

**THE MILITARY ORDER OF FOREIGN WARS  
HAWAII COMMANDERY**

Oahu Veterans Center  
1298 Kukila St  
Honolulu, HI 96818



3 February 2015

Senator Will Espero, Chairman  
Committee on Public Safety,  
Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

## LATE TESTIMONY

Dear Senator Espero,

The Hawaii Commandery, Military Order of Foreign Wars, is pleased to provide testimony for SB669. We are pleased to see this Bill come before your committee and fully support its approval and implementation, along with adequate resources to ensure its success.

At the President's direction, the entire nation is involved in honoring a generation of warriors who are only recently receiving belated acknowledgment for their sacrifices in a lengthy and difficult war.

As the military gateway to the Pacific, Hawaii has a deep history in terms of its pivotal role in deploying and supporting our nations Armed Forces in the Vietnam War. The Hawaii community needs an organized effort to plan and carry out appropriate commemorative activities that will honor the veterans still among us, as well as the surviving families of those who served and are now deceased.

While there are many veteran organizations ready to support this effort (ours included), such an undertaking must be properly led and sufficiently resourced to achieve the level of propriety necessary to match their sacrifices and deeds. This legislation is urgently needed to provide the resources that will allow the people of Hawaii to express their respect, admiration, and gratitude to the generation who served their countrymen in a difficult and unpopular war.

I can be reached at 477-8195, or e-mail [arthur.tulak@earthlink.net](mailto:arthur.tulak@earthlink.net)

**"Deus et Libertas"**

Arthur N. Tulak  
Colonel, U.S. Army, Ret.  
Commander, HI Commandery  
Military Order of Foreign Wars

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TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 669, RELATING TO VIETNAM WAR  
COMMEMORATION

PRESENTATION TO THE

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND  
MILITARY AFFAIRS

BY

CARSWELL J. ROSS, JR. Chief Master Sergeant, USAF. Ret.;  
Counselor Emeritus, Office of Veterans' Services

February 5, 2015

Good afternoon Chair Will Espero and Vice Chair Rosalyn Baker. As a member of the planning committee, and a Vietnam Era veteran, I **strongly support** the propose of SB 669 which is 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 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the War it is fitting to recognize these individuals while they are able to receive the recognition.

Thank you for this opportunity to strongly support this measure.

Testimony regarding SB669 Support for the 50<sup>th</sup> Vietnam War Anniversary Commemoration  
Honoring the Vietnam Veterans of Hawaii.

Aloha & good afternoon, Senators Espero, Baker, Gaulteria & *Senator Slom, Sen Keith A921-21*  
My name is Gene Castagnetti, & I have been appointed by the Governor of the State of Hawaii to be the  
Co-Chairman of the 50<sup>th</sup> Vietnam War Anniversary Commemoration Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Gov Abercrombie in 2014 partnered with the Sec. of Defense in a program designed to assist a Grateful  
Nation in thanking and honoring Vietnam Veterans and the families of the Armed Service men & women  
who served their nation.

Commemorative Partners commit to conducting a minimum of two significant events annually 2015 thru  
2017.

The Vietnam War officially ended for America Jan 27<sup>th</sup> 1973 with the signing of the Paris Peace Accords  
and the return of American POW's on 02/12/1973.

This was an unpopular War; men were drafted by the Selective Service Law, even though these men  
were not eligible to vote until after the 26<sup>th</sup> Amendment was ratified in July of 1971.

America was divide in opinion & in congress as to the President Kennedy's commitment to assist the  
Rep. of South Vietnam to determine it's own governance.

Our nation's military were criticized, denigrated, ridiculed, disparaged, debased and labeled as depraved  
by some of the very same politicians who committed the men and women to war.

We must always remember not to blame the Warrior for failed diplomacy, as happened during the  
Vietnam War era.

The Vietnam War Veterans were never properly acknowledged for their service & sacrifice----never  
"Welcome Homed" !

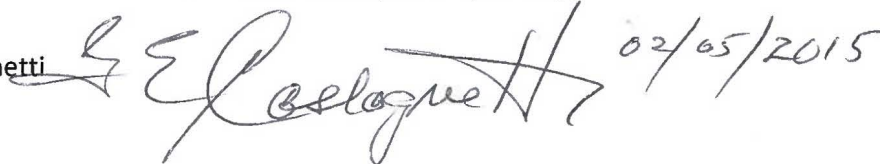
Now we have an opportunity mandated by Congress to reconcile that injustice for I submit the greatest  
injury a military person or veteran can receive is not to be wounded, BUT TO BE FORGOTTEN!

