

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 564  
A BILL RELATING TO VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION

PRESENTATION TO  
THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

BY  
BRIGADIER GENERAL ARTHUR J. LOGAN  
ADJUTANT GENERAL  
AND DIRECTOR OF THE HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY  
February 25, 2015

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

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 564.

This measure will appropriate funds for the planning of programs and ceremonies commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Vietnam War. The celebration will be a multi-year running with events occurring from 2015 through 2017.

Many Vietnam-era veterans were drafted into military service and served honorably. Many 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 50<sup>th</sup> 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 564.

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 564, RELATING TO VIETNAM WAR  
COMMEMORATION

PRESENTATION TO THE  
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

BY

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

February 25, 2015

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Nishimoto, and members of the Committee:

I'm Ron Han, Director of the State Office of Veterans Services (OVS). I appreciate this opportunity to provide written testimony in support of House Bill 564 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 the Fiscal Years 2016 and 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.

**finance8-Melanie**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 23, 2015 1:52 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** sonnyfernan@msn.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB564 on Feb 25, 2015 14:00PM

**HB564**

Submitted on: 2/23/2015

Testimony for FIN on Feb 25, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

<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, Dept. of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments: In support of state funding relating to Vietnam War Commemoration to be held in Hawaii. Funds would provide developing and supporting a state and National program to honor all Vietnam Veterans to which many veterans, world wide, did not receive after their service.

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**Testimony of  
Thomas Smyth  
Military Officers Association of America, Hawaii Chapter  
Before the  
Committee on Veterans, Military, &International Affairs, &Culture And The Arts**

**Monday, February 9, 2015, 9:05 a.m., Room 312**

**HB 564 Relating to Vietnam War Commemoration**

**Chair Ito, Vice Chair Tokioka and Committee Members**

**Our chapter of 500 retired and currently serving officers of the Uniformed Services strongly supports HB 564. This important bill provides for a series of activities that together would commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War.**

**As a veteran of the Vietnam War myself, I welcome the opportunity to join with my friends and former comrades in commemorating the importance of the end of this very significant event in our lives. Families and friends of those involved in the Vietnam War also can join in the celebration that notes the end of this very significant part of Hawaii's military history.**

**The specific programs, ceremonies, their locations and dates and times can be determined by the State Department of Defense with strong input from veterans and the coordinated network of Veteran Organizations here. My veteran's organization will be happy to be part of the planning and execution of these activities.**

**Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.**

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 564, RELATING TO VIETNAM WAR  
COMMEMORATION

PRESENTATION TO THE  
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

BY

CARSWELL J. ROSS, JR. Chief Master Sergeant, USAF. Ret.;  
Counselor Emeritus, Office of Veterans' Services

Wednesday, February 25, 2015

Good afternoon Chair Silva Luke, Vice Chair Scott Nishimoto, and members of the committee on Finance. As a member of the planning committee, and a Vietnam Era veteran, I **strongly support** the propose of HB 564 which is 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 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the War it is fitting to recognize these individuals and their family members while they are able to receive the recognition.

Thank you for this opportunity to strongly support this measure.

**FIN-Jo**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 23, 2015 3:25 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** santy2506@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB564 on Feb 25, 2015 14:00PM

**HB564**

Submitted on: 2/23/2015

Testimony for FIN on Feb 25, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

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

Comments: This is an important commemoration that will honor those who were not properly honored at the time. No more delay. It's time to honor them now.

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02/25/2015

**LATE**

Testimony regarding HB 564 support for the 50<sup>th</sup> Vietnam War Anniversary Commemoration Honoring the Vietnam Veterans of Hawaii.

Aloha & good afternoon, Representative

My name is Gene Castagnetti, & I have been appointed by the Governor of the State of Hawaii to be the Co-Chairman of the 50<sup>th</sup> Vietnam War Anniversary Commemoration Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Gov Abercrombie in 2014 partnered with the Sec. of Defense in a program designed to assist a Grateful Nation in thanking and honoring Vietnam Veterans and the families of the Armed Service men & women who served their nation.

Commemorative Partners commit to conducting a minimum of two significant events annually 2015 thru 2017.

The Vietnam War officially ended for America Jan 27<sup>th</sup> 1973 with the signing of the Paris Peace Accords and the return of American POW's on 02/12/1973.

