



SB3113

Measure Title:	RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.
Report Title:	Office of Veterans' Services; Veterans Services Counselor IV; Appropriation (\$)
Description:	Appropriates funds for the establishment of a veterans services counselor IV position within the Office of Veterans' Services to assist all veterans, with a primary focus on female veterans.
Companion:	HB2489
Package:	None
Current Referral:	PSM, WAM
Introducer(s):	NISHIHARA, ESPERO

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 3113
A BILL RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

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

BY
MAJOR GENERAL ARTHUR J. LOGAN
ADJUTANT GENERAL
AND DIRECTOR OF THE HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
February 16, 2016

Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Espero, and Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs:

I am Major General Arthur J. Logan, State Adjutant General and the Director of the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency. I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of Senate Bill 3113.

This measure makes an appropriation to establish an additional veterans coordinator in the Office of Veterans Affairs. This new position will work to address the challenges of all veterans, with a primary focus on female veterans.

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). The number of female veterans with PTSD will only increase after the recent Department of Defense decision to allow women to all combat related career fields.
- 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).

We need to address the needs of all our veterans and their families.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in **STRONG SUPPORT** of Senate Bill 3113.

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 3113, RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF
DEFENSE

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

BY

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

February 16, 2016

Good afternoon, Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Espero and members of the Committee:

I am Ron Han, Director of the Office of Veterans Services. I appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony in support of the concepts in Senate Bill 3113.

Funding for this position was submitted in the division's supplemental budget request but did not receive approval. If funding is not approved through this process, the State Office of Veterans Services may delay addressing women issues and programs.

The State Office of Veterans Services recognizes the strong need to develop programs and to address critical issues affecting this fastest growing group of veterans.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak on behalf of Hawaii's Veteran community.

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

**COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY
AFFAIRS**

**Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
Senator Will Espero, Vice Chair**

DATE: Tuesday, February 16, 2016
TIME: 1:18 p.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 229

STRONG SUPPORT FOR SB3113 that appropriates funds for the establishment of a veterans' services counselor IV position within the Office of Veterans' Services to assist all veterans, with a primary focus on female veterans.

Aloha Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Espero 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.

This last November, we held the first State-Wide Women Veterans Conference. We had about 150 participants and received valuable feed back on the needs and wants of our Hawaii women veterans. Two things stand out. Women Vets like their male counterparts, are unaware of many of their benefits and, women Vets also saw a need for more gender appropriate access to women's healthcare to include greater emphasis on wellness.

This counselor position would help to educate women as to their benefits, would coordinate women's healthcare services across the communities throughout our state, would assist in the creation and/or expansion gender appropriate services and assist in data collection of the number and needs of our women Vets.

We have asked that this be created as a full-time regular position for several years now. We are hoping that this years Legislature will address the ever-increasing scope of this need. As noted in the bill there are an estimated thirteen thousand women veterans in the state. As women come home from combat, retire from active duty, and/or are medically discharged we can expect that needs specific to women, such as Military

Sexual Trauma, re-entry issues, and access to gender-appropriate benefits, will only increase.

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 an essential 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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [PSMTestimony](#)
Cc: greenlee@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB3113 on Feb 16, 2016 13:18PM
Date: Thursday, February 11, 2016 12:26:00 PM

SB3113

Submitted on: 2/11/2016

Testimony for PSM on Feb 16, 2016 13:18PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ann Greenlee	Governors Advisory Board on Veteran Services	Support	No

Comments: As Chairman of the Governor's Advisory Board on Veteran Services and representing the 121,000 veterans in Hawaii we strongly support this measure and urge the Senate to pass this important piece of legislation. Many states have a counselor position in the State Office of Veteran Services whose focus is on women's issues. Women veterans continue to make up an ever greater percentage of the veteran population and some of their issues and concerns differ significantly from their male counterparts. This position has been supported by past sessions. its now time to fund it. Thank you.

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To: [PSMTestimony](#)
Cc: traxlerj@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB3113 on Feb 16, 2016 13:18PM*
Date: Saturday, February 13, 2016 2:14:09 PM

SB3113

Submitted on: 2/13/2016

Testimony for PSM on Feb 16, 2016 13:18PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
James H. Traxler	State Veterans Advisory Board	Support	No

Comments:

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THE SEX ABUSE TREATMENT CENTER

A Program of Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children

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Linda Jameson
Michael P. Matsumoto
Robert H. Pantell, MD
Gidget Ruschetta
Joshua A. Wisch

DATE: February 16, 2016

TO: The Honorable Clarence Nishihara, Chair
The Honorable Will Espero, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

FROM: The Sex Abuse Treatment Center
A Program of Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women and Children

RE: Testimony in Support of S.B. 3113
Relating to the Department of Defense

Good morning Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Espero, and members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs.

