

tokioka2-Robert

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 07, 2015 4:35 PM
To: vmitestimony
Cc: annsfreed@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB881 on Feb 9, 2015 09:05AM

HB881

Submitted on: 2/7/2015

Testimony for VMI on Feb 9, 2015 09:05AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ann S Freed	Hawaii Military Women Task Force Committee	Support	Yes

Comments: Women Veterans Task Force Committee Advisory Board Office of Veterans Affairs COMMITTEE ON VETERANS, MILITARY, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, & CULTURE AND THE ARTS Rep. Ken Ito, Chair Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair DATE: Monday, February 09, 2015 TIME: 9:05 a.m. PLACE: Conference Room 312 STRONG SUPPORT FOR HB881, that establishes and funds a veterans coordinator (counselor IV) position within the Office of Veterans' Services, to assist all veterans, with a primary focus on female veterans who served on a ctive duty for the full period they were activated. Aloha Chair Ito and committee members, I am Ann S. Freed, Chair of The Hawaii Military Women's Task Force Committee. We are in strong support of this measure. The Task Force was formed by the Legislature in 2012 to address the needs women veterans in Hawaii. We submitted a report to the 2013 Legislature that detailed preliminary findings concerning our women warriors. We found that military sexual trauma (MST) is rampant in the armed services, that homelessness and joblessness along with PTSD, are some of the major problems that our women face. The 2013 report included a recommendation to create a Women's Services Coordinator position. Last year HB2072 was introduced to create and fund this position as a "veterans service coordinator" focusing on women. Sadly the bill died in conference as the legislative clock ran out. This year HB881 resurrects the position. But we recommend two changes to the language of the bill. First remove the phrase "who served on active duty" from the bill. It is unnecessary and could create confusion. Second, change the title "coordinator" to "Counselor IV" in the bill description and throughout the body of the bill. The "Counselor IV" already exists and using this title as opposed to "coordinator" will obviate the need for Department of Defense to go through months or years of process to create a new position. We feel there is some urgency to create this position, based on our research. Last year, in order to assess the scope and type of needs, we did an informal survey of women veterans throughout the state. We found that women don 't know what benefits they have, that they need services for PTSD and Military Sexual Trauma, that they need re-entry services and employment services, and that they would like help getting educational benefits. Some of them had questions about eligibility. Some complained of lack of access to OB/GYN and breastfeeding among others services, many of which are provided but the women veterans were unaware. Our results match those of two more extensive surveys by Disabled American Veterans and CalVet. All of the surveys demonstrated a need for continuous education about benefits and constant outreach. The coordinator/counselor will provide a focus with which to address the specific needs of women veterans, bridging gaps in care. It will aid with the process of helping the approximately 12,000 women veterans in Hawaii to move forward in their lives. It will help the OVS to collect data, integrate services, educate women veterans on their benefits, assist women veterans in getting access to

appropriate health care, assist the task force in outreach efforts and a host of other duties. But, probably most important, the counselor will help the Office of Veterans Services to assess what services are lacking or inadequate. Hawaii's military women have served our nation often at great cost to their health, their lives and too often to their human dignity. As a state we need to recognize their sacrifice by addressing their needs. This position is the first step in doing that. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify Ann S. Freed Chair, Women's Military Task Force Committee Office of Veteran 's Services annsreed@gmail.com, 808-623-5676

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tokioka2-Robert

From: Ann Freed <annsreed@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 07, 2015 4:32 PM
To: vmitestimony
Cc: ito3-George
Subject: HB881 Women Vets Coordinator
Attachments: HB881 Women Vets Coordinator.docx; ATT00001.txt

Aloha Kakou,

Here's my testimony for the Monday morning meeting. Baring catastrophe on H1, I will be there in person.

**Women Veterans Task Force Committee
Advisory Board
Office of Veterans Affairs**

**COMMITTEE ON VETERANS, MILITARY, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, & CULTURE AND THE
ARTS**

Rep. Ken Ito, Chair
Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair

DATE: Monday, February 09, 2015
TIME: 9:05 a.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 312

STRONG SUPPORT FOR HB881, that establishes and funds a veterans ~~coordinator~~ (counselor IV) position within the Office of Veterans' Services, to assist all veterans, with a primary focus on female veterans who served on active duty for the full period they were activated.

Aloha Chair Ito and committee members,

I am Ann S. Freed, Chair of The Hawaii Military Women's Task Force Committee. We are in strong support of this measure.

The Task Force was formed by the Legislature in 2012 to address the needs women veterans in Hawaii. We submitted a report to the 2013 Legislature that detailed preliminary findings concerning our women warriors. We found that military sexual trauma (MST) is rampant in the armed services, that homelessness and joblessness along with PTSD, are some of the major problems that our women face.

The 2013 report included a recommendation to create a Women's Services Coordinator position. Last year HB2072 was introduced to create and fund this position as a "veterans service coordinator" focusing on women. Sadly the bill died in conference as the legislative clock ran out.

