



HB2489

Measure Title:	RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.
Report Title:	Office of Veterans' Services; Veterans Services Counselor IV; Appropriation (\$)
Description:	Appropriates funds for the establishment of a veterans services counselor IV position within the Office of Veterans' Services to assist all veterans, with a primary focus on female veterans.
Companion:	
Package:	None
Current Referral:	PSM, WAM
Introducer(s):	ITO, DECOITE, HAR, MATSUMOTO, OHNO, TOKIOKA, TSUJI, WARD, WOODSON, Onishi

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2489
A BILL RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

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 17, 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. I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of House Bill 2489.

This measure makes an appropriation to establish an additional veterans coordinator in the Office of Veterans Affairs. This new position will work to address the challenges of all veterans, with a primary focus on female veterans.

The Office of Veterans Services (OVS) is the principal state office responsible for the development and management of policies and programs related to veterans, their dependents, and/or survivors. The OVS acts as a liaison between the Governor and veterans' organizations and also between the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and individual veterans.

Their objectives are to assist veterans in obtaining State and federal entitlements, to supply the latest information on veterans' issues and to provide advice and support to veterans making the transition back into civilian life.

The Office of Veterans Services has increased their focus on women veterans because these veterans have many challenges including:

- Women veterans suffer higher rates of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). The number of female veterans with PTSD will only increase after the recent Department of Defense decision to allow women to all combat related career fields.
- They are the fastest growing segment of adults faced with homelessness.
- The national unemployment rate for women who served in the military after 9/11 is 17.3% (Bureau of Labor Statistics, February 2012).

We need to address the needs of all our veterans and their families.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in **STRONG SUPPORT** of House Bill 2489.

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2489, RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF
DEFENSE

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

BY

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

March 17, 2016

Good Afternoon, Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Espero and members of the Committee:

I am Ron Han, Director of the Office of Veterans Services. I appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony in support of the concepts in House Bill 2489.

Funding for this position was submitted in the division's supplemental budget request but did not receive approval. If funding is not approved through this process, the State Office of Veterans Services may delay addressing women issues and programs.

The State Office of Veterans Services recognizes the strong need to develop programs and to address critical issues affecting this fastest growing group of veterans.

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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [PSMTestimony](#)
Cc: annsfreed@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2489 on Mar 17, 2016 13:45PM
Date: Wednesday, March 16, 2016 1:43:02 PM

HB2489

Submitted on: 3/16/2016

Testimony for PSM on Mar 17, 2016 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ann S Freed	Women Veterans Committee, OVS	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Espero and members, As in previous testimony the Women Veterans Committee, OVS Advisory Board is in strong support of this measure. Mahalo, Ann S. Freed

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



March 17, 2016

TO: Senator Clarence Nishihara, Chair
Senator Will Espero, Vice Chair and
Members of the Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

FROM: Jeanne Y. Ohta, Co-Chair

RE: HB 2489 Relating to the Department of Defense
Hearing: Thursday, March 17, 2016, 1:45 p.m., Room 229

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Hawai'i State Democratic Women's Caucus writes in support of HB 2489 Relating to the Department of Defense which proposes that funding be made available to the State Department of Defense for a veteran's services counselor position within the Office of Veterans' Services (OVS) with a primary focus on female veterans.

In 2013 the Hawai'i Military Women's Taskforce submitted a report to the legislature recommending that a Women's Veteran's Coordinator position be established in order to help address the unique needs of women in active duty and of women veterans, needs that are often different from those of their male counterparts. The coordinator will fill a gap in care and will aid with the process of helping the approximately 12,000 women veterans in Hawai'i to move forward in their lives. The coordinator would help the OVS to collect data, integrate services and move forward on the Task Force's recommendations.

As with other organizations where women are a distinct minority; programs and services were originally established and created for male populations. Those benefits and services have been designed to address the needs of men rather than women. Women need gender appropriate programs, benefits, and services; nowhere is this more evident than for healthcare services and for military sexual trauma, a result of sexual assault while in the military.

It is important to recognize the specific and distinctive needs of women in their effort to re-enter civilian lives, retrain for new careers, establish homes for themselves and their families, and to care for their families. Establishing a counselor position will help focus the OVS on gender appropriate, effective care for women

The Hawai'i State Democratic Women's Caucus is a catalyst for progressive, social, economic, and political change through action on critical issues facing Hawaii's women and girls. It is because of this mission, the Women's Caucus supports this important measure.

We thank the committee for this opportunity to submit our testimony.

HAWAII
STATE
COMMISSION
ON THE
STATUS
OF
WOMEN



Chair
LESLIE WILKINS

COMMISSIONERS:

SHERRY CAMPAGNA
CYD HOFFELD
JUDY KERN
MARILYN LEE
AMY MONK
LISA ELLEN SMITH

Executive Director
Catherine Betts

Email:
Catherine.a.betts@hawaii.gov
Visit us at:
humanservices.hawaii.gov
/hscsw/

235 S. Beretania #407
Honolulu, HI 96813
Phone: 808-586-5758
FAX: 808-586-5756

March 17, 2016

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

From: Cathy Betts
Executive Director
Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women

Re: Testimony in Support HB 2489

The Commission is in strong support of HB 2489 which would establish a women veterans services coordinator position within the Office of Veterans Services. The Military Women's Task Force was formed by the Legislature in 2012 to address the needs of women veterans in Hawaii. In 2013, this task force submitted a report to the legislature detailing serious concerns within the women's veteran community. Specifically, the task force found that military sexual trauma, PTSD and homelessness were exacerbated for female veterans.

