



*The Judiciary, State of Hawai‘i*

**Testimony to the House Committee on Veterans, Military, International Affairs & Culture  
and the Arts**

Representative Romy M. Cachola, Chair  
Representative Ken Ito, Vice Chair

Monday, February 2, 2015, 9:00 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 312

by  
Sidney Nakamoto  
Adult Client Service Branch Administrator  
First Circuit

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**Bill No. and Title:** House Bill No. 1005, Relating to Making an Appropriation for the Veterans Treatment Court

**Purpose:** Appropriates funds to support the Veterans Treatment Court.

**Judiciary's Position:**

The Judiciary strongly supports the intent of House Bill No. 1005, which proposes an unspecified appropriation for the Veterans Treatment Court (VTC). The Judiciary's budget request includes a request for the Veterans Treatment Courts currently operating in the First (O'ahu) and Third (Hawai'i Island) Circuits.

The VTC was established in part as a result of House Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 278 HD 1, SLH 2010, which requested that the Judiciary explore the development of a VTC. The VTC began in 2011 with a three-year federal grant to serve individuals from any branch of the military reserves. Subsequently, in the 2012 session, the Legislature authorized a Coordinator position, but did not fund it due to budget constraints at that time. The federal grant that currently funds the VTC's Coordinator position will terminate on September 30, 2015; therefore, it is crucial to the continuation of the VTC that this authorized Coordinator position receives permanent funding, along with Social Worker and Probation Officer positions. These positions are requested to ensure that current VTC clients are provided services that are tailored to their



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needs and to possibly expand the court to enroll more felons and eventually those individuals convicted of misdemeanor crimes.

The VTC currently has 14 active clients and three being considered for admission. Providing permanent funding for the Coordinator and Probation Officer positions will allow for an increase to the number of veterans admitted to the program, improve public safety, and reduce recidivism and crime.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 1005.

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1005  
A BILL RELATING TO MAKING AN APPROPRIATION  
FOR THE VETERANS TREATMENT COURT

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

BY  
BRIGADIER GENERAL ARTHUR J. LOGAN  
ADJUTANT GENERAL  
AND DIRECTOR OF THE HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY  
February 2, 2015

Chair Cachola, Vice Chair Ito and Members of the House Committee on Veterans, Military, International Affairs & Culture and the Arts:

I am Brigadier General Arthur J. Logan, State Adjutant General and the Director of the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency. I am testifying in **SUPPORT** of House Bill 1005.

The Veterans Treatment Court serves veterans who experience difficulties acclimating back into society after military service. Veterans who qualify must have cases in the Circuit Courts with misdemeanor or felony charges relating to mental health issues, including post-traumatic stress disorder, and substance abuse.

The Veterans Treatment Court emphasizes discipline and structure to support veterans through the process of recovery. The program includes mandatory attendance at treatment sessions and frequent and random testing for substance use. The court helps these veterans find housing and get job training. Veterans in the program are closely supervised and make regular court appearances to update their treatment.

The court pairs each veteran with a volunteer mentor – a fellow veteran from the same military branch. These mentors have an understanding of the difficulties these men and women face and help them through the recovery process.

If the veteran violates the terms of the program, then he or she is subject to immediate consequences and jail time to ensure accountability.

The Veterans Treatment Court has been a success since it began in 2013. The program's continuing success warrants funding to serve more veterans who deserve an opportunity to fully integrate back into society.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in **SUPPORT** of House Bill 1005.

Date: January 30, 2015

To: Representative Romy M. Cachola, Chair  
Representative Ken Ito, Vice Chair  
Committee on Veterans, Military, International Affairs & Culture and the Arts

From: Mike Golojuch, Sr.

Subject: Strongly Support for HB1005

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As a retired Air Force officer and current Chair, Advisory Board to the Office of Veterans' Services, which represents over 170,000 Hawaii veterans, our Board strongly supports the passage of HB1005 that funds the Veterans Treatment Court.

Veterans Treatment Courts that have been established across the United States have helped veterans become productive members of society after going down the wrong path. Judge Kubo and others have been doing the best they can to keep such a program going strong in our Hawaii judicial system. They need the necessary financial support to keep a vibrant program that can expand to help veterans and our community.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my view.

Michael Golojuch, Sr., Lt Col, USAF (Ret)

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Monday, February 02, 2015 1:46 AM  
To: vmitestimony  
Cc: jasmineramos808@yahoo.com  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1005 on Feb 2, 2015 09:00AM

**LATE**

**HB1005**

Submitted on: 2/2/2015

Testimony for VMI on Feb 2, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jasmine Ramos	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support HB 1005 for a Veterans Treatment Court to properly assist our veterans, especially those wounded service men and women returning from assignment after defending our country. This will provide the proper court for our men and women in uniform and show that Hawaii supports our military. For those reasons, I support a veterans court in Hawaii.

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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DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

ALII PLACE  
1060 RICHARDS STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
PHONE: (808) 547-7400 • FAX: (808) 547-7515

KEITH M. KANESHIRO  
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY



ARMINA A. CHING  
FIRST DEPUTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

**LATE**

**THE HONORABLE ROMY CACHOLA, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS, MILITARY,  
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS & CULTURE AND THE ARTS  
Twenty-eighth State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2015  
State of Hawai'i**

February 2, 2015

**RE: H.B. 1005; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE VETERANS TREATMENT COURT.**

Chair Cachola, Vice-Chair Ito, and members of the House Committee on Veterans, Military, International Affairs and Culture and the Arts, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu ("Department") submits the following comments regarding House Bill 1005.

Although the purpose of this bill is to provide adequate funding for Veterans Court, it does not currently provide dedicated funding for this Department's participation, nor does it require that this Department be afforded sufficient funding to maintain our ongoing participation. If the Committee is inclined to pass this measure, we respectfully ask that it be amended to specifically provide funding for our Department's involvement in Veterans Court.

Since the Judiciary first implemented Veterans Court in 2013, our Department has actively participated in this specialty court, in a concerted effort to provide veterans with the care they need, while also addressing their offenses and minimizing recidivism. However, this requires us to assign a deputy prosecuting attorney to those Veterans Court cases and court appearances--a deputy who could otherwise be handling a 'regular' caseload and 'regular' courtroom, to spread out the caseload for our other deputies--and also requires a significant amount of work-hours from our support staff. To date, no additional funding has been provided for this added responsibility, from any source, and this has presented a significant hardship for our Department.

In order to maintain our Department's ongoing participation in Veterans Court, and for all of the foregoing reasons, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu respectfully asks that House Bill 1005--if passed--be amended to provide funding for our Department, to sustain its ongoing participation in Veterans Court. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.