

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2697 HD2, RELATING TO VETERANS

PRESENTATION TO THE
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

BY

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

February 22, 2018
11:00 a.m.

Good morning, Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the Committee:

I'm Ron Han, Director of the State Office of Veterans Services. I appreciate this opportunity to provide written testimony **in support** of the concepts in House Bill 2697 HD2.

This measure requires the Office of Veterans' Services to organize, coordinate, and conduct an annual State of Hawaii Veterans Summit.

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.

HB-2697-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 7:47:40 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2018 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	OCC Legislative Priorities Committee, Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

OAHU COUNTY COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAI'I

TO THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION OF 2018

Thursday, February 22, 2018

11:00 AM

Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 308

RE: Testimony in Support of HB 2697 HD2 RELATING TO VETERANS

To the Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair; the Honorable Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee on Finance:

Good morning, my name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Committee ("OCC") Legislative Priorities Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on House Bill No. 2697 HD2, relating to Veterans; Office of Veterans' Services; and Veterans Summit,

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in support of House Bill No. 2697 HD2 and supports its passage.

House Bill No. 2697 HD2 is in accord with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH") as it requires the Office of Veterans' Services to organize, coordinate, and conduct a biennial State of Hawaii Veterans Summit to discuss and collaborate on all issues affecting veterans, their families and dependents, including, among other things, the benefits, rights, and services which are available to veterans, and appropriates funds.

Specifically, the DPH Platform provides that we "[t]he Armed Forces in Hawai'i and their families sacrifice to serve and defend our country and to help us in time of need. Hawai'i should honor their service by strongly supporting the best possible care of wounded and disabled veterans. We therefore support efforts to keep our Veteran's Hospitals fully funded.

We honor the service of all of our military members." (Platform of the DPH, P. 10, Lines 530-534 (2016)).

Given that House Bill No.2697 HD2 requires the Office of Veterans' Services to organize, coordinate, and conduct a biennial State of Hawaii Veterans Summit to discuss and collaborate on all issues affecting veterans, their families and dependents, including, among other things, the benefits, rights, and services which are available to veterans, and appropriates funds, it is the position of the OCC Legislative Priorities Committee to support this measure.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Melodie Aduja

Melodie Aduja, Chair, OCC Legislative Priorities Committee

Email: legislativepriorities@gmail.com, Tel.: (808) 258-8889