

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 691 (HSCR 41), MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR
THE VETERANS TREATMENT COURT

PRESENTATION TO THE
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

BY

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

February 15, 2017
2:00 P.M.

Good afternoon, Chair Nishimoto, 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 691 (HSCR 41).

This measure appropriates funds to the Judiciary and the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu to support the Veterans Treatment Court.

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.



The Judiciary, State of Hawai‘i

Testimony to the House Committee on Judiciary

Representative Scott Nishimoto, Chair

Representative Joy San Buenaventura, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 15, 2017, 2:00 p.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 325

by

Sidney Nakamoto

Probation Administrator, First Circuit

Bill No. and Title: House Bill No. 691, Relating to Making Appropriations for the Veterans Treatment Court.

Purpose: Appropriates funds to the Judiciary and the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu to support the Veterans Treatment Court.

Judiciary's Position:

The Judiciary strongly supports House Bill 691, which appropriates funds to the Judiciary to support the First Circuit's Veterans Treatment Court.

The Judiciary along with its stakeholders (Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of the Attorney General, Office of the Public Defender, and Department of the Prosecuting Attorney) have worked in collaboration with each other, to form the Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) which held its first hearing on January 4, 2013, and admitted its first clients on January 11, 2013. Currently the VTC has 24 clients participating in the program and 22 graduates since inception. The majority of these clients have multiple mental health diagnoses related to their military service and also have a long history of substance abuse and criminal behavior.

Presently the VTC has a supervisor and probation officer position that are full-time permanent positions under the Judiciary. The original grant funds of \$190,000 that has expired were expended utilizing the same service contracts as the Adult Client Services Branch (ACSB), thus creating a strain on existing resources. Measurements of success include the number of referred clients who successfully: complete the assigned treatment program (to include substance abuse and mental health), transition out of a residential treatment program (includes finding clean and sober housing and employment), and who ultimately complete the VTC successfully.



House Bill No. 691, Relating to Making Appropriation for the Veterans
Treatment Court
House Committee Judiciary
February 15, 2017 2:00 p.m.
Page 2

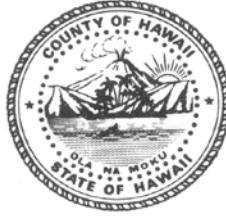
If funds are provided through this measure, the Judiciary will use the funding to cover long-term residential treatment with a mental health component, short-term residential treatment, and housing. The cost for residential treatment is \$180 per day, \$5,580 per month, for a total of \$33,480 for a six month treatment episode at a long-term residential facility. We are requesting \$234,360 for treatment providers and an additional \$10,000 for temporary housing. Since there is more than one residential treatment program with existing purchase of service (POS) contracts with ACSB, we would not be funding individual contracts, but rather the number of treatment days to be purchased from a variety of vendors.

Some of the veterans receive some financial benefits from the VA and if a portion of those funds are used to self-pay, it is estimated that the VTC can provide adequate services with an annual treatment budget. The Judiciary is requesting support for the Veterans Treatment Court budget of \$244,360 which is part of the Judiciary's 2017-2019 Biennium Budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

MITCHELL D. ROTH
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OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 691

A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO MAKING
APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE VETERANS TREATMENT
COURT

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Chair
Rep. Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 15, 2017, 2:00 P.M.
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

Honorable Chair Nishimoto, Vice-Chair San Buenaventura, and Members of the Committee Agriculture, the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Hawai'i submits the following testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of House Bill No. 691, with **AMENDMENTS**.

This measure appropriates funds to the Judiciary and the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu to support the Veterans Treatment Court.

The Veterans Treatment Court is a program with a strong record of success and much promise for the future. We are in strong support of the program but ask that the Bill be amended to provide funding for Judiciary and Prosecuting Attorney, County of Hawai'i.

Since the Judiciary first implemented Veterans Court in the County of Hawai'i, our office has done its best to actively participate in this specialty court, in a concerted effort to provide veterans with the care they need, while also addressing their offenses and minimizing recidivism. In order to sustain our office's participation in Veterans Court, and for all of the foregoing reasons, the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Hawai'i **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** the passage of House Bill No. 691, with **AMENDMENTS**. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Justin F. Kollar
Prosecuting Attorney

Jennifer S. Winn
First Deputy



Rebecca Vogt Like
Second Deputy

Diana Gausepohl-White
Victim/Witness Program Director

OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

County of Kaua'i, State of Hawai'i

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THE HONORABLE SCOTT NISHIMOTO, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Twenty-Ninth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2017
State of Hawai'i

February 15, 2017

RE: H.B. 691; MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE VETERANS TREATMENT COURT.

Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and members of the House Committee on Judiciary, the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney of the County of Kaua'i (Office) submits the following testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of H.B. 691 with AMENDMENTS.

The purpose of H.B. 691 is to make appropriations for the Veterans Treatment Court in the First Circuit.