This was an unpopular War; men were drafted by the Selective Service Law, even though these men were not eligible to vote until after the 26<sup>th</sup> Amendment was ratified in July of 1971.

America was divided in opinion & in congress as to the President Kennedy's commitment to assist the Rep. of South Vietnam to determine its own governance.

Our nation's military were criticized, denigrated, ridiculed, disparaged, debased and labeled as depraved Broken by some of the very same politicians who committed the men and women to war.

We must always remember not to blame the Warrior for failed diplomacy, as happened during the Vietnam War era.

The Vietnam War Veterans were never properly acknowledged for their service & sacrifice—never "Welcome Home"!

Now we have an opportunity mandated by Congress to reconcile that injustice for I submit the greatest injury a military person or veteran can receive is not to be wounded, BUT TO BE FORGOTTEN!

Our request for a Grant In Aid will provide the opportunity to Honor Vietnam Veterans and the Families of Veterans as follows:

1. Ceremonial state events.
2. Education programs to each future generation's about the Noble Cause Vietnam
3. Oral History of Hawaii's own Veterans
4. Hire full time event manager to coordinate ceremonies/event.

Please give favorable consideration to this request to bring the Vietnam Veterans out of the shadows for the next three years to demonstrate that the State of Hawaii acknowledges the service & sacrifice and conveys a true Welcome Home to our Hawaii Vietnam Veterans & correct an injustice when the veterans were let down in the 1970's. Thank you for your support of HB 564

G.E. Castagnetti

- ginoviet151@gmail.com

Testimony to the House Committee on Finance  
Wednesday, February 25, 2015: 2PM,  
Conference Room 308, Hawaii State Capitol

**LATE**

**RE: House Bill NO. 564, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR PROGRAMS CEREMONIES, AND ACTIVITIES COMMEMORATING THE 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE VIETNAM WAR.**

**Chairwoman Luke, Vice Chairman Nishimoto and members of the House Committee on Finance:**

**My name is Edward V. Richardson, retired Adjutant General for the State of Hawaii and a member of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Vietnam War Commemoration Committee. I am here in support of House Bill 564.**

**It is hard to believe that 50 years has gone by since our country was involved in the Vietnam Conflict. It was a war that we did not win – a war that has left many scars and much suffering with our Vietnam Veterans. We can go back to those years that created hurt and conflict, a war that had demonstrations that we had never seen before: that pitted those who objected to why we were there - against those who believed that what we were doing was right -and those that dutifully went to serve their country. Many of those demonstrations were right here in Hawaii; many were here at our University of Hawaii.**

**Many of our servicemen and women were killed and injured in that war. Many still hold the scars of the conflict. They were never welcomed home with parades and were never openly embraced by our communities. They were never given the respect that they deserved for answering the call of our nation. In fact, at one point, demonstrations had gotten so bad that returning servicemen were advised to change into civilian clothes before they returned home to avoid getting hurt by harassment and taunting of the demonstrators.**

**Hawaii lost 322 of its sons and to the war in Vietnam. The Hawaii Army National Guard's 29<sup>th</sup> Brigade, along with units of the Hawaii Army Reserve, was activated and many served and were killed in Vietnam. Hawaii's 25<sup>th</sup> Division was one of the Army's main units in Vietnam.**



Marine units from Hawaii were also strong participants in the war, along with units from the Pacific Air Forces, the US Navy and the US Coast Guard.

It is time that we make things Pono. It is time that we honor our Vietnam Veterans and properly welcome them home and thank them for their service to our nation. It is time to honor those families who let their spouses and fathers/mothers serve in Vietnam. It is time to honor those family members who lost loved ones to that war for the sacrifices that they have made.

We ask for your support. We ask you to pass HB 564.

Thank you for allowing me to testify.

Edward V Richardson

**LATE**

House Committee on Finance

February 24, 2015

Testimony of Rene Berthiaume in Support of HB564

Aloha Chair Luke and Vice Chair Nishimoto and members of the House Finance Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of HB564.

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

**LATE**

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
 Sent: Tuesday, February 24, 2015 5:19 PM  
 To: FINTestimony  
 Cc: berthiaut001@hawaii.rr.com  
 Subject: Submitted testimony for HB564 on Feb 25, 2015 14:00PM  
 Attachments: testimony hb564.docx

**HB564**

Submitted on: 2/24/2015

Testimony for FIN on Feb 25, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

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

Comments:

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