



**THE MILITARY ORDER OF FOREIGN WARS  
HAWAII COMMANDERY**

Oahu Veterans Center  
1298 Kukila St  
Honolulu, HI 96818



Senator Donovan Delacruz, Chairman  
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair  
Senate Ways and Means Committee

April 2, 2018

**LATE**

Dear Senators,

The Hawaii Commandery of the Military Order of Foreign Wars, is pleased to provide testimony for HB 2698 to fund Hawaii's official commemoration of the Centennial of the First World War. Founded in 1894 Officer Veterans of the War with Spain, and by descendants of Officer Veterans of the War of 1812, the Military Order of Foreign Wars is America's oldest Military Order whose membership are Officer Veterans (or descendants of qualifying officers) of America's Foreign Wars since the War of Independence.

The Hawaii Commandery is a proud Hawaii WWI Centennial Commemoration Partner, and express full support for HB 2698. Over the last two years, the HI MOWF has supported the commemoration events organized by the WWI Centennial Task Force. The Commemoration must now shift into high gear in the remaining months of the Commemoration Period, which ends June 28, 2019, on the Centennial of the signing of the Treaty of Versailles.

The capstone event for Hawaii's WWI Centennial Commemoration is Veterans Day 2018, the 100<sup>th</sup> iteration of this holiday, originally known as Armistice Day, which marks the end of the fighting between the Allies and Central Powers.

This legislation is urgently needed to enable Hawaii to host a respectable commemoration worthy of the service and sacrifices of the 9,800 from Hawaii who served in the Armed Forces during the Great War.

Very Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Curtis A. Manchester III".

Curtis A. Manchester III  
LTC, USA, Ret.  
Acting Commander

Visit our website: [www.MOFWUS.org](http://www.MOFWUS.org)

2 April 2018

Dear Senators,

I write to express my strong support for HB 2698 HD3, a bill funding Hawaii's World War I centennial observances.

As a private citizen who serves on the State of Hawaii World War I Centennial Task Force I support the appropriation of moneys for the commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the armistice which ended the Great War. Events remembering World War One have been held across the United States over the past four years, but it would truly be a failure of leadership if the State of Hawaii did not also participate in these commemorative events due to a lack of funding.

As a professional historian and WWI Centennial Task Force Commemoration Partner Organization representative I feel it incumbent upon us to remember the nearly 10,000 residents of Hawaii who contributed to the war effort including those who gave their lives fighting in that conflict. As Hawaii's official World War I monument, the Waikiki War Memorial Natatorium is the ideal location in which this celebration should be held on Veteran's Day 2018.

I urge you to fully fund the plans for this centennial observance. Please approve HB 2698 HD3.

Very Respectfully,



**Brenden L. Bliss**  
Instructor of History  
Curriculum Area Liaison – Diplomacy & Military Studies; International Studies  
Program Chair – Homeland Security  
Program Chair – Military Studies

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**LATE**

April 1, 2018

Hawaii State Committee on Ways and Means  
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Re: **HB 2698 HD3**

Aloha Senators,

On behalf of Daughters of the America Revolution, we are pleased to offer written testimony of the Bill before your committee. We stand in full support of this legislation.

As national World War One Centennial commemorative partners, we note the importance of funding Hawaii's official commemoration of the Centennial of World War One. Hawaii's peoples took great pride supporting the mission of the Great War across our archipelago. We consider it a privilege to honor the sacrifices and service of Hawaii's enlisted and civilians alike, roughly 10,000 strong. We continue to observe Kapuna and Keiki alike who stand further erect as ancestral stories unfold about the Great War.

At the direction of Governor Ige, the Hawaii State WWI Centennial Task Force, all dedicated volunteers, are hard at work planning a plethora of activities including the exciting capstone ceremony where the doors of our historic War Memorial Natatorium swing wide open on Armistice Day 2018. The ceremony will highlight extraordinary contributions made by our people during the Great War. This opportunity holds the promise of generating national publicity thus translating into measurable economic impact for the Aloha State.

