



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
**OFFICE OF THE VETERANS'
SERVICES**

459 PATTERSON ROAD, E-WING, ROOM 1-A103
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96819-1522
Telephone Number 433-0420

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 3073, SD1
RELATING TO WORLD WAR II COMMEMORATION

PRESENTATION TO THE
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

BY

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

February 20, 2020

Good morning, Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the Committee:

I'm Ron Han, Director of the State Office of Veterans Services (OVS). I appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony **in support** of the concepts in Senate Bill 3073, SD1.

This measure appropriates funds for programs, ceremonies and activities commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the End of WWII. After the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii played a prominent role in supporting the war effort directly. One example, the vast majority of the aviators and aircrew headed to the Far East received their tactics and specialized training on airstrips located in Puunene on the island of Maui before entering the lines of battle in the Pacific. Furthermore, despite having to fight on two distinctive battlefields, the heroism and sacrifice of many of our Hawaii Nisei Soldiers is well documented and highlights the incredible determination and loyalty that is truly representative of the "Greatest Generation."

The OVS supports the 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.

Ron Han: ronald.han@va.gov Phone: (808) 433-0422



75th WWII Commemoration
PO Box 945
Washington, D.C. 20005
Ph. 77.883.4773
Fax 85.924.8537

Aloha Representatives,

As the Executive Director of the 75th WWII Commemoration Committee and a member of our Hawaii community, I am pleased to add my very strong support to SB 3073, the 75th WWII Commemoration bill under review.

National legislation was passed creating the 75th WWII Commemoration, ensuring that as a nation, we remember and honor veterans and civilians, members of “Our Greatest Generation” who stepped forward to defend freedom. National Honorary Chairpersons, Senator Bob and Elizabeth Dole, and our State Honorary Chairmen, Gov. Ige and ADM Davidson, Commander, U.S. IndoPACOM, have committed their support to this effort.

Pearl Harbor holds the unique distinction of being the only place where people can experience the bookends of WWII – we often forget this historic impact. The Pearl Harbor National Monument stands in tribute to those who perished during the attack that launched our entry into this global conflict and the Battleship Missouri Memorial, now proudly moored in Pearl Harbor, reminds our nation of the end of conflict and the beginning of peace and global friendship that has changed our world.

Hawaii’s participation did not just impact the war in the Pacific. As these stories unfold, the role and impact of fighting forces from Hawaii, courageous warriors who at the time faced harsh American racial prejudice, will add substance to the entire commemoration. The commemoration will help bridge the gap between historic tourism that only targets out of state visitors to a historic impact that targets local communities. The advent of the 75th WWII Commemoration opens the door to building local embracement of the very sites that currently serve primarily out of state visitors.

The idea of a Pilgrimage to Pearl Harbor, to Puunene, to Barbers Point, to Honouliuli National Historic Site and other such locations will resonate with our local communities who, during this commemoration effort, assist in building the story and the experience.

75th WWII Commemoration...“Salute their Service...Honor their Hope”

Objective 1: Engage our Hawaii community in remembering and honoring those who served and continue to serve our country, highlighting the strategic role of Hawaii then and now, in the defense of our nation

Objective 2: Coordinate the culminating events and programs that help our nation and the world commemorate the 75th anniversary of the end of WWII

Objective 3: Develop educational programs, experiences, exhibits and events that preserve the legacy of “Our Greatest Generation” ensuring that young and old alike honor our past and inspire our future

An integrated marketing communications approach will target the following audiences:

- * **Hawai’i ...Residents, military, visitors in the Islands, and media**
- * **Mainland United States ...Historic tourism, higher-spending, quality visitors and related travel trade/media**
- * **International ...Historic tourism, higher-spending, quality visitors and related travel trade/media**
- * **Military ...Military media and military affinity travel companies (U.S. & International)**

Most sincerely,

Tony S. Vericella
Executive Director, 75th WWII Commemoration Committee



FORD ISLAND, HAWAII

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February 17, 2020

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Dear Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee,

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As a member of our Hawaii community, and a resident of Hawaii Kai, I am pleased to add my strong support to SB 3073, the 75th WWII Commemoration bill under review.

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The passage of National Legislation, under the authority of the DOD established our nation's commitment to honor and recognize the patriotism and sacrifice of our WWII veterans and civilians who stepped forward to defend our freedom. The legislation provides the foundation for a national effort to conduct "bookend" ceremonies, tributes, events and educational programs that pass on the legacy of "Our Greatest Generation." These bookend ceremonies are scheduled for May 6-10 in Washington DC to remember the end of war in Europe and from August 29 – September in Hawaii, to remember the end of war in the Pacific. The Honorary Co-Chairmen for the national effort are Senator Bob and Elizabeth Dole. In Hawaii, our State honorary co-chairmen are Governor Ige and ADM Philip Davidson, Commander, Indo-Pacific command.

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Our active committee under the leadership of MajGen Darryll Wong, USAF (Ret) and CAPT Steve Colon, USN (Ret), represents all segments of our community and is working toward ensuring that take this opportunity to engage our communities in programs, events, and experiences that educate, inform, and inspire young and old alike. Of special consideration here in Hawaii, our goals are two-fold: to remind our communities of the strategic role of Hawaii, then in now, in support of freedom and, at the national level, to generate awareness for Pearl Harbor and its unique position as the only American WWII battlefield that welcomes millions of worldwide visitors annually who come specifically to stand on this hallowed ground.

To deliver on these goals, the committee will oversee efforts to:

- **Create renewed / heightened awareness of our historic impact**
- **Develop programs, exhibits, events, experiences and curricula** that combine to engage communities throughout the State and beyond
- **Communicate the significance** of the 75th WWII Commemoration, the Pearl Harbor historic sites, and the Battleship Missouri Memorial as an international symbol of global peace
- **Collaborate with the DoD, National WWII Memorial in Washington D.C., and the Arsenal of Democracy**, to leverage exposure of both bookends of the 75th WWII Commemoration,
- **Build a lasting impact** by promoting participation by local, national and international visitors

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Locally, we will educate and promote community engagement, throughout the State, bringing to the forefront oral histories, artifacts, and exhibits that showcase the role Hawaii played throughout the war years and beyond. Sharing history, the stories of our WWII veterans, the remembrances of neighborhoods, and thus inspiring young people in the core values of service, patriotism, and support of freedom. We urge your support of this important effort.

Mahalo,

Elissa Lines
Executive Director



**BATTLESHIP
MISSOURI
MEMORIAL**
Pearl Harbor, Hawaii

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ADM R. J. "Zap" Zlatoper,
USN (Ret.)

February 18, 2020

To: Members of the Senate Committee on Labor, Culture and Arts
Public Safety, Veterans & Military Affairs Committee

RE: Support for SB3073, which will provide \$250,000 to support the
75th World War II Commemoration

My name is Michael Carr, and I am the President and CEO of the USS Missouri Memorial Association. I am testifying in support of SB3073.

This bill will provide financial support for the activities planned for August 29-Sept 2, 2020 to honor the 75th anniversary of the End of WWII in Hawaii and to recognize and honor the men and women of the Greatest Generation who fought in that war for the freedom of not just the United States but for all freedom loving peoples of the world. This will likely be the last time that we as a nation can do these veterans this honor because the youngest ones are in the their 90's.

The USS Missouri, one the US Navy's most famous ships, is of course where WWII ended for all the nations of the world on Sept 2, 1945 in Tokyo Bay. Now permanently anchored at Pearl Harbor, just 500 yards from the Arizona Memorial where WWII began for the United States, they both represent the bookends of WWII for Americans. Although she was built for war, the Missouri, within 2 years of her launching, instead became an international symbol of peace and reconciliation- a message we impart to our visitors every day. In 2019, we welcome almost 600,000 visitors and have welcomed over 9 Million since we opened in 1999.

National legislation was passed last year to lend support of these remembrances both in Hawaii and in Washington DC, where the end of WWII in Europe will be recognized in May. The National Co-Chairs and Senators Bob and Elizabeth Dole and in Hawaii the Honorary Chairs are Gov David Ige and ADM Philip Davidson, the CO of INDO PACOM Command. The Dept of Defense is lending logistical and material support to all these activities and we expect many high-level leaders from all the countries who signed the peace document to attend as well.

The programs, events, ceremonies, tributes and exhibits planned will:

- Highlight the role of Hawaii communities during WWII, collecting stories, artifacts, and oral histories that can live on in museums, libraries and other sources of learning;
- Embrace Hawaii's diversity, honoring the role of groups whose impact and contributions to the war effort during the 1940's and after has been overlooked by history;
- Support community-based initiatives that promote local use of and participation in Hawaii's historic treasures;
- Ensure diverse activities/experiences throughout 2020 and beyond;
- Provide unique and authentic Hawai'i experiences that benefit local communities and strengthen the quality of the destination expectations;
- Create high level local engagement with visiting populations who also seek to remember, honor, and participate in the celebration of the end of a global conflict;
- Strengthen awareness for and the significance of the Battleship Missouri Memorial as a learning destination for local, national and international visitors;
- Engage media through streaming to share the Hawaii events statewide, nationally, and globally.

I urge, along with all the members of the 75th Commemoration Committee, your support of this important initiative.

Respectfully,

Michael A. Carr
President & Chief Executive Officer





Chamber of Commerce HAWAII

The Voice of Business

**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Thursday, February 20, 2020 at 10:35 A.M.
Conference Room 211, State Capitol**

RE: SB 3073 SD1, RELATING TO WORLD WAR II COMMEMORATION

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports** SB 3073 SD1, which appropriates funds for programs, ceremonies, and activities commemorating the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II.

The Hawaii Military Affairs Council (MAC) was established in 1985 as part of the Chamber, and advocates on behalf of Hawaii's military, and is comprised of business leaders and retired U.S. flag and general officers. The MAC works to support Hawaii's location as a strategic U.S. headquarters in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region.

The attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941 resulted in the United States entering World War II. Hawaii played an integral role in the United States' efforts during the war as it served as the central location for the United States in the Pacific and many citizens from the islands served as troops. The most famous being the 442nd Regimental Combat Team comprised of Japanese Americans who went on to be the most decorated unit of its size in the history of the US Military.

In December 2019, Governor Ige announced the creation of a committee that would help to oversee this year's commemoration in Hawaii, and both the Chamber and MAC are honored to have a representative on this committee. While the federal government has allocated some funding for these celebrations, the committee is continuing to raise funds in order to support the number of events that are planned for August 29 to September 2, 2020 here in Hawaii. Support from the legislature, will help to ensure that we are able to honor one of the greatest generations in American history, as well as educate our youth about the impact that World War II left on the country and the world.

We appreciate the opportunity to express our support for SB 3073 SD1.



Hawai'i Convention Center
1801 Kalākāua Avenue, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96815
kelepona tel 808 973 2255
kelepa'i fax 808 973 2253
kahua pa'a web hawaiiitourismauthority.org

David Y. Ige
Governor

Chris Tatum
President and Chief Executive Officer

Statement of
CHRIS TATUM

Hawai'i Tourism Authority
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Thursday, February 20, 2020
10:35 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room #211

In consideration of
SENATE BILL NO. 3073 SD1
RELATING TO WORLD WAR II COMMEMORATION

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the Committee on Ways and Means: the Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) **supports** Senate Bill 3073 SD1, which appropriates funds for programs, ceremonies, and activities commemorating the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II.

SB3073 SD1 would help Hawai'i in its efforts to remember the sacrifices and honor the lives lost during World War II. Hawai'i played an important role in WWII both geographically and in terms of troop contribution. The commemoration will bring together as many WWII veterans as possible to not only highlight the historic signing of the instrument of surrender, but also to engage and educate our community. To show our support, HTA has already committed \$500,000 to fund the 75th WWII Commemoration.

It is for these reasons that HTA **supports** SB3073 SD1. We appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony.



HAWAI'I LODGING & TOURISM
A S S O C I A T I O N

Testimony of

Mufi Hannemann
President & CEO

Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association

Committee on Ways and Means

Senate Bill 3073 SD1: Relating to World War II Commemoration

Chair Dela Cruz and members of the committee, mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of the Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association, the state's largest private sector visitor industry organization.

The Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association—nearly 700 members strong, representing more than 50,000 hotel rooms and nearly 40,000 lodging workers —supports Senate Bill 3073 SD1 which seeks to appropriate funds for programs, ceremonies, and activities commemorating the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II.

Hawai'i shares a unique place in the history of World War II; Pearl Harbor serves as the unofficial bookends of the United States' role in the war. The surprise attack by Japan and its eventual surrender upon the deck of the USS Missouri both occurred in O'ahu's waters and Hawai'i's role in the war will forever hold a place in the history books.

The planned 75th World War II commemoration is an extremely important occasion as many of the veterans of Pearl Harbor and World War II are well into their 90's, and this may very well be the final time to honor them, their sacrifices, and the sacrifices of their comrades on such an auspicious anniversary. Moreover, the occasion presents a significant educational opportunity for our community. HLTA is committed to providing educational opportunities of this nature for our members and the Hawai'i community as a whole, and we look forward to utilizing the 75th commemoration to bring together people of all generations in various community engagement activities.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer this testimony.

SB-3073-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/17/2020 9:55:13 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/20/2020 10:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ronald J. Zlatoper	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a committed member of our community, I am submitting my strongest possible support for SB 3073, the 75th WWII Commemoration bill under review. Every sub group of our state contributed, suffered, and persevered in the ultimate victory of the free world , ending WWII. Now , 75 years later we have an opportunity to commemorate those sacrifices and the victory that is important to our state citizenry as well as the entire nation. This is a vital activity during a time when it appears our nation is sorely divided. Now is the time to start bringing us together and the activities that SB3073 will support will do a measurable amount to enable the process.