The Sex Abuse Treatment Center (SATC) supports S.B. 3113, which appropriates funds for the establishment of a veterans service counselor IV position within the Office of Veterans' Services to assist all veterans, with a primary focus on female veterans.

Sexual assault in the armed forces remains a serious health and safety problem for both current and former service members in the State of Hawaii. As reported to the Legislature by the Hawaii Military Women's Taskforce (the Taskforce) in 2013, Military Sexual Trauma (MST) has lasting consequences for its survivors, and contributes to mental health problems, including Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), substance abuse, homelessness, and joblessness among our state's veteran population.

A recent national survey released by the US Department of Defense indicated that 26,000 service members were sexually assaulted in 2012. Of these, 12,000 (46%) were women, despite there being far fewer women in the military than men. This means that women in the armed forces are disproportionately subjected to sexual violence than their male counterparts, with 6.1% of the surveyed servicewomen responding that they had experienced unwanted sexual contact in 2012, compared with only 1.2 percent of men. Overall Veteran Affairs healthcare provider screenings further indicated that, as of 2011, 23% of women veterans had experienced MST.

A Civil Beat analysis of incidents between 2004 and 2014 further found that an average of 119 sexual assaults of service members were reported in Hawaii each year. It is important to note that this does not reflect the actual number of military sexual assaults that likely occurred in the islands, as such attacks are vastly under reported.

The scale of MST in Hawaii, given the extent of the US military's presence in the islands, underscores the need for our state to provide appropriate resources to support veteran survivors of sexual assault, even after they leave service.

Unfortunately, an informal survey conducted by members of the Taskforce in 2014 found that Hawaii veterans still do not know what benefits they are entitled to or that services are available to address MST and PTSD, and continued to face difficulties accessing re-entry, employment and educational services and benefits.

By funding the veterans service counselor IV position in the Hawaii Department of Defense, S.B. 3113 would empower local veterans who suffered sexual assault during their time in service to access the resources they need to heal and recover, consistent with the Taskforce's recommendations to the Legislature. Moreover, the counselor would be able to identify and bridge gaps in care, and assist the Office of Veterans Services to improve MST service delivery throughout the State of Hawaii.

Therefore, we respectfully urge you to join SATC in supporting this important measure.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [PSMTestimony](#)
Cc: laurie.field@ppvnh.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB3113 on Feb 16, 2016 13:18PM*
Date: Monday, February 15, 2016 3:04:17 PM

SB3113

Submitted on: 2/15/2016

Testimony for PSM on Feb 16, 2016 13:18PM in Conference Room 229

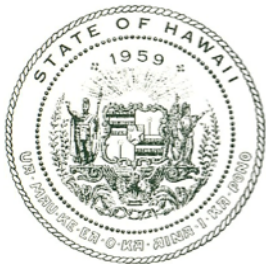
Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laurie Field	Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

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HAWAII
STATE
COMMISSION
ON THE
STATUS
OF
WOMEN



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LESLIE WILKINS

COMMISSIONERS:

SHERRY CAMPAGNA
CYD HOFFELD
JUDY KERN
MARILYN LEE
AMY MONK
LISA ELLEN SMITH

Executive Director
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February 16, 2016

To: Senator Clarence Nishihara, Chair
Senator Will Espero, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety,
Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

From: Cathy Betts
Executive Director
Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women

Re: Testimony in Support, SB 3113

The Commission is in strong support of SB 3113, which would rthe establish and fund a women veterans services coordinator position. The Military Women's Task Force was formed by the Legislature in 2012 to address the needs of women veterans in Hawaii. In 2013, this task force submitted a report to the legislature detailing serious concerns within the women's veteran community. Specifically, the task force found that military sexual trauma, PTSD, and homelessness were exacerbated for female veterans.

The 2013 report included a recommendation to create a Women's Services Coordinator position. Unfortunately, this position has not been created or funded as of yet. The women's community feels there is an urgent need for this position, as many female veterans returning home have difficulty accessing basic services, like reproductive health care, treatment for PTSD, and basic educational benefits due to them. The coordinator would be able to address the growing needs of female veterans. The Commission strongly supports the passage of this measure. Thank you for your time.



February 16, 2016

TO: Senator Clarence Nishihara, Chair
Senator Will Espero Vice Chair and
Members of the Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

FROM: Jeanne Y. Ohta, Co-Chair

RE: SB 3113 Relating to the Department of Defense
Hearing: Tuesday, February 16, 2016, 1:18 p.m., Room 229

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Hawai'i State Democratic Women's Caucus writes in support of SB3113 Relating to the Department of Defense proposes that funding be made available to the State Department of Defense for a veteran's services counselor position within the Office of Veterans' Services (OVS) with a primary focus on female veterans.

In 2013 the Hawai'i Military Women's Taskforce submitted a report to the legislature recommending that a Women's Veteran's Coordinator position be established in order to help address the unique needs of women in active duty and of women veterans, needs that are often different from those of their male counterparts. The coordinator will fill a gap in care and will aid with the process of helping the approximately 12,000 women veterans in Hawai'i to move forward in their lives. The coordinator would help the OVS to collect data, integrate services and move forward on the Task Force's recommendations.

As with other organizations where women are a distinct minority; programs and services were originally established and created for male populations. Those benefits and services have been designed to address the needs of men rather than women. Women need gender appropriate programs, benefits, and services; nowhere is this more evident than for healthcare services and for military sexual trauma, a result of sexual assault while in the military.

It is important to recognize the specific and distinctive needs of women in their effort to re-enter civilian lives, retrain for new careers, establish homes for themselves and their families, and to care for their families. Establishing a Coordinator position will help focus the OVS on gender appropriate, effective care for women

The Hawai'i State Democratic Women's Caucus is a catalyst for progressive, social, economic, and political change through action on critical issues facing Hawaii's women and girls. It is because of this mission, the Women's Caucus supports this important measure.

We thank the committee for this opportunity to submit our testimony.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [PSMTestimony](#)
Cc: mjgolo@email.phoenix.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB3113 on Feb 16, 2016 13:18PM
Date: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 5:19:23 PM

SB3113

Submitted on: 2/10/2016

Testimony for PSM on Feb 16, 2016 13:18PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mike Golojuch	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support the establishment the establishment of a veterans services counselor IV position within the Office of Veterans' Services to assist all veterans, with a primary focus on female veterans. Please appropriate the funds so veterans, especially female veterans, will have appropriate access to veteran services. Thank you for allowing me to state my position. Mike Golojuch, Lt Col, USAF(Ret)

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To: [PSMTestimony](#)
Cc: santy2506@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB3113 on Feb 16, 2016 13:18PM*
Date: Thursday, February 11, 2016 1:14:41 PM

SB3113

Submitted on: 2/11/2016

Testimony for PSM on Feb 16, 2016 13:18PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carlos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 3113, RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
PRESENTATION TO THE
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

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

Date of Hearing: Monday, February 16, 2016

Thank Senator Clarence Nishihara, Chair and Senator Will Espero, Vice Chair and members of the Committee on Public safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs, for this opportunity to **strongly support SB3113**. This bill will provide funds to establish a veteran's services counselor IV within the Office of Veterans Services (OVS), who will assist all veterans with special emphasis on assisting women veterans. Presently about 15% of our military members are female. They are now allowed to enter any job within the armed forces. Although this is a recent change to the law, women have been involved in areas close to the battle lines and in the present conflict with ISIS in direct contact with the enemy. Some have been wounded and some have been killed while participating in so called non-combat operations. Our society is ill-equipped to deal with trauma and there are special resources available to women who suffered injuries while in the service of our country. A counselor who is specially trained to deal with women issues is needed to effectively provide the support these female veterans require to reintegrate into society.

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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [PSMTestimony](#)
Cc: joyamarshall0416@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB3113 on Feb 16, 2016 13:18PM
Date: Monday, February 15, 2016 3:59:50 PM

SB3113

Submitted on: 2/15/2016

Testimony for PSM on Feb 16, 2016 13:18PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joy Marshall	Individual	Support	No

Comments: This position is long awaited and much needed

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Testimony of
Thomas K. Lee Jr.

In consideration of
Senate Bill 3113
RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

I would like to testify in support of this bill. In that the numbers of females serving our nation's military has grown and the mission sets those female service members encounter has brought them to and will continue to bring them to the frontlines of battle there most certainly is a need for there to be a counselor who is trained with emphasis to the needs of our female veterans at our veteran care center.