

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON SEANTE BILL 3112
A BILL RELATING TO THE VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION

PRESENTATION TO
THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

BY
MAJOR GENERAL ARTHUR J. LOGAN
ADJUTANT GENERAL
AND DIRECTOR OF THE HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
February 25, 2016

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

I am Major General Arthur J. Logan, State Adjutant General and the Director of the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency. I am testifying in **SUPPORT** of Senate Bill 3112.

This measure appropriates funds for the planning of programs and ceremonies commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War. Many Vietnam-era veterans were drafted into military service and served honorably. Thousands 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 Senate Bill 3112.

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 3112, RELATING TO VIETNAM WAR
COMMEMORATION

PRESENTATION TO THE
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

BY

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

February 25, 2016

Good afternoon Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and members of the Committee:

I'm Ron Han, Director of the State Office of Veterans Services. I appreciate this opportunity to provide written testimony in support of Senate Bill 3112 as long as its implementation does not impact or replace the priorities set forth in the Executive Budget.

This bill requests that an appropriation of funds out of general revenues of the State of Hawaii to the State Department of Defense for the planning of programs, ceremonies, parades, and other activities to honor our Vietnam-era Veterans for the purpose of commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War during fiscal years 2016-2017.

Many Vietnam-era Veterans who were drafted came home to angry protestors, confronted with signs humiliating them at airports and harbors, and treated with incredible disrespect because they fulfilled their compulsory duties as citizens of this great country. Because of their resilience and pride in overcoming this travesty, the military members and Veterans of the Gulf War today did not have to endure this type of disgrace and shame. This current generation stood on the shoulders of the Vietnam-era Veterans who paved the way and brought back dignity and respect to those who defend our freedoms and liberties. This small token of our thanks and appreciation is long overdue.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer my comments.

Senate Committee on Ways & Means

February 23, 2016

Testimony of Rene Berthiaume in **Support** of SB3112

Aloha Chair Senator Jill Okuda & Committee Members

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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: sonnyfernan@msn.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB3112 on Feb 25, 2016 13:00PM
Date: Tuesday, February 23, 2016 3:34:01 PM

SB3112

Submitted on: 2/23/2016

Testimony for WAM on Feb 25, 2016 13:00PM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stanley Y. Fernandez Sr.	Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States	Support	No

Comments: In Support of SB3112, Funding for the Vietnam Commemoration. This bill places Hawaii in the forefront, nationwide, to recognize all Vietnam Veterans in a weeklong activities in the State of Hawaii.

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TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 3112, RELATING TO VIETNAM WAR

COMMEMORATION

PRESENTATION TO THE

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

BY Carswell J. Ross, Jr. CMSgt. USAF (Ret.)

Date of Hearing: Thursday, February 25, 2016, @ 1:00 PM

Conference Room 211, State Capitol

Good afternoon Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and members of the Committee on Ways and Means for this opportunity to **strongly support SB3112**. This measure appropriates funds for the programs, ceremonies and activities commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War and Hawaii's veterans who served both in country and within the Era.

This measure will afford Hawaii to honor all military members, their families, and other government and non-government organization which supported our effort during the Vietnam War. These individuals were not given an appropriate "Welcome home" and as this the 50th Anniversary of the War it is fitting to recognize these individuals and their family members while they are able to receive the recognition.

I thank the committee for allowing me this opportunity to testify in strong support of this bill.