The Veterans Treatment Court is a program with a strong record of success and much promise for the future. We are in strong support of the program but ask that the bill be amended to provide funding for a Veterans Treatment Court in the Fifth Circuit (as well as in the First Circuit) and to make appropriations to this Office to assist with the costs associated with said program.

For all of the reasons stated above, the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney of County of Kaua'i SUPPORTS H.B. 691 with AMENDMENTS to provide funding for a Veterans Treatment Court in the Fifth Circuit. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
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CHRISTOPHER D.W. YOUNG
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THE HONORABLE SCOTT NISHIMOTO, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Twenty-Ninth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2017
State of Hawai'i

February 15, 2017

RE: H.B. 691; MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE VETERANS TREATMENT COURT.

Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and members of the House Committee on Judiciary, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu ("Department") submits the following testimony in strong support of H.B. 691.

The purpose of House Bill 691, is to provide adequate funding for Veterans Court, including dedicated funding for the Department to provide services for the program. This funding is necessary to allow our Department to assign a deputy prosecuting attorney to Veterans Court cases and court appearances—a deputy who could otherwise be handling a 'regular' caseload and 'regular' courtroom, to spread out the caseload for our other deputies—and also requires a significant amount of work-hours from our support staff. To date, no additional funding has been provided for this added responsibility, from any source, and this has presented a significant hardship for our Department.

We kindly request a technical amendment on p. 1, lines 14-15 to read: “The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of the prosecuting attorney of the city and county of Honolulu for the purposes of this Act.”

Since the Judiciary first implemented Veterans Court in 2013, our Department has done its best to actively participate in this specialty court, in a concerted effort to provide veterans with the care they need, while also addressing their offenses and minimizing recidivism. In order to sustain our Department's participation in Veterans Court, and for all of the foregoing reasons, the Department respectfully asks that H.B. 691, be passed with an appropriation of \$65,000 and our suggested technical amendment.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 5:45 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: mikegolojuch808@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB691 on Feb 15, 2017 14:00PM

HB691

Submitted on: 2/13/2017

Testimony for JUD on Feb 15, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

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

Comments: I support HB691 for the appropriations of funds for the Veterans Treatment Court.

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, February 13, 2017 5:25 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: annsfreed@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB691 on Feb 15, 2017 14:00PM

HB691

Submitted on: 2/13/2017

Testimony for JUD on Feb 15, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ann S Freed	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and members, As a veteran I know first-hand about the incidence of addiction among us. Too many of us treat our traumas with drugs and/or alcohol, then subsequently get into trouble, sometimes with the law. This program offers care to those who are suffering and those who are offenders. Please pass this bill. Mahalo, Ann S. Freed LTC, U.S. Army (Ret)

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 1:49 AM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: djf991960@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB691 on Feb 15, 2017 14:00PM

HB691

Submitted on: 2/14/2017

Testimony for JUD on Feb 15, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Fukuzawa	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support this bill as it will help a lot of veterans in trouble with drugs and alcohol and the Judicial system.

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LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 4:23 AM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: Jasmin Ramos 808@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB691 on Feb 15, 2017 14:00PM

HB691

Submitted on: 2/15/2017

Testimony for JUD on Feb 15, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jasmine Ramos	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support HB691, because this bill will support the Veterans Treatment Court. After defending our country and returning home, many veterans suffer from post traumatic syndrome disorder (PTSD) due to the wars they were in all while defending our country. This measure is to support the Veterans Treatment Court and I feel this is the right thing to do - to support the men and women who protected our nation. This program will help to get these veterans back on their feet again.

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: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 4:08 AM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: smith808143@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB691 on Feb 15, 2017 14:00PM

HB691

Submitted on: 2/15/2017

Testimony for JUD on Feb 15, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lisa Smith	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support HB691 which will help our the Veterans Treatment Court. Many of these veterans - men and women placed their lives in harms ways to protect our freedom, so I think it's good to support a program which will support them and assist them in returning back to society.

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LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 12:19 AM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: kananisouza@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB691 on Feb 15, 2017 14:00PM

HB691

Submitted on: 2/15/2017

Testimony for JUD on Feb 15, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kanani Souza	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I provide testimony in support of HB691 to support the Veterans Treatment Court. This measure is very important as it will serve to support our veterans to regain their ability to function in society again. This is very important, because these veterans served to defend our freedoms and now are seeking our support as they mend their lives and get back into society. I respectfully request the members support this measure to support our veterans. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB691.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 11:16 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: alangarcia2017@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB691 on Feb 15, 2017 14:00PM



HB691

Submitted on: 2/14/2017

Testimony for JUD on Feb 15, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan Garcia	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support HB691, because this will support essential services for our Veterans in Veterans Court. Our veterans placed their lives in peril to defend our freedom and therefore I support this measure to help our veterans get back on their feet and back into society.

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