

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 51, REQUESTING THE  
GOVERNOR PROCLAIM THE STATE OF HAWAII AS A PURPLE HEART STATE IN  
HONOR OF THE SERVICE AND SACRIFICE OF OUR NATIONS UNIFORMED  
ARMED SERVICES PERSONNEL WHO WERE WOUNDED OR KILLED WHILE  
PROTECTING OUR FREEDOM

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

BY

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

March 20, 2018  
1:45 p.m.

Good afternoon Chair Nishihara and Vice Chair Wakai, and members of the Committee:

I am Ron Han, Director of the State Office of Veterans Services. I appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Concurrent Resolution 51 as long as its implementation does not impact or replace the priorities set forth in the Executive Budget.

This bill requests that the Governor proclaim Hawaii as a Purple Heart State in honor of those veterans who were given the country's oldest military honor because of their wounds or loss of life in service to our country. Hawaii's recognition will be a lasting tribute to these Veterans who have protected, sustained liberty and freedom, and enabled us to live the American way of life.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer my comments.

**SCR-51**

Submitted on: 3/17/2018 8:34:33 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/20/2018 1:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dale Wilson, PhD	Testifying for MOPH	Support	No

Comments:

This is an important bill! Hawaii is one of the few states that has failed to take this action to recognize those men and women who have fought for and bled or died in defense of our nation.

So far, only Hawaii County has proclaimed itself to be a "Purple Heart County" and we are working with Honolulu and the other counties to do the same.

I also hope that the governor and legislature will take steps to declare sections of highways on each island used to get to our Veterans Cemeteries as part of the "National Purple Heart Trail."

Again, Hawaii is the only state that has not taken this action to honor our combat-wounded veterans. It seems a small price to pay considering the sacrifices we have made for our fellow citizens.

Please see that this bill gets enacted. We, the combat-wounded veterans of Hawaii are counting on your support!

Mahalo in advance for your positive consideration of this request.

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara  
Chair, Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

## SCR51

3/20/2018  
1:45PM  
CR 229

Aloha Chair Nishihara and members of the Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs:

I am submitting testimony in **strong support** of SCR51 the resolution making Hawaii a Purple Heart State. With our distinguished history, and the number of individuals that have received purple hearts it is only appropriate that we join the other distinguished states that have done the same. On behalf of Oahu Veterans Council that are representing the 120,000 veterans and family members that reside in this beautiful State.

Sincerely Yours,

Edward R Cruickshank

Col, USA Ret

President of Oahu Veterans center.

**SCR-51**

Submitted on: 3/18/2018 9:25:06 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/20/2018 1:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Orlander Keller	Testifying for Rainbow Chapter 483, MOPH	Support	No

Comments:

As the Commander of Rainbow Chapter 483, MOPH, we strongly support the passage of this resolution. Not only is this the oldest military decoration, established by GEN George Washington on August 7, 1782, but the only award that you can not be recommended for. It must be received for wounds or death from an armed enemy of the United States. Because of this, less than one percent of all military personnel that have served since WWI have received this honored decoration. It is also an award that no one wants, due to the pain and suffering required to earn it, but one that is worn proudly once received. There are over 3,000 recipients of this award in the State of Hawaii with the 100th Battalion, 442d Regiment, known as the "Purple Heart Battalion", for the most number of Purple Hearts earned by a unit of this size, in WWII. This unit is "Hawaii's Own". You will also be honoring their legacy with the passage of this resolution. It is the hope of the MOPH that each state will named a Purple Heart State and Hawaii is one of the few that has not been so named. Only Hawaii County has been named a Purple Heart County and it is also our hope that the City and County of Honolulu will follow their lead. As the Empire State Building and Niagara Falls are lighted in the color purple on August 7th of each year for Purple Heart Day, we hope our Capital Building will be lighted in the same way. SOME GAVE ALL, ALL GAVE SOME AND SOME ARE STILL GIVING!

**SCR-51**

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 1:14:25 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/20/2018 1:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for Oahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments: