

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

LATE TESTIMONY

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

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

BY
BRIGADIER GENERAL ARTHUR J. LOGAN
ADJUTANT GENERAL
AND DIRECTOR OF THE HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
March 17, 2015

Chair Espero, Vice Chair Baker and Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety,
Intergovernmental and Military Affairs:

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 50th 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 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 564.

LATE TESTIMONY

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
(PSM)

March 16, 2015

Testimony of Rene Berthiaume in **Support** of HB564

Aloha Chair Espero and Vice Chair Baker and members of the 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 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War Commemoration Committee and also Chair of its legislative committee. The 50th 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