

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2698 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 2698 HD2.

This measure appropriates moneys for the commemoration of the centennial anniversary of World War I honoring the legacy of the men and women who served in the "Great War."

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-2698-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/20/2018 12:10:12 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Donna L. Ching	Vice Chairman, Hawaii State World War I Centennial Task Force	Support	Yes

Comments:

Mahalo for your support of HB 2698!

HB-2698-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/20/2018 2:30:27 PM

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

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

Comments:

On behalf of over 5,000 members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, we, the members of the VFW urge the Legislature to fully support HB 2698, Relating to Veterans, 100th Year of World War I Commemoration in Hawaii. More than 10,000 Hawaii citizens were involved and supported the "Great War!" It is fitting that "we" in Hawaii commemorate their support, participation and ultimate sacrifice to our State and Nation.

Stanley Y. Fernandez, VFW Representative to the WWI Commemoration Committee

HB-2698-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 7:59:10 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 2698 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. 2698 HD2, relating to Veterans; World War I Centennial Commemoration; and appropriation.

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in support of House Bill No. 2698 HD2 and supports its passage.

House Bill No. 2698 HD2 is in accord with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH") as it appropriates moneys for the commemoration of the centennial anniversary of World War I and the ten thousand men and women from the Territory of Hawaii who volunteered to serve in the Great War.

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."

"We honor the service of all of our military members." (Platform of the DPH, P. 10, Lines 531, 534 (2016)).

Given that House Bill No.2698 HD2 appropriates moneys for the commemoration of the centennial anniversary of World War I and the ten thousand men and women from the Territory of Hawaii who volunteered to serve in the Great War, 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

The Uniformed Service Member's Voice in Government
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR UNIFORMED SERVICES
Hawaii Chapter (HI-1)

FEBRARY 15th 2018

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 2698 HD2
RELATING TO THE WORLD WAR I CENTENNIAL COMMEMORATION
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, FEBRUARY 22nd 2018 HEARING, AT
11AM, IN CONFERENCE ROOM 308

Aloha Chair Luke and Vice Chair Cullen: Mahalo for providing this opportunity to share our sentiments, in support of House Bill 2698 HD2. The National Association for Uniformed Services (NAUS) is well known on Capitol Hill, as "The Service Member's Voice in Government;" while this voice is silent, NAUS Hawaii Chapter (HI-1) continues their legacy, at the will and pleasure of our nation's largest per-capita uniformed services community, as an American Retirees Association affiliate.

Representing the interests of all Uniformed Service branches, NAUS Hawaii Chapter sincerely appreciates your committee's willingness to consider

- a. honoring our WW1 veterans by
- b. appropriating TBD State's general funds, in support of our WW1 commemoration activities.

Your committee's action, in support of HB 2698 will no doubt, be greatly appreciated by our WW1 veterans and their families

Thank you for being here for us,

D Egge

Dennis Egge; NAUS Hawaii Chapter President



1298 Kukila Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96818;
Naushawaii1@yahoo.com; 808-382-5833

Feb. 20, 2018

To the Honorable Members of the House Committee on Finance:

I write in support of HB2698, a bill to fund 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 should be held to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Armistice ending the war on the Western Front. 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 committee to fully fund the commission and its plans for the centennial observances. Please approve HB2698. Thank you.

Sincerely,

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

HB-2698-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 10:14:10 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John Bond	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Good morning, Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair, and Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair, and members of the Committee:

I appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony **in support** of House Bill 2698 HD1.

I support HB 2698 to commemorate the 100th year of World War I and especially the contributions and sacrifices made by our local Hawaiian citizens in support of winning this Great War. This commemoration in Hawaii will be held in conjunction with the Nationwide commemoration of World War I.

Mahalo for supporting the more than 10,000 soldiers and civilians from Hawaii who served in the Great War. As the world commemorates the 100th anniversary of the signing of Armistice, let's bring Hawaii's WWI history alive by recalling and honoring the contributions that our state made.

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 or accomplish its assigned mission without funding.

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

Aloha,

John M. Bond

MCAS Ewa Field historian

LATE

HB-2698-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 2:41:41 PM
Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2018 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Steve Montgomery & Anita Manning	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support the commemoration of the centennial anniversary of Hawaii's participation in World War I as an important learning experience for the whole community on a topic so few are aware of but which had a large impact on the Hawaii we have today. We only get on chance to do this and remind people of Hawaii's contribution. Act now.

LATE

HB-2698-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 4:31:08 PM
Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2018 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sean Innes	Veterans United Home Loans	Support	No

Comments:

Today, in this generation, there is a deficit in knowledge of history for those who have paved the way before us to enjoy the liberties and freedoms that we have in these United States of America. I wholeheartedly support and will always continue to support anything that can stand as testimony to the sacrifices that have been made by few so that many of us may have freedom. I support HB2698 for a WWI Centennial Commemoration. It is needed in this time where there are so many who take for granted the abundance of liberty we enjoy today. Soon, if we do not do enough to remember, we shall repeat history and continue to suffer the losses known to conflicts like those seen in WWI. This bill is imperative for the humanity and dignity of future generations in Hawaii and the United States of America at large. Thank you.



Hawaii Society, Sons of the American Revolution

745 Fort Street, Suite 311
Honolulu, Hawai`i 96813



Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair
Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

LATE

February 20, 2018

Dear Representative LoPresti and Finance Committee,

The Hawaii Society, Sons of the American Revolution, (HISSAR) founded in Hawaii in 1895, is a proud Hawaii WWI Centennial Commemoration Partner, and expresses full support for HB 2698.

Since In 1994, the National SAR has run its own Task Force to Preserve U.S. History, and the Centennial of the First World War is certainly a key opportunity to reflect on the historical experiences of Hawaii, and America in this conflict.

The HISSAR has reliably participated in Hawaii's Patriotic events since 1897, and attends the annual ceremonies held each Memorial Day and Veterans Day. The HISSAR membership includes a large percentage of Veterans, and we are committed to supporting Hawaii's WWI Centennial Commemoration events in the same manner.

This legislation is urgently needed to ensure that Hawaii's WWI Centennial Commemoration is a worthy contribution to the National WWI Centennial Commission's efforts, and properly honors the service and sacrifice of the 9,800 from Hawaii who voluntarily served in the U.S. Armed Forces during the Great War.

Respectfully,

Elbridge W. Smith
Director/Treasurer
For Marshall S. Scantlin
LTC, USA
President
Hawaii Society,
Sons of the American Revolution