



HCR40

Measure Title: REQUESTING THAT THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE PROVIDE EIGHT-PERSON FIRING PARTIES (SEVEN MEMBERS AND THE FIRING PARTY NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICER IN CHARGE) AT THE FUNERALS OF ALL AIR FORCE VETERANS AND RETIREES WHO WERE DISCHARGED OR RELEASED UNDER CONDITIONS OTHER THAN DISHONORABLE.

Report Title: Air Force; Veterans; Retirees; Funerals; Three-Volley Salutes

Description:

Companion:

Package: None

Current Referral: PSM

Introducer(s): ITO, BROWER, CACHOLA, KAWAKAMI, KONG, MATSUMOTO, ONISHI, TOKIOKA, WARD

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 40 (HSCR1582-16)
REQUESTING THAT THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE PROVIDE AN EIGHT-
PERSON FIRING PARTIES (SEVEN MEMBERS AND THE FIRING NON-
COMMISSIONED OFFICER IN CHARGE) AT FUNERALS OF ALL AIR FORCE
VETERANS AND RETIREES WHO WERE DISCHARGED OR RELEASED UNDER
CONDITIONS OTHER THAN DISHONROABLE

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

BY

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

April 14, 2016
1:30 p.m.

Aloha 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 HCR 40 (HSCR 1582-16).

Almost every one of the military services that perform funeral honors for eligible Veterans and retirees in Hawaii bring a full-complement of members of an Honors detail that include these functions: the three-volley salutes, the playing of Taps, and the folding and presentation of the US flag to the next of kin. Only the US Air Force as of December 1, 2015 has reduced their Honors Detail to a three or two person team eliminating the three-volley salutes. Our office has received numerous queries concerning why the difference in service protocol and why only the US Air Force has instituted this change. The rationale provided by the 15th Wing has been due to sequestration and budget cuts. Admittedly, family members and loved ones of the deceased Veteran or retiree have a hard time understanding why the other services have made this a priority for funding, yet one service has not. As a possible resolution, all of the services should be assessed to combine their Honors resources so all funerals are provided the same honors protocol. This is evident when a Joint Service Color Guard presents the colors on Memorial Day, Veterans Day and at military events. Funerals would require that at least one member must be from the decease member's service.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of Hawaii's Veterans and their families in support of HCR 40 (HSCR 1582-16).

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Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HCR40 on Apr 14, 2016 13:30PM*
Date: Monday, April 11, 2016 1:22:33 PM

HCR40

Submitted on: 4/11/2016

Testimony for PSM on Apr 14, 2016 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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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Subject: Submitted testimony for HCR40 on Apr 14, 2016 13:30PM
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HCR40

Submitted on: 4/13/2016

Testimony for PSM on Apr 14, 2016 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Don Aweau	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: In steadfast support of HCR40 and it's merits to uphold the full honors that should be afforded to all United States Air Force veterans and retirees. My father, myself and many members of my 'ohana (as well as friends, classmates, and co-workers) have all served in the Air Force, and its reserve components, the Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard. They are all, as are all military service members who served honorably, are well-deserving of a honorable sendoff when they pass. Aim High! Hu-rah! Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

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