Our request for a Grant In Aid will provide the opportunity to Honor Vietnam Veterans and the Families  
of Veterans as follows:

1. Ceremonial state events.
2. Educations programs to each future generation's about the Noble Cause Vietnam
3. Oral History of Hawaii's own Veterans
4. Hire full time event manager to coordinate ceremonies/event.

Please give favorable consideration to this request to bring the Vietnam Veterans out of the shadows for  
the next three years to demonstrate that the State of Hawaii acknowledges the service & sacrifice and  
conveys a true Welcome Home to our Hawaii Vietnam Veterans & correct an injustice when the  
veterans were let down in the 1970's. Thank you for your support of SB 669.

G.E. Castagnetti



# LATE TESTIMONY

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**From:** Galen Yoshimoto <gyoshimoto@scd.hawaii.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 05, 2015 8:03 AM  
**To:** PSMTestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB669

Submitted on behalf of Darryll Wong

Vietnam War, 50th Anniversary:

I am a Vietnam Veteran and strongly support SB669 (Vietnam War, 50th Anniversary). Hawaii has been the Rest & Recreation (RR) location for many of the military during the War. I personally flew through Hickam Air Force Base while on Active Duty many times enroute to South East Asia. Hawaii has many Vietnam Veterans who were born and raised here or who have chosen to settle here after the War. These Vietnam Veterans have not asked for much but have sacrificed a lot and never given the proper recognition they deserve. The passing of this bill will show them that this State do recognize and honor our Vietnam Veterans and help celebrate locally what is being done Nationally.

signed Maj Gen (ret) Darryll Wong



# LATE TESTIMONY

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015 5:00 PM  
**To:** PSMTestimony  
**Cc:** cazzbear@prodigy.net  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB669 on Feb 5, 2015 13:15PM  
**Attachments:** TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 669.docx

## **SB669**

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for PSM on Feb 5, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Caz Ross	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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# LATE TESTIMONY

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 05, 2015 1:55 PM  
**To:** PSMTestimony  
**Cc:** mjgolo@email.phoenix.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB669 on Feb 5, 2015 13:15PM

## **SB669**

Submitted on: 2/5/2015

Testimony for PSM on Feb 5, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mike Golojuch	Veterans Advisory Board	Support	No

Comments: The Advisory Board to the Office of Veterans' Services strongly supports SB669 to recognize those served during the Vietnam War.

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# LATE TESTIMONY

**From:** Dale Wilson <docdale6@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015 4:16 PM  
**To:** PSMTestimony  
**Cc:** Penny M. Fox; Camron Fox; Wayne Manning; Ken Fujimoto; Orlander Keller; Ed Cruickshank; Henry Lee; William Castro; Ron Baptista; Bob Williams; Bob Cox; Bob Sugel; Joe Kaleikini; Ron MacPherson; Bob Walker; James Pihana; James Kaleohano; Barry Periatt; Bert Imada; Danny Kosora; Del Pranke; Dennis Hill; Emile Wery; Frank Olivera; Jim Browne; Jose Meris; Michael Kim; Rex Weigel; Rick Kama; Rick Ryken; Robert Gibbons; William Sell; Daniel Torres; Dan Malakie; Daryl Smith; Tommy Tanaka; Chuck Sanders; Carolle Brulee-Wilson; Keoni Delacruz; Jimmy Enocencio  
**Subject:** Hearing PSM 02-05-2015

Aloha, Senators!

As commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart Department of Hawaii, I am writing on behalf of all combat-wounded veterans in the state as well as my fellow disabled veterans and other veterans of America's conflicts.

The bills you are hearing today are important to all of us. Especially critical is SB1159, which exempts veterans' disability payments from attachment, levy or seizure by creditors or other third party, as provided by federal law.

We Vietnam veterans also support **SB669**, which would appropriate monies to help fund fiftieth anniversary of the Vietnam War programs, ceremonies and activities from now through November 11, 2025.

Also of interest to all veterans is SB686, which would appropriate funds to support the creation of a war memorial honoring veterans who participated in America's most recent conflicts, beginning with the Persian Gulf War up to the present and/or who protected our nations borders by land, sea and air during that period.

Finally, we strongly support SB559 and its amendments to the Hawaii Revised Statutes pertaining to the military and veterans.

It is my hope that you will honor Hawaii's service personnel and veterans by passing these bills on our behalf.

Mahalo in advance for your kokua in this matter.

Me ka 'oia'i'o,

dale

Dale E. Wilson  
Major, U.S. Army (Ret.)