

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 1159 SD1, RELATING TO VETERANS
DISABILITY BENEFITS

PRESENTATION TO THE

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

BY

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

March 2, 2015

Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Shimabukuro and Committee members:

I'm Ron Han, Director of the State Office of Veterans Services (OVS). I appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony in support of the concepts in Senate Bill 1159 SD 1.

This measure seeks to assure that Veteran's compensation benefits become exempt from the claim of creditors and cannot be subject to additional terms, levy, or seizure. The benefits may not be awarded to any other person. However, this amendment will allow children and spouses in such cases to receive some of the benefits of the veteran.

This law will allow Veterans' benefits to remain protected from institutions that intend to profit from these entitlements while allowing dependents to receive specified benefits. There are Federal prohibitions on the distribution of compensation benefits provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs stipulated in the current SD1 version of this Bill.

We defer to the Department of Veterans Affairs, which has direct responsibility for payments to veterans and their family members, in determining the legitimacy of creditors' claims for payment.

The OVS supports the intent expressed in this measure as long as its implementation does not impact or replace the priorities set forth in the Executive Budget for Fiscal Biennium 2015-2017.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of Hawaii's Veterans and their families.

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Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1159 on Mar 3, 2015 09:15AM*
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SB1159

Submitted on: 3/2/2015

Testimony for JDL on Mar 3, 2015 09:15AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christopher Acosta	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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SB1159

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Edward Stankos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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SB1159

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

Comments:

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