



GM654

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Advisory Board On Veterans' Services, Gubernatorial Nominee, WILLIAM PARK, for a term to expire 06-30-2020.

Report Title: Advisory Board On Veterans' Services

Description:

Companion:

Package:

Current Referral: PSM

Introducer(s):

TESTIMONY
OF
WILLIAM C. S. PARK
TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE
ON
PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL,
AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
ON
MARCH 24, 2016
GM 654

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Advisory Board on Veterans' Services, gubernatorial nominee, WILLIAM PARK, for a term to expire June 30, 2020.

Chair Nishihara and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today and to answer any questions you might have for me. I would like to thank Governor Ige for nominating me. It is an honor to be considered for a position which allows me to represent the veterans of this State on matters of concern to them, the Governor, and the members of the legislature. Let me also say mahalo to those who have submitted letters in support of my nomination and to those who have come here today to support me and share their aloha.

My name is William Clayton Sam Park. I am a retired Master Sergeant with three years of active duty with the United States Army and 21 years of service with the Hawaii Army National Guard. I also am retired from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) with 28 years of service, and a disabled veteran.

My passion is still in helping veterans and their families in whatever way I can. My journey began after encountering homeless veterans, newly discharged veterans from the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, and veterans from past and current wars who were not receiving services and benefits through the VA or the military. These veterans could not navigate the VA system, were not part of any outreach efforts, and often gave up seeking help after becoming confused and frustrated in their attempts to understand the various communications they would receive if they sought help. Family members could see the changes in their loved ones, but had no idea how to help.

In the tradition of the military culture that no one is left behind, and the local style of looking to those with wisdom who have gone before us, an “Uncles and Aunties” program was established. Veterans who had made it through were now helping veterans. Family members who knew the broader emotional impact that came with the veteran’s frustration or loss of hope were volunteering to help other families. It is through bringing together in the *Uncles and Aunties Program* veterans and their families on every island who share a similar passion to mine which provides first hand information about what is happening or not happening in our veteran communities. This information, in turn, can be shared through the Advisory Board on Veterans Services, so that its mission of advising the Director of the Office of Veterans Services on veterans’ issues, legislative proposals, and program operations can be successful. On a more

personal level, the *Uncles and Aunties Program* serves as a source of encouragement and emotional support to the veteran and family members – no one need be left behind.

My prior positions as a Case Manager (with a focus on veterans) for Helping Hands Hawaii, and as the Veterans Program Director for the Native Hawaiian Health Care System, as well as through the work in establishing and maintaining the *Uncles and Aunties Program*, provided me with a visibility in the community as someone who was involved in reaching out to help veterans. I received invitations to meetings, workshops and presentations sponsored by other organizations. These invitations provided additional opportunities and expanded avenues through which to share information about our veterans' needs, and influence how veterans' issues were incorporated into those agendas. Among some of the more recent opportunities have been membership on the Advisory Committee for the Veterans Court, as a panel member during the conference sponsored by the Hawaii State Suicide Prevention Steering Committee and Task Force, and testimony to the United States Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs regarding the unique aspects of the diverse cultures of our Hawaiian veterans.

During my appointment to the Advisory Board for the past four years, my vision for the role of a member of this Board has become stronger. In keeping with my passion for helping our veterans, and the awareness that comes through my many conversations with our veterans and their families, there are several areas which I believe are challenges facing our veterans' benefits, health care, and cemetery systems. If I am confirmed for a new term, it is my intention that the Advisory Board would discuss and provide recommendations to address the issues underlying the following challenges: (1) All who have put on the uniform of the Armed Forces and have served honorably, whether still with us or deceased, shall have full recognition of their veteran status, with all honors and benefits, and the respect that veteran status conveys on them. (2) Full

and equal access to veterans' services and benefits must be provided for our women veterans, without regard for justifications based on numbers or financial cost. (3) Our veterans in the rural and remote areas of our island State shall have full and equal access to the benefits and services available to any other veteran. (4) Facilitate the VA's efforts to expand its capacity to address health and wellness issues not only of the veteran, but also the needs of the veteran's family. (5) Monitoring the success of the VA's program on the college campus which is intended to offer immediate mental health services to address the emotional issues which could prevent our veterans from attending college and completing the degree which will offer them a better quality of life for the future; (6) Consistent with President Obama's August 12, 2012 Executive Order, address the progress being made in developing partnerships between the VA and community providers, such as community health centers, tribal and Native Hawaiian health care systems, and rural health clinics to provide veterans and their families with improved access to behavioral and mental health care, as well as primary medical care.