This year HB881 resurrects the position. But we recommend two changes to the language of the bill. First remove the phrase "who served on active duty" from the bill. It is unnecessary and could create confusion. Second, change the title "coordinator" to "Counselor IV" in the bill description and throughout the body of the bill. The "Counselor IV" already exists and using this title as opposed to "coordinator" will obviate the need for Department of Defense to go through months or years of process to create a new position.

We feel there is some urgency to create this position, based on our research. Last year, in order to assess the scope and type of needs, we did an informal survey of women veterans throughout the state. We found that women don't know what benefits they have, that they need services for PTSD and Military Sexual Trauma, that they need re-entry

services and employment services, and that they would like help getting educational benefits. Some of them had questions about eligibility. Some complained of lack of access to OB/GYN and breastfeeding among others services, many of which are provided but the women veterans were unaware.

Our results match those of two more extensive surveys by Disabled American Veterans and CalVet. All of the surveys demonstrated a need for continuous education about benefits and constant outreach.

The coordinator/counselor will provide a focus with which to address the specific needs of women veterans, bridging gaps in care. It will aid with the process of helping the approximately 12,000 women veterans in Hawaii to move forward in their lives. It will help the OVS to collect data, integrate services, educate women veterans on their benefits, assist women veterans in getting access to appropriate health care, assist the task force in outreach efforts and a host of other duties. But, probably most important, the counselor will help the Office of Veterans Services to assess what services are lacking or inadequate.

Hawaii's military women have served our nation often at great cost to their health, their lives and too often to their human dignity. As a state we need to recognize their sacrifice by addressing their needs. This position is the first step in doing that.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify

Ann S. Freed

Chair, Women's Military Task Force Committee

Office of Veteran's Services

annsfreed@gmail.com, 808-623-5676

tokioka2-Robert

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 07, 2015 9:18 PM
To: vmitestimony
Cc: Gyoshimoto@scd.hawaii.gov
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB881 on Feb 9, 2015 09:05AM
Attachments: HB0881 DOD Testimony VMI 15.02.09.pdf

HB881

Submitted on: 2/7/2015

Testimony for VMI on Feb 9, 2015 09:05AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Galen Yoshimoto	State Department of Defense	Support	Yes

Comments: Submitted in behalf of Brigadier General Arthur Logan, Adjutant General and Director of the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency

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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 881
A BILL RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

PRESENTATION TO
THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS, MILITARY, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
& CULTURE AND THE ARTS

BY
BRIGADIER GENERAL ARTHUR J. LOGAN
ADJUTANT GENERAL
AND DIRECTOR OF THE HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
February 9, 2015

Chair Ito, Vice Chair Tokioka and Members of the House Committee on Veterans, Military, & International Affairs & Culture and the Arts:

I am Brigadier General Arthur J. Logan, the Adjutant General and the Director of the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency. I am testifying in **SUPPORT** of House Bill 881.

This measure makes an appropriation to establish an additional veterans coordinator in the Office of Veterans Affairs. This new position will assist the increasing number of veterans who are making the transition from military to civilian life.

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)
- 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)

The addition of an additional veterans coordinator will allow the Office of Veterans Services to increase their assistance to women veterans.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in **SUPPORT** of House Bill 881.

Date: February 6, 2015

To: Representative Ken Ito, Chair
Representative James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair
Committee on Veterans, Military, & International Affairs, &
Culture and the Arts

From: Mike Golojuch, Lt Col, USAF (Ret), Chair, Advisory Board on Veterans' Services

Subject: Strong Support for HB881

As the Chair, Advisory Board to the Office of Veterans' Services, which represents over 170,000 Hawaii veterans, we strongly support HB881. Our board felt it important for women veterans' issues be heard that we incorporated the Women Veterans Task Force as a subcommittee to the Advisory Board. This bill supports our efforts. It will ensure that the 11,000 plus female veterans have a voice in Hawaii.

It is important to both establish a position within the Office of Veterans' Services (OVS) that has a focus on female veterans and to fund the position.

Consider the high number of military sexual trauma cases, with many more unreported cases, it is important to have an OVS position that focuses on female veterans. There are other re-entry issues that could be better addressed having a woman reviewing female veteran issues.

As always, this is another positive way to repay veterans for the sacrifices they made.

The Board strongly urges that you pass this measure and make funds available.

Thank you for the opportunity to express the views of the Advisory Board.

tokioka2-Robert

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 06, 2015 3:32 PM
To: vmitestimony
Cc: jbickel15@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB881 on Feb 9, 2015 09:05AM

HB881

Submitted on: 2/6/2015

Testimony for VMI on Feb 9, 2015 09:05AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John Bickel	Individual	Support	No

Comments: We have an obligation to treat all our veterans well. The 2012 task force indicates a need for a position to support services that may be unique to women veterans. Please support this bill.

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tokioka2-Robert

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Sent: Friday, February 06, 2015 4:34 PM
To: vmitestimony
Cc: greenlee@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB881 on Feb 9, 2015 09:05AM*

HB881

Submitted on: 2/6/2015

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ann Greenlee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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