

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

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

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

February 16, 2017
9:30 a.m.

Good morning, Chair Ito, Vice Chair Tokioka, and members of the Committee:

I'm Ron Han, Director of the State Office of Veterans Services. 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.

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

Comments: Oahu Veteran's Center stand in strong support of HB 1438.



Military Order of the World Wars

Department of Hawaii
Office of the Commander



Rep. Ken Ito, Chair
Committee on Veterans,
Military, & International Affairs,
& Culture and the Arts

February 14, 2017

Dear Representative Ito,

The Military Order of World Wars, Department of Hawaii, is pleased to provide testimony for HB 1438 to fund Hawaii's official commemoration of the Centennial of World War One, and to honor the sacrifices and service of Hawaii's citizens, both military and civilian, during the Great War. The Military Order of World Wars was born out of WWI, and was formed in 1919 by Officers who served on the Staff of General John Pershing, Commander of the American Expeditionary Force. In the preamble to our Order's constitution, our members dedicate themselves ***"To encourage and assist in the holding of commemorations and the establishment of memorials of the World Wars."***

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. Established by an Act of the U.S. Congress (Public Law 112-272—JAN. 14, 2013) the National World War One Centennial Commemoration relies on each State and Territory to plan and carry out its own commemoration programs. At the direction of Governor, the Hawaii World War One Centennial Task Force was formed to lead the State's efforts. This body, and the commemoration effort, cannot operate without funding.

While the Task Force is pursuing a general strategy of grass-roots commemoration activities, there are operating costs associated with these, as well as the planned capstone event for Veterans' Day 2018, which will mark the Centennial of the Armistice.

If Hawaii is to have a commemoration worthy of the sacrifices and service of the roughly 10,000 citizens who served either in uniform or civilian capacity, it must be funded by the State.

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 during the Great War.

Very Respectfully,

Arthur N. Tulak
COL, U.S. Army, Ret.
Commander

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

Comments: I support HB1438 for funds for the centennial anniversary commemoration of World War I.

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Victor K. Ramos	Individual	Support	No

Public Testimony
of
Allen K. Hoe
Honolulu, Hawaii

In Support of HB 1438

Before the House:
Committee on Veterans, Military & International Affairs & Culture and the Arts
Thursday, February 16, 2017
9:30 a.m., Conference Rm. 429

Aloha Chair Ito and Members.

My name is Allen K. Hoe, my ohana represents 4 generations of Army Veterans, I am a Vietnam Combat Veteran, and my sons are combat veterans as well. I am also a GOLD STAR FATHER. Thus how our Nation and our State recognizes and honors all of our Hawaii sons and daughters who have worn the uniform in service is of great importance to me.

I am here today to recognize and honor my grandfathers who wore the army uniform a century ago, as members of the 1st Hawaiian Infantry with service during WW1. That fact is pretty amazing to me as well to look back and reflect upon the lives of my Kupuna who have shaped not only my life but the lives of many other keiki o ka aina. Staff Sergeant Edward Charles Lovell and Mess Sergeant Richard Chung Sing Hoe, both interred in Puu o Waina, Punchbowl.

HB 1438 is the combined effort of many veterans' organizations as well as descendants of our Kupuna who served in "the great war" to commemorate the Centennial anniversary with a program to honor and remember their service.

HB 1438 although modest will provide the resources necessary to make this a worthy representation of Hawaii's gratitude, respect and Aloha for our Kupuna's Generation.



Respectfully,
Allen K. Hoe

Testimony on House Bill 1438, relating to the

WORLD WAR I CENTENNIAL COMMEMORATION

to the Committee on Veterans, Military, & International Affairs, & Culture and the Arts

Anita Manning
Task Force Historian
Hawaii World War I Centennial Task Force

February 15, 2017, 9:30 a.m.

Rep. Ken Ito, Chair
Committee on Veterans, Military, & International Affairs, & Culture and the Arts

I am testifying in support of House Bill 1438.

I have been researching Hawaii citizens and World War I since 2003. The years of the Great War saw Hawai'i men in military service, Hawai'i citizens of all ages contributing through volunteer activity and sacrifice, and many local activities that helped build today's Hawai'i. Yet this era and activities are not well known today. The work of the Task Force is to commemorate these stories of the Hawaii community through education.

Despite the volunteer work of many to ensure success of the Task Force's work, some operating costs are associated with the activity and I urge the adoption of House Bill 1438 to assist with those costs.

Anita Manning
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Support for HB 1438

Relating to Funding for the WWI Centennial

Mahalo Legislators 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

Feb. 15, 2017

To the Honorable Members of the House Committee on Veterans, Military, and International Affairs, and Culture 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 you to fully fund 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

2/15/2017

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Donald Mark Gross
92-1519 Aliinui Dr.
Unit 12-H
Kapolei, HI 96707

LATE

To whom it concerns:

I fully support funding as outlined in HB 1438. The Waikiki Natatorium is a beautiful structure and I hope that one day it can be restored to its original use which included the swimming pool.

Any funding that would be directed towards that end is something I support.

Warm Regards and Aloha,

Donald Mark Gross

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeri B.Manulani Williams	Individual	Comments Only	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.

Please note that testimony

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
john hoogsteden	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please support HB 1438!

LATE

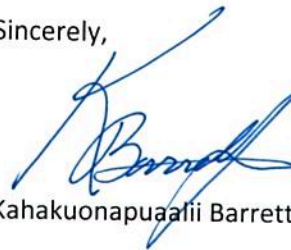
16 February 2017

LATE

Hearing Committee Representatives,

I am in full support of the restoration and rehabilitation of the Waikiki Natatorium War Memorial whether to its former glory or by implementing the innovative design concept proposed by Dr. Hans Krock. Demolition of this historic site is disgraceful and offensive to the Hawaii WWI veterans this memorial pays tribute to, and as an Active Duty U.S. Army Officer currently deployed to Afghanistan, there is nothing more disturbing than to hear back home of a memorial in jeopardy of demolition. The State of Hawaii, particularly Oahu Island, has lost numerous historic treasures over the last half century since becoming the 50th State. To see the island landscape now, plagued by irresponsibly designed mid and high-rise development that do not compliment the island's natural landscape, is incredibly depressing. Procure the funds necessary to preserve. Let's not lose an irreplaceable historic treasure. Once it is gone, it is gone forever and no replica could ever take its place or exist to the same historical significance. Honor the veterans this memorial represents and set the example to preserving history. For any assistance, I can be reached at kahaku.barrett@gmail.com, Kahakuonapuaalii.barrett.mil@mail.mil, or DSN 318-481-3452.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'K Barrett', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Kahakuonapuaalii Barrett