Thank you, again, for this opportunity to meet with you and for considering my nomination. I would be pleased to answer any questions the Committee may have.

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 654
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO
ADVISORY BOARD ON VETERANS' SERVICES,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, WILLIAM PARK,
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2020

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

BY
MAJOR GENERAL ARTHUR J. LOGAN
ADJUTANT GENERAL
AND DIRECTOR OF THE HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
March 24, 2016

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

I am Major General Arthur J. Logan, State Adjutant General and the Director of the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA). I am providing written testimony in **FULL SUPPORT** of Governor's Message 654, which considers and confirms Clay Park to the Advisory Board on Veterans' Services.

William "Clay" Park has valuable member of the Advisory Board on Veterans' Services since his appointment in 2013. He has worked tirelessly to improve veteran's benefits and status.

Clay Park's extensive resume is a history of leadership, volunteering, and achievements. He served over 23 years in the United State Army and later the Hawaii Army National Guard. He held many key assignments in operations, intelligence and training during his military service. He worked for Helping Hands Hawaii and Papa Ola Lokahi, programs centered on assisting veterans. Prior to his retirement in 2014, he served the last six years as the Veterans Programs Director at Papa Ola Lokahi. He has served on several advisory boards, and participated with numerous community and veteran organizations over the years.

I ask the committee to recommend Senate confirmation on the appointment of William "Clay" Park to another term on the Advisory Board on Veterans' Services.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in **FULL SUPPORT** of Governor Message 654.

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY

GM 654 Submitting for consideration and confirmation
To the Advisory Board on Veterans Services,
Gubernatorial Nominee,
WILLIAM PARK for a term to expire
6-30-2020

PRESENTATION TO THE

SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND
MILITARY AFFAIRS

BY

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

MARCH 24, 2016

Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Espero and Committee members:

I'm Ron Han, Director for the State Office of Veterans' Services (OVS). The OVS **strongly supports** the GM 654 confirmation William Park to be appointed to the State Advisory Board on Veterans' Services for a term to expire June 30, 2020.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my wholehearted support to William "Clay" Park for a second term with the State Advisory Board on Veterans Services. Clay has done amazing work supporting the more than 121,000 Veterans across the State serving as our Vice Chairman for the Advisory Board. As busy as he is with his travel schedule accomplishing outreach on the neighbor islands throughout the week and on the mainland, he always finds time to link into Advisory Board proceedings even if it means calling in his report via cell phone. He is always cognizant of the myriad of issues affecting our Veterans and their loved ones because he genuinely has a passion for ensuring Veterans get the help they need. From Hana to Ho'olehua, and from Lihue to Kau, there isn't a location in our State where he hasn't helped a Veteran in need...a true testament to his commitment and dedication to serving others. Very articulate and diplomatic addressing issues, Clay is not shy bringing tough topics to the table...but he also brings solutions...these are traits he is very admired for.

A distinguished Vietnam Veteran, he is a vital participant on the 50th Commemoration of the Vietnam War State Planning Committee serving as the Co-chair of the Volunteer Sub-Committee. His strong work ethic is helping to plan an International Week of celebratory and remembrance events in May 2017. During this week with Clay's leadership, the State plans to honor our Vietnam Veterans and their loved ones across the entire Nation along with our coalition partners from foreign countries who participated in the conflict. Needless to say, Clay leads by example and has provided superb recommendations to the committee that have saved a significant amount of time and money. His support and advocacy of the State's first Women's Military and Veterans Conference in 2015 attended by close to 200 women, reflects his ability to ensure all Veterans of any demographic receive the focus and attention they need to ensure their issues are not forgotten and addressed.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of William Park's confirmation and consideration.



Papa Ola Lokahi
Nana I Ka Pono Na Ma

Papa Ola Lokahi
894 Queen Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: 808.597.6550 ~ Facsimile: 808.597.6551

January 20, 2016

Governor's Board
Office of Veterans Services
Honolulu, HI

Dear Sir:

RE: WILLIAM CLAY SAM PARK APPOINTMENT ON GOVERNOR'S
BOARD

I would like to recommend the re-appointment of Clay Park to the Hawai'i Governor's Board for the Office of Veterans Services for another four years.

