

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



KENNETH S. HARA
MAJOR GENERAL
ADJUTANT GENERAL

STEPHEN F. LOGAN
BRIGADIER GENERAL
DEPUTY ADJUTANT GENERAL

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
3949 DIAMOND HEAD ROAD
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816-4495

TESTIMONY FOR GM563, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION

TO THE ADVISORY BOARD ON VETERANS' SERVICES,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE,

DONNA N. SHIMIZU FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE, 6-30-2023

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

BY

KENNETH S. HARA
MAJOR GENERAL, STATE ADJUTANT GENERAL

April 12, 2022

Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair DeCoite, and members of the Committee:

I'm Major General Kenneth S. Hara, State Adjutant General. I appreciate this opportunity to provide comments in **SUPPORT** of Donna N. Shimizu to the State Advisory Board on Veterans Services for a term to expire 6-30-2023.

MSgt Donna N. Shimizu, (USAF, Ret) brings a wealth of experience and knowledge that she has accumulated over her 35 years of exemplary service as an Administrative Specialist with the 291st Combat Communication Squadron home based in Hilo, HI and as a Recruiter and Retention Non-Commissioned Officer for the Hawaii Air National Guard. Heavily involved in community affairs, she has served as a volunteer for the Employer Support to Guard and Reserve, as the Hawaii island Representative and Treasurer for the Hawaii National Guard State Advisory Council and as a member and past President for the Big Island National Guard Retirees Association.

MSgt Shimizu is passionate about serving Veterans in her community and throughout the State, and I am confident she will add a tremendous amount of value to the State Advisory Board on Veterans Services as the Hawaii island board member in the years ahead.

Point of Contact: MG Kenneth Hara/email: kenneth.s.hara@hawaii.gov / (808) 672-1211.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
STATE OFFICE OF VETERANS SERVICES
459 Patterson Rd., E-Wing, Rm 1-A103
Honolulu, HI 96819

TESTIMONY

GM 563 Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation
To the Advisory Board on Veterans Services,
Gubernatorial Nominee,
DONNA N. SHIMIZU for a term to expire
6-30-2023

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

BY

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

April 12, 2022

Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair DeCoite, and members of the Committee:

I'm Ron Han, Director of the State Office of Veterans Services (OVS). I appreciate this opportunity to provide comments **in support** of Donna N. Shimizu to the State Advisory Board on Veterans Services for a term to expire 6-30-2023.

MSgt Donna N. Shimizu, (USAF, Ret) has over 35 years of distinguished service in uniform with the Hawaii Air National Guard and served as an Administrative Specialist with the 291st Combat Communication Squadron home based in Hilo, HI and as a Recruiter and Retention Non-Commissioned Officer. She has also been a volunteer for the Employer Support to Guard and Reserve, has served as the Hawaii island Representative and Treasurer for the Hawaii National Guard State Advisory Council and as a member and past President for the Big Island National Guard Retirees Association.

I wholeheartedly recommend her for this upcoming State Advisory Board on Veterans Services billet for Hawaii island. Her proven track record reflects her willingness and desire to do and to give much more to support and to assist our Veteran community!

Ron Han, ronald.p.han@hawaii.gov , Phone: (808) 433-0422

Mitchell D. Roth
Mayor



Maurice C. Messina
Director

Michelle Malia Hiraishi
Deputy Director

County of Hawai`i

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Elderly Activities Division

127 Kamana St, Hilo, HI 96720

(808) 961-8708 • Fax (808) 961-8921

Email: elderly@hawaiicounty.gov

<http://www.hawaiicounty.gov/pr-elderly/>

GM 563 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Advisory Board of Veterans' Services, Gubernatorial Nominee, DONNA SHIMIZU, for a term to expire 06-30-2023.

April 8, 2022

Dear Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair DeCoite and Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs,

I am writing in support of Donna Shimizu, (USAF Retired) for selection to the State Advisory Board on Veterans' Services. She has always been committed to the Veterans in her life long career, community projects and civic groups. I have had the opportunity to work alongside her on multiple community projects witnessing her unparalleled excellent work ethics, high standards and commitment. Her record of accomplishment in her career of over 35 years speaks for itself as well.

How we hold reverence to the veterans in our community is paramount to reflect the service they have unselfishly committed to keep our county strong and free. She is a candidate who will never waiver from this and due diligence to the Veterans of Hawai`i. Donna Shimizu is the best candidate to SERVE the Veterans of Hawai`i and ensure they are well represented.

Mahalo for your consideration and please feel free to contact me if need be.

With warm regards,

Roann S. Okamura, Elderly Activities Division Operations Director

GM-563

Submitted on: 4/6/2022 2:48:03 PM

Testimony for PSM on 4/12/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James H. Traxler	Testifying for State Veterans Advisory Board	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support Donna Shimizu to the Advisory Board for Veteran Services. I have had the pleasure of working with her on a personal level as well as addressing Big Island Veterans issues. She has an excellent grasp of the issues and willing to put a lot of effort into solving problems and improving Veteran Services. As the Advisory Board member for West Hawaii, I am excited to have her as a partner in addressing our issues.

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chairman
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 214
Honolulu, HI 96813

SUBJECT: Confirmation Hearing for the Appointment of Ms. Donna Shimizu to the
State Advisory Board on Veterans' Services **GM 563**

Dear Senator Nishihara:

I AM IN SUPPORT OF HER APPOINTMENT TO THE STATE ADVISORY BOARD ON
VETERANS' SERVICES.

My name is Alan Subica and have known Donna Shimizu for over forty years. We served together in the Air National Guard and still serve as volunteers with the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR). It is a pleasure to support Donna in your Senate hearing as you deliberate her fitness to serve on the Advisory Board on Veterans' Services.

I see that you have Donna's resume on file so please permit me to list some of her qualities that she will bring. Respecting your valuable time, I will use brief bullet points.

Qualities:

- Donna deeply cares about the welfare of Veterans and the issues that they face both during their years of service and as retirees.
- Empathetic and cares for people as individuals. She has personally taken the time to help numerous guardsmen and women during their periods of personal hardships throughout the years.
- Looks out for and is fearless in sticking up for the