

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 54/SENATE RESOLUTION  
16 REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF VETERAN AFFAIRS TO  
TAKE CERTAIN ACTIONS TO PROVIDE COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION  
VETERANS EQUAL QUALITY AND ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE AS VETERANS IN  
UNITED STATES TERRITORIES

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

BY

**LATE**

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

**LATE**

March 28, 2017  
1:20 p.m.

Good afternoon Chair Nishihara, Chair Wakai, 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 SCR 54/SR 16.

Eligible Veterans who reside in the Compact of Free Association (COFA) Nations deserve and have earned the right to quality healthcare. Currently, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Foreign Medical Program (FMP) Office is responsible for determining eligibility for reimbursed medical treatment while traveling or residing abroad with the exception of the Philippines. Reimbursed medical care for U.S. Veterans residing or traveling in Canada and other foreign countries, like the COFA Nations, is limited to treatment for VA rated service-connected disabilities only. By the VA guidance provided, as long as the service is medically necessary for the treatment of a VA rated service-connected condition, it will be covered. In addition, healthcare services and support must be accepted by VA and/or the U.S. medical community, such as the American Medical Association and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Prior authorization to receive reimbursed medical treatment must be obtained from the FMP Office unless an emergency situation exists.

Consequently, Title 38 United States Code entitled: Veterans Benefits and Service Members Civil Relief Act, must be reviewed and assessed for changes to permit the VA Secretary to expend resources to deliver direct care in foreign areas such as Micronesia and other COFA Nations.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of Hawaii's Veterans and their families in support of SCR 54/SR 16.