Mr. Park is not only a Vietnam Veteran but also a retired instructor with the Hawaii National Guard and former employee with the Hawai'i Department of Veterans Affairs. Most importantly as a former director of the Native Hawaiian Veterans Project at Papa Ola Lokahi, he developed the unique "Aunties and Uncles" project, an approach in which former veterans and/or their spouse mentor the younger veteran generation. This project continues to generate inquiries and interest nationwide and has impacted the services to veterans in Hawai'i and in Alaska. He was featured in several magazine articles.

Mr. Park has a tremendous network of resources and connections which helps him to help as many veterans as possible in a timely manner. Although in retirement, he continues to do as much as he can for our veterans.

I am honored to write this letter in his support. I am happy to respond to any questions or concerns you may have and may be reached at #808-597-6550, ext. 802.

Mahalo.

BABETTE GALANG
Traditional Healing & Complementary Health Director

cc: Clay Park

CLAY COPY

The Spoehr Foundation
1833 Vancouver Place
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822
Hspoehr7@gmail.com

January 14, 2015

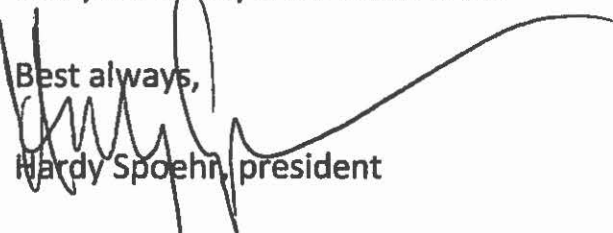
Honorable David Ige, Governor
State of Hawai'i
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Aloha Governor Ige,

This letter is in support of reappointing Mr. William Clayton Park to the Advisory Board of the State Office of Veterans' Services. He currently serves on the board, but his current term is ending shortly. We are hopeful that you will consider reappointment.

In his post retirement years from the Hawai'i National Guard, Mr. Park has dedicated his life to assist his fellow veterans in whatever way he can to make their lives meaningful, productive, and healthy. For many years I had the honor of working with Mr. Park as he directed the Veterans' Program at Papa Ola Lokahi, the Native Hawaiian Health Board. During his tenure as Director of the program, he initiated a number of innovative and critically important outreach programs and personally assisted a multitude of veterans to receive their rightful benefits. His unique "Aunties and Uncles Program" has received national recognition through the American Psychological Association.

Thank you for considering our mana'o. On a personal note, our family wishes you and your family a fine New Year.

Best always,

Hardy Spoehr, president

cc: Ronald P. Han, Jr., Director, Office of Veterans' Services



KOA KAHIKO

Molokai Veterans Caring For Veterans

P. O. Box 1633, Kaunakakai, HI 96748
808-553-8387/Fax: 808-553-3558

February 9, 2016

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

We, the undersigned, are currently serving as officers in the Molokai Veterans Caring for Veterans organization. We are all residents of the island of Molokai. We are writing to express our support for the reappointment of Mr. William C. S. (Clay) Park to another term on the Governor's Advisory Board on Veterans Services.

We have known Mr. Park when he was employed with the Papa Ola Lokahi Program. He coordinated the "Uncles and Aunties" program on each of the islands. Mr. Park was instrumental in the formation of this veteran support group, not only, on Molokai, but also on the neighboring islands as well as Alaska and Guam.

While employed as an outreach working with Helping Hands Hawaii, Mr. Park encountered homeless Vietnam veterans and other newly discharged veterans from the Iraq/Afghanistan war who were not being serviced by the DVA or any military service organization. He became aware that the lack of treatment or appropriate support and services for these veterans has devastating effects on the physical, mental and spiritual health not only of the veteran but also their 'ohana (family) and community.

Mr. Park identified the sources of their concerns as:

- barriers related communication and trust issues related to cultural insensitivity in a multicultural setting;
- cumbersome/complicated and often confusing processes of the VA benefit and health systems;
- contradictory or conflicting information regarding access, resources and benefits for veterans and their 'ohana;
- limited outreach resources to non-registered veterans; and,
- a past history of unsympathetic DVA attitude to returning veterans, particularly the Vietnam veterans.

