyrocketed 36%, from 19,300 assaults in 2011 to 26,000 in 2012.**
- **Rates of reporting dropped from 13.5% in 2011 to 9.8% in 2012.** In 2011, victims reported 3,192 out of 19,000 incidents, compared to 2012, where victims reported just 3,374 out of 26,000 incidents [1].

- The number of female victims of sexual assault increased from 4.4% in 2011 to 6.1% in 2012, and the number of male victims increased from 0.9% in 2011 to 1.2% in 2012.
- Charges and initiated courts martials and convictions **decreased** in proportion to the number of sexual assault incidents.
- **In 2012, commanders initiated action on only 4.3% of incidents – a decrease of 1.1% from 2011.**
- The numbers of initiated courts-martial fell from 2.5% in 2011 to 2.2% in 2012.
- While the number of perpetrators convicted of committing a sexual assault increased from 191 in 2011 to 238 in 2012, the conviction rate dropped from 1% in 2011 to 0.9% in 2012 due to the sharp increase in incidents of sexual assault.
- **Across the services, 74% of Females and 60% of Males perceived one or more barriers to reporting sexual assault.**

Finally, according to a seven-month investigation by the San Antonio Express, a survey of 1,200 service members who sought help since 2003 at the Military Rape Crisis Center found that **90% of victims who reported sexual assault were involuntarily discharged.**

These findings are mind numbing and this resolution is much appreciated by the Coalition.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Ann S. Freed, Co-Chair
Hawai'i Women's Coalition
Contact: annsfreed@gmail.com

LATE

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Roxanne Kamalu

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, April 16, 2014 5:37 AM
To: vmitestimony
Cc: thirr33@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SCR84 on Apr 16, 2014 09:00AM
Attachments: SCR84 SSCR3149 Agent Orange Restoration of Presumption.gif

SCR84

Submitted on: 4/16/2014

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Arvid Tadao Youngquist | 1,978 "Conventional People" | Support | No |

Comments: Chair, Rep. K. Mark Takai, VMI House Committee V. Chair, Rep. Ken Ito, VMI House Committee Right Honorable House VMI Committee We support SCR 84. Please report it out with your urgent affirmation that it be adopted by both chambers and forwarded with dispatch. Mahalo. Arvid Tadao Youngquist, Spokesman SFC, USAR- Honorable Discharge (1987)

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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