



# HB2491 HD1

Measure Title: RELATING TO VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION.  
Report Title: Vietnam War; 50th Anniversary  
Description: Appropriates funds for programs, ceremonies, and activities commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War. (HB2491 HD1)  
Companion:  
Package: None  
Current Referral: PSM, WAM  
Introducer(s): ITO, CHOY, DECOITE, MATSUMOTO, OHNO, ONISHI, TOKIOKA, TSUJI, WARD, WOODSON

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

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

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 **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 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'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 50<sup>th</sup> 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.



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

March 16, 16

**Testimony in Support of HOUSE BILL 2491, HD1  
Relating to Vietnam War Commemoration 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. 2491, HD1 Appropriates funds for programs, ceremonies, and activities commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War.

The VFW is asking all VFW Posts to participate in the Vietnam War 50th Anniversary Commemorative Partner program. The Commemorative Partner Program is designed for federal, state and local communities, veterans' organizations and other nongovernmental organizations to assist a grateful nation in thanking and honoring our Vietnam Veterans and their families. As a Commemorative Partner, VFW Posts are encouraged to participate in the Commemoration of the Vietnam War by planning and conducting events and activities that will recognize the Vietnam Veterans and their families' service, valor, and sacrifice.

VFW Hawaii members would appreciate your efforts to fund the Hawaii State Commemorative Activities during 2016

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of H.B. 2491, HD1

*Lawrence M.G. Enomoto*

Lawrence M.G. Enomoto  
VFW Hawaii State Legislative Liaison

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**Date:** Wednesday, March 16, 2016 1:54:56 AM

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**HB2491**

Submitted on: 3/16/2016

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Stanley Y. Fernandez Sr.	Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States	Support	Yes

Comments: IN SUPPORT OF HB 2491.

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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Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

March 16, 2016

Testimony of Rene Berthiaume in **Support** of HB2491-HD1

Aloha Chair Senator Clarence K. Nishihara & Committee Members

My name is Rene Berthiaume and I am a member of the State of Hawaii 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Vietnam War Commemoration Committee and also Chair of its legislative committee. The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee is a result of President Obama's issuance of a proclamation as well as a similar proclamation by Governor Abercrombie. As Veterans of the war we were asked to serve on this Committee in order to organize, plan, develop and carry out a commemoration program that gives thanks and honors our Vietnam Veterans and their families. Though we are all volunteers, we are tasked with carrying out these objectives. Since these proclamations came with no real resources in terms of funding these activities, it also fell to us to request government assistance and support as well as from private sector businesses, individuals, veterans groups, etc. in order to complete our mission. These committees are active in on 50 states and also will include participation of our allies during that war i.e. South Korea, Thailand, Australia, etc. However, Hawaii has emerged as a main focal point for these efforts due to our very high visibility and the role played during Vietnam time. This high visibility will have a positive effect on us as a state and a boost to our local economy.

Again, I strongly Support this bill and look forward to its passage. I will be happy to answer any questions you might have.

Mahalo,

Rene Berthiaume

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE Bill 2491

, RELATING TO VIETNAM WAR

COMMEMORATION

PRESENTATION TO THE

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY  
AFFAIRS

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair

Senator Will Espero, Vice Chair

BY Rona F. Adams

Date of Hearing: Thursday, March 17, 2016,

Thank you chairman and vice chairman of this committee for this opportunity to **strongly support HB2491**. This measure appropriates funds for the programs, ceremonies and activities commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Vietnam War and Hawaii's veterans who served both in country and within the Era.

I am a decorated Vietnam Veteran that served 2 tours as a Captain in the US Army Nurse in the height of the war. I am a 1968 TET Offensive survivor. I also am a member of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee. When I was asked to be on this committee, my first thought was “HA!!! Too little, too Late” but then I thought about it and said “OK, Better Late than Never”.....

I want to tell you that WAR is HELL.... Anyone that has been in a combat zone will agree with me.... And I hope you or your family members never have to be in that situation. Those young men and women that were in that hell zone and came home alive had another hell

to face once they got home.....They were spit on, called baby killers, and other horrendous things plus many had to and still have to suffer from Post- Traumatic Stress Disorder and the effects of being exposed to toxic chemicals like Agent Orange...

I was fortunate like some other young women coming home, even though we came home in uniform, most people didn't think we were coming back from Vietnam and didn't treat us so horribly bad when we landed at our home airport.

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. As I stated we 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.

As I previously stated, I am a 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary committee member. I am responsible for setting up concerts and other local entertainment for several of the events in May 2017. I am trying to have the USO and the Armed Services Entertainment work with us to arrange for the concert entertainers to donate their time but we will have to pay for their travel along with room and board. We are considering having this function at the Fort Du Russey, Aloha Stadium, or the Shell. If needed, we will also bus the veterans to and fro either of the aforementioned locations.

PLEASE, let us say THANK YOU and WELCOME HOME in 2017

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



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**Date:** Monday, March 14, 2016 2:22:55 PM

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**HB2491**

Submitted on: 3/14/2016

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mike Golojuch	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support HB2491.

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

COMMEMORATION

PRESENTATION TO THE

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

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, Vice Chair Espero and members of the Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs, for this opportunity to **strongly support HB2491, HD1**. This measure appropriates funds for the programs, ceremonies and activities commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> 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.