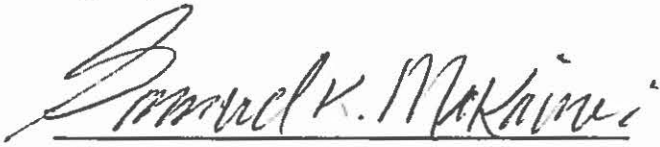
Mr. Park understands the numerous barriers and limitations the DVA faces in accomplishing this monumental task of servicing all eligible veterans. He understood the problems and knew that the best approach to helping veterans was to incorporate the local culture of being an Uncle and/or Aunty, a position of respect, age, endearment and 'ohana. The majority of the Uncles are veterans of the Vietnam War. The Aunties are spouses, veterans and/or mothers of veterans.

Mr. Park brings a wealth of knowledge on the Veterans Administration and its policies and regulations. His knowledge and leadership in these areas have helped the Molokai veterans immensely in filing disability claims, spousal benefits, and many other VA benefits.

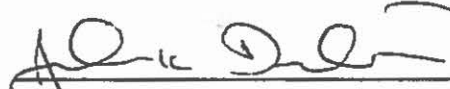
Mr. Park's dedication to our veterans and their families is evident not only in what he accomplishes in his day-to-day work, but also in the efforts which often take him "above and beyond" those duties he considers routine, filling gaps in existing programs and services. We believe Mr. Park should be reappointed as a member on the Governor's Advisory Board on Veterans Services. He is a valuable voice for the veterans of Hawaii.

er capita, Molokai has the largest group of veterans in the State, especially Vietnam War veterans. Mr. Park is a "god-send" for the veterans of Molokai. We whole-heartedly support the reappointment of Mr. William C.S. (Clay) Park. His experience and dedication will serve the Office of Veterans Services and the State of Hawaii well.

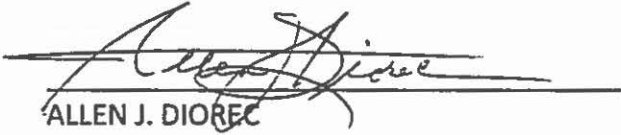
Regards,



SAMUEL K. MAKAIWI
Commander



JOHN DUDOIT
Vice-Commander



ALLEN J. DIOREC
Secretary



JOHN KAALEKAHI
Treasurer

LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR CLAY PARK, OAHU BOARD MEMBER, FOR THE APPOINTMENT/CONFIRMATION TO THE STATE ADVISORY BOARD ON VETERANS' SERVICES FOR A 2ND TERM

I was appointed and confirmed as a member of the State Advisory Board on Veterans' Services in 2013 and have had the privilege to know and work with Clay Park, Oahu Board Member.

Mr. Park is a Retired US Army veteran with 25 years of service. He created a very successful Uncles and Auntie's program, statewide to help assist veterans and their families navigate the VA application process. He is a former case manager for Helping Hands Hawaii working with adult mental health clients.

Mr. Park is a true advocate for veterans with a very sincere, caring and positive "can do" attitude. He is very knowledgeable about veterans' needs and concerns, community resources and other services and in linking veterans with the appropriate agencies that can best meet their needs. He is a team player and assists the OVS Director and Advisory Board as Vice Chairperson in whatever issues and challenges that have been presented to the Board. He is a valuable and true asset to the Board.

My experiences the past two years with Clay Park, working and interacting with him has been positive; thereby, encouraging me to support his nomination/confirmation. I believe the State of Hawaii, especially veterans will benefit greatly in the appointment/confirmation of Clay Park to another term on the State advisory Board on Veterans' Services.

Sincerely,

Harold Bugado
State Advisory Board on Veterans' Services
Representing East Hawaii
1116 W. Kawaihina Street
Hilo, HI 96720

cc: Clay Park
Email: kulakauka7@gmail.com

Ron Han
Email: Ronald.han@va.gov



Sam Park <kulakauka7@gmail.com>

Letter of recommendation.