Honoring civilians and veterans of all wars is an exciting prospect however, threshold funding of \$375,000 is urgently needed to drive private fundraising efforts, direct programming and launch promotional campaigns. Your support is not only essential but greatly appreciated. Therefore, we respectfully request your approval coupled with sufficient resources to undergird implementation toward a successful outcome.

Thank you in advance for making it possible for the people of Hawaii to express their aloha toward those whose sacrifice during WWI paved the way for future generations. We stand on courageous shoulders with gratitude.

Respectfully submitted,

**Daughters of the American Revolution, Haleakala Chapter**  
Service to Veterans Chair  
Commemorative Events Chair



## Kau Tom Post 11

The American Legion, Department of Hawaii  
P.O. Box 4571  
Honolulu, HI 96812



**LATE**

Subject: Support for HB 2698 HD3 SD1

Aloha Colleagues,

The 53 members of Kau Tom Post 11 ask for your fair consideration of HB 2698 by the members of the Ways and Means Committee. Our Post is named after two famous WWI warriors, and the citizens of Hawaii should never forget their sacrifices. We should ensure that the centennial celebration is well funded and that the Natatorium is preserved and perpetuated for all to cherish.

Mahalo

Mark DeVirgilio

Post Adjutant

**HB-2698-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2018 11:57:26 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2018 10:00:00 AM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Donna L. Ching	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Mahalo for honoring veterans through your support of this once-in-our-lifetimes public event.

Donna L. Ching

Vice Chairman, Hawaii World War One Centennial Task Force

**LATE**

**HB-2698-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2018 9:32:59 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2018 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Maureen Cole	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**LATE**

Statement of  
**Brig Gen Stan Osserman (USAF, Ret.)**  
before the  
**Senate Committee on Ways and Means**  
Tuesday, April 3, 2018  
10:00 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 211  
In consideration of  
**HB2698, HD3, SD1**  
**RELATING TO VETERANS**  
**(THE HAWAII WORLD WAR ONE CENTENNIAL COMMEMORATION)**

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means,

As a combat veteran and 35 year member of the Hawaii Air National Guard, I strongly support HB2698, HD3, SD1 that appropriates funds Hawaii's World War One Centennial Commemoration.

The funds will pay for a fitting tribute to the 9,800 from Hawaii who served in uniform during the Great War, which saw the largest mobilization of the reserves in Hawaii's military history.

Hawaii's World War One Centennial Commemoration has gone unfunded since Governor Ige stood up the WWI Centennial Task Force in September 2015. Over the last two years, the HI WWI CTF has planned and carried out twenty-one commemoration events organized by the Task Force and its twenty Commemoration Partner organizations.

The Commemoration must now shift into high gear in the remaining months of the Commemoration Period, which ends June 28, 2019, on the Centennial of the signing of the Treaty of Versailles.

The capstone event for Hawaii's WWI Centennial Commemoration is Veterans Day 2018, the 100th iteration of this holiday, originally known as Armistice Day, which marks the end of the fighting between the Allies and Central Powers.

This legislation is urgently needed to enable Hawaii to host a respectable commemoration worthy of the service and sacrifices of the 9,800 from Hawaii who served in the Armed Forces during the Great War.

v/r



Brig. Gen. Stan Osserman, (USAF (Ret.))

2 April 2018

**LATE**

Dear Senators,

I am writing to encourage passage of Bill HB2698 and funds for the 100<sup>th</sup> World War I Commemoration celebration.

Based on my experience as a committee member for the 75<sup>th</sup> Commemoration of Pearl Harbor day and the 50<sup>th</sup> Commemoration of the Vietnam War, funds are critical to ensuring celebration events can be realized, contributing to the success of the commemoration.

The World War I commemoration is especially important because there are no veterans of the war to share their experiences and increase awareness of the war. It is important that celebrations and recognition of our veterans during the commemoration serve as a visible demonstration of the importance of history and honoring our veterans.

The passage of Bill HB2698, and associated funding will be essential to a fitting tribute to our local World War I veterans.

Very Respectfully,

Alma Grocki

RDML (ret), USN