

tokioka2-Robert

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2015 6:56 PM
To: vmitestimony
Cc: ronald.han@va.gov
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1159 on Mar 16, 2015 09:00AM
Attachments: SB1159 SD2 Relating to Veterans Disability Benefits-2015 (C2).pdf

SB1159

Submitted on: 3/13/2015

Testimony for VMI on Mar 16, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ron Han	DOD-OVS	Support	Yes

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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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 1159 SD2, RELATING TO VETERANS
DISABILITY BENEFITS

PRESENTATION TO THE

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

BY

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

March 16, 2015

Chair Ito, Vice Chair Tokioka 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 2.

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. These 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' compensation benefits to remain protected from institutions that intend to profit from these entitlements while allowing dependents to receive specified benefits. Disability compensation is a monetary benefit paid to Veterans who are disabled by an injury or illness incurred or aggravated during active military service. These disabilities are considered to be service connected. Veterans Affairs pensions are for low-income wartime veterans if they meet certain incomes and net worth limits set by law; are age 65 or older, permanently and totally disabled, a patient in a nursing home receiving skilled nursing care, receiving Social Security Disability Insurance, or receiving Supplemental Security Income. There are Federal prohibitions on the distribution of compensation benefits provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs stipulated in the current SD2 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.

tokioka2-Robert

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, March 14, 2015 11:28 AM
To: vmitestimony
Cc: mjgolo@email.phoenix.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1159 on Mar 16, 2015 09:00AM

SB1159

Submitted on: 3/14/2015

Testimony for VMI on Mar 16, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mike Golojuch	Veterans Advisory Board	Support	No

Comments: The Advisory Board to the Office of Veterans Services supports SB1159

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tokioka2-Robert

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2015 4:57 PM
To: vmitestimony
Cc: sonnyfernand@msn.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1159 on Mar 16, 2015 09:00AM

SB1159

Submitted on: 3/13/2015

Testimony for VMI on Mar 16, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stanley Y. Fernandez Sr.	Individual	Support	No

Comments: SB1159, Relating to VA Disability Benefits. VA disability benefits are received by the veteran for injury and disability incurred while on active duty. This money should not be touched by the courts and retained for the veteran. In support.

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