1 message

Wilbert Pereira <wpereira1@hawaii.rr.com>
To: kulakauka7@gmail.com

Tue, Jan 26, 2016 at 9:54 AM

January 26, 2016

To whom it may concern:

My name is Wilbert Pereira and I am a member on the State Advisory Board on Veterans Services. It is my pleasure and honor to recommend the reappointment of Clay Park to the State Advisory Board on Veterans Services as an Oahu representative. Mr. Park is a man of honor and credibility.

I have known and served with, Mr. Park for the past 5 years. He has unselfishly given many hours of his time for the good of the board. Mr. Park created the Uncles and Aunties program to help assist Veterans and their families navigate the VA application process. Former case manager for helping hands Hawaii working with the adult mental health clients. Retired US Army with 25 years of service. His experience as a veteran and working with the veterans over the years will only add to the knowledge he can bring to the table as a sitting member.

Sincerely,
Wilbert w Pereira

U.S. Department of Labor

Veterans Employment and Training Service
830 Punchbowl St, Rm 315
Honolulu Hawaii 96813
808-522-8216/202-604-0764
E-Mail: Greenlee.Ann.M@dol.gov



February 1, 2016

MEMORANDUM FOR: State of Hawaii Boards and Commissions
Hawaii State Capitol

SUBJECT: Letter of Recommendation Mr. Clay Park State Advisory Board for Veteran Services

Dear State of Hawaii Boards and Commissions,

I would like to take this opportunity to express my complete support for the appointment of Clay Park to serve a second term on the State Advisory Board on Veteran Services. Ms. Park represents the island of Oahu and has done an excellent job bringing veteran issues to the Board. Mr Park is an extremely dedicated veteran advocate who travels throughout the state to help veterans and resolve their issues. He is especially effective in assisting Native Hawaiian veterans.

Mr Park currently serves as the Vice Chair of the Advisory Board. In that role he identified needed changes in the by laws and ensured those changes were implemented. He has also successfully acted as Chair on several occasions keeping meetings on track and ensuring issues were resolved.

I know of no one in the State of Hawaii who is more dedicated to helping veterans than Clay Park. I highly recommend he be reappointed to a second term on the Advisory Board.

Ann M. Greenlee, Director
US DOL/VETS, Hawaii and Guam

73-1291 Kaiminani Dr
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740
808-557-5833
March 17, 2016

The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara
Chairman
Senate Committee on Public Safety,
Government Operations and Military Affairs
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: PSM Testimony 03-24-16 GM 654

Dear Chairman Nishihara and members of the committee:

It is a privilege to support the recommendation of the Governor for nominee William (Clay) Park for a second term to represent Oahu on the Advisory Board for Veterans' Services.

I have had the Opportunity of working with Clay as a fellow member of the present Advisory Board. Because of Clay's years of experience with Veterans issues, he is an important source of knowledge to the Board when addressing issues, policy, and solutions to problems. As a new member to the board, he has been very helpful in answering my questions as well as taking time to educate me on some Veterans issues in which I have limited background.

I look forward to having Clay as part of our Advisory Board team for the next term.

Mahalo,

Sincerely,

Jim Traxler

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [PSMTestimony](#)
Cc: michael@njlaw.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM654 on Mar 24, 2016 13:15PM
Date: Monday, March 21, 2016 9:01:40 AM

GM654

Submitted on: 3/21/2016

Testimony for PSM on Mar 24, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael A Lilly	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I have worked with Mr. Park who serves as Vice Chair of the Governor's Advisory Board on Veterans Services and give him my unqualified support for this appointment. If confirmed he will continue to serve with distinction as a welcome addition to the Board.

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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March 21, 2016

Dear Senator Nishihara and Members of the Military Affairs Committee,

I would like to provide an appointment letter of support for nominee William Park to the Governor's Advisory Board on Veteran Services.

Mr. Park currently serves as the Vice Chair of the Board. In my limited experience serving alongside Mr. Park he has been focused not only on identifying veterans issues, but also on finding solutions. I believe that he is uniquely qualified to serve and provide input on veterans' issues because of his past military service, his veteran status, and the relationships he has cultivated in our community.

Sincerely,

//signed//

Bridget Komine

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [PSMTestimony](#)
Cc: chelsea@hatco.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for GM654 on Mar 24, 2016 13:15PM*
Date: Wednesday, March 23, 2016 11:32:15 AM

GM654

Submitted on: 3/23/2016

Testimony for PSM on Mar 24, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chelsea Fernandez	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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