

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2491 HD1
A BILL RELATING TO THE VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION

PRESENTATION TO
THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

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

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

I am Major General Arthur J. Logan, State Adjutant General and the Director of the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency. I am testifying in **SUPPORT** of House Bill 2491 HD1.

This measure appropriates funds for the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War. Many Vietnam-era veterans were drafted into military service and served honorably. Thousands were wounded and many made the ultimate sacrifice.

When they returned from their service, they were greeted by a divided nation that did not celebrate their return from the war. This 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War will be a closure for these forgotten veterans. It will be a fitting way to recognize their service to America.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in **SUPPORT** of House Bill 2491 HD1.

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2491 HD1, RELATING TO VIETNAM WAR
COMMEMORATION

PRESENTATION TO THE
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

BY

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

February 24, 2016

Good afternoon Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and members of the Committee:

I'm Ron Han, Director of the State Office of Veterans Services. I appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 2491 HD1 as long as its implementation does not impact or replace the priorities set forth in the Executive Budget.

This bill requests that an appropriation of funds out of general revenues of the State of Hawaii to the State Department of Defense for the planning of programs, ceremonies, parades, and other activities to honor our Vietnam-era Veterans for the purpose of commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War during fiscal years 2016-2017.

Many Vietnam-era Veterans who were drafted came home to angry protestors, confronted with signs humiliating them at airports and harbors, and treated with incredible disrespect because they fulfilled their compulsory duties as citizens of this great country. Because of their resilience and pride in overcoming this travesty, the military members and Veterans of the Gulf War today did not have to endure this type of disgrace and shame. This current generation stood on the shoulders of the Vietnam-era Veterans who paved the way and brought back dignity and respect to those who defend our freedoms and liberties. This small token of our thanks and appreciation is long overdue.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer my comments.

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TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2491,HD1, RELATING TO VIETNAM WAR

COMMEMORATION

PRESENTATION TO THE

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

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

Date of Hearing: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 @ 2:00 PM

Conference Room 308, State Capitol

Good afternoon Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto and members of the Committee on Finance, for this opportunity to **strongly support HB2491, HD1**. This measure appropriates funds for the programs, ceremonies and activities commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War and Hawaii's veterans who served both in country and within the Era.

This measure will afford Hawaii to honor all military members, their families, and other government and non-government organization which supported our effort during the Vietnam War. These individuals were not given an appropriate "Welcome home" and as this the 50th Anniversary of the War it is fitting to recognize these individuals and their family members while they are able to receive the recognition.

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