The 2013 report included a recommendation to create a Women's Services Coordinator position. Unfortunately, this position has not been created or funded as of yet. The women's community feels there is an urgent need for this position, as many female veterans returning home have difficulty accessing basic services, like reproductive health care, treatment for PTSD, and basic educational benefits due to them. The coordinator would be able to address the growing needs of female veterans. The Commission strongly supports the passage of this measure. Thank you for your time.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [PSMTestimony](#)
Cc: laurie.field@ppvnh.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2489 on Mar 17, 2016 13:45PM*
Date: Monday, March 14, 2016 1:27:56 PM

HB2489

Submitted on: 3/14/2016

Testimony for PSM on Mar 17, 2016 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laurie Field	Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii	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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov



Headquarters: Department of State of Hawaii
438 Hobron Lane, Suite 407
Honolulu, Hawaii 96815

March 16, 16

**Testimony in Support of HOUSE BILL 2489
Relating to the Department of Defense Before the
Senate Committee On Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs Hearing On
Thursday, March 17, 2016, 1:45 P.M. In Conference Room 229**

Senator Nishihara, Chair, Senator Espero, Vice Chair and Committee Members,

The Department of Hawaii, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) represents 4,300 members in 20 Posts located throughout the State of Hawaii. VFW is a federally chartered national association of soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen who have served the United States of America in wars, campaigns, and expeditions on foreign soil or in hostile waters.

H.B. 2489 Appropriates funds for the establishment of a veterans' services counselor IV position within the Office of Veterans' Services to assist all veterans, with a primary focus on female veterans.

Today, women veterans comprise 15% of active duty military and 18% of the Guard and Reserves. With the increase of women wearing our nation's uniform and the rising number of women utilizing the VA, it has never been more important to ensure VA is ready and able to care for women veterans when they embark on the difficult transition from military service back to civilian life. With this in mind, the VFW has made it one of our top priorities to ensure women veterans receive the benefits and services they've earned and deserve.

VFW Hawaii members would appreciate your efforts fund this new position in the Office of Veterans Services that will focus on issues unique to military women and women veterans.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of H.B. 2489.

Lawrence M.G. Enomoto

Lawrence M.G. Enomoto
VFW Hawaii State Legislative Liaison

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [PSMTestimony](#)
Cc: mikegolojuch808@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2489 on Mar 17, 2016 13:45PM
Date: Monday, March 14, 2016 2:12:51 PM

HB2489

Submitted on: 3/14/2016

Testimony for PSM on Mar 17, 2016 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mike Golojuch	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support this bill to assist our veterans, especially our female veterans. Mike Golojuch, Lt Col, USAF, RET

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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [PSMTestimony](#)
Cc: sonnyfernan@msn.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2489 on Mar 17, 2016 13:45PM
Date: Wednesday, March 16, 2016 2:08:56 AM

HB2489

Submitted on: 3/16/2016

Testimony for PSM on Mar 17, 2016 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stanley Y. Fernandez Sr.	Individual	Support	No

Comments: In Support of HB 2489

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

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2489, HD1, RELATING TO VIETNAM WAR

COMMEMORATION

PRESENTATION TO THE

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIR

BY Carswell J. Ross, Jr. CMSgt. USAF (Ret.)

Date of Hearing: Thursday, March 17,, 2016 @ 1:45 PM

Conference Room 229, State Capitol

Good afternoon Chair Nishihara and Vice Chair Espero and members of the Committee on Public safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs, for this opportunity to **strongly support HB2489**. This bill will provide funds to establish a veteran's services counselor IV within the Office of Veterans Services (OVS), who will assist all veterans with special emphasis on assisting women veterans. Presently about 15% of our military members are female. They are now allowed to enter any job within the armed forces. Although this is a recent change to the law, women have been involved in areas close to the battle lines and in the present conflict with ISIS in direct contact with the enemy. Some have been wounded and some have been killed while participating in so called non-combat operations. Our society is ill-equipped to deal with trauma and there are special resources available to women who suffered injuries while in the service of our country. A counselor who is specially trained to deal with women issues is needed to effectively provide the support these female veterans require to reintegrate into society.

I thank the committee for allowing me this opportunity to testify in strong support of this bill.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [PSMTestimony](#)
Cc: lady.flach@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2489 on Mar 17, 2016 13:45PM*
Date: Wednesday, March 16, 2016 2:11:27 PM

HB2489

Submitted on: 3/16/2016

Testimony for PSM on Mar 17, 2016 13:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Teri Heede	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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov