

HB1438

Measure Title:	RELATING TO THE WORLD WAR I CENTENNIAL COMMEMORATION.
Report Title:	World War I Centennial Commemoration; Appropriation (\$)
Description:	Appropriates moneys for the commemoration of the centennial anniversary of World War I.
Companion:	
Package:	None
Current Referral:	IAA, WAM
Introducer(s):	ITO, CACHOLA, CHOY, ONISHI, TOKIOKA, WARD, WOODSON

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1438, RELATING TO THE WORLD WAR I
CENTENNIAL COMMEMORATION

PRESENTATION TO THE
COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND THE ARTS

BY

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

March 16, 2017
2:45 p.m.

Good afternoon, Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair English, and members of the Committee:

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 House Bill 1438.

This measure seeks to honor and remember Hawaii's military veterans who served during the Great War, to educate Hawaii on our local contributions to the War effort and to help facilitate grass-roots centennial commemorations.

The Governor has formed a State of Hawaii World War I Centennial Task Force to develop and identify events of significance that are worthy of commemoration, to partner with local organizations (Civic, Patriotic, Veterans), historians, and the local military.

The OVS supports the concepts and intent expressed in this measure as long as its implementation does not impact or replace the priorities set forth in the Executive Budget.

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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2017 10:42 AM
To: IAA Testimony
Cc: rswright08@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1438 on Mar 16, 2017 14:45PM

HB1438

Submitted on: 3/13/2017

Testimony for IAA on Mar 16, 2017 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
ronald wright	Oahu Veterans Center	Support	Yes

Comments: Oahu Veterans Center/Counsel strongly support HB1438

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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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2017 9:53 PM
To: IAA Testimony
Cc: sonnyfernan@msn.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1438 on Mar 16, 2017 14:45PM

HB1438

Submitted on: 3/13/2017

Testimony for IAA on Mar 16, 2017 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stanley Y. Fernandez Sr.	Veterans of Foreign Wars, Dept. Of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments: In support of HB1438. To render recognition to all WWI veterans, especially those that served from Hawaii.

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March 15, 2017

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senator J. Kalani English, Vice-Chair
Hawai'i State Senate
Committee on International Affairs and the Arts
Conference Room 229
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

The Friends of the Natatorium, Hawaii's World War I Memorial, are proud to render their support for House Bill 1438.

As the centennial of the U.S. entry into WWI fast approaches, there are significant ties that bind us to that terrible war. April 1, 1917 marks the sinking of the SS Aztec by a German U-Boat where five Hawaii Seaman died.

We try as a people, to calibrate our compasses by how we remember our past. Hawaii stepped up when called upon and close to 10,000 served with 101 giving their all.

As we commemorate Hawaii's son's and daughters for their selfless sacrifices and indomitable spirit of service, please support and pass HB 1437 so that adequate commemorative events can be planned with the greatest degree of respect and honor.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mo Radke".

Aloha Pumehana,
Mo Radke, President,
Friends of the Natatorium

March 14, 2017

To the Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on International Affairs and the Arts:

I write in support of HB 1438, a bill funding Hawaii's World War I centennial observances.

I am a citizen of another state, but I have visited Hawaii several times and greatly admire its history and culture, including the involvement of 10,000 of its citizens as volunteers in service during World War I.

In particular, I admire the War Memorial Natatorium in Waikiki. I am a proponent for its renewal and reopening.

As Hawaii's official World War I monument, the Natatorium is where the ceremony commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Armistice should be. The plans of the World War I State Centennial Task Force to hold the observance there on Nov. 11, 2018, are commendable and appropriate.

I urge the Senate to join the House in fully funding the commission and its plans for the centennial observances over this year and next. Please approve HB 1438. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dennis O'Shea
307 Stanmore Rd.
Baltimore, Md. 21212-1138
doshea55@comcast.net
410-296-4103

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2017 9:32 AM
To: IAA Testimony
Cc: jwilliam@ucla.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1438 on Mar 16, 2017 14:45PM

HB1438

Submitted on: 3/14/2017

Testimony for IAA on Mar 16, 2017 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeri B.Manulani Williams	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support the appropriation of moneys for the centennial celebration to be awarded and be held at the internationally recognized Waikiki War Memorial Natatorium, to take place on Veteran's Day 2018. This will be the 100th anniversary of the armistice which ended the Great War, in which many of our Hawaiian sons gave there lives for our country. In my humble opinion, there is no other site which should or could compare to our proud jewel of the Pacific. Mahalo nui loa

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Support for HB 1438

Relating to Funding for the WWI Centennial

Mahalo Chair Taniguchi and Senators for your support of state funding for Hawaii's commemoration of the Centennial of World War One.

The WWI Centennial is a global event with Europe already well into their observances beginning in 2014. The US involvement and Hawaii's direct tie to the Great War was triggered with the April 2, 1917 sinking of a merchant marine ship, the USS Aztec. Five Hawaii residents were aboard that ship. Four days later, congress authorized the declaration of war. More than 10,000 from Hawaii would end up volunteering to serve in WWI. The civilian contributions included bandage rolling at Iolani Palace and much more. We are determined to share Hawaii's WWI history.

The national World War One Centennial Commission in Washington, DC is coordinating efforts in every state to honor the nation's contributions to that war effort and sacrifices made.

To that end, Governor Ige's task force has developed a public education and events plan for a commemoration period that runs from April 2, 2017 to the 100th anniversary of the armistice that brought the war to an end on November 11, 1918 (what we now know in the US as Veterans Day).

State and private funding are required to stage the events and education efforts we have planned for this 19-month period. Your support for HB 1438 is vital to Hawaii's commemoration.

As we move past the grand 75th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor through the 50th anniversary of Vietnam in 2017, we must not allow the 100th anniversary of the end "Great War" to be forgotten. There are no longer living veterans from that war. It is our solemn kuleana to ensure they are not forgotten.

Mahalo!

Donna L. Ching

2212-A Wilder Ave, Honolulu, HI 96822

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, March 11, 2017 12:55 PM
To: IAA Testimony
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1438 on Mar 16, 2017 14:45PM*

HB1438

Submitted on: 3/11/2017

Testimony for IAA on Mar 16, 2017 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

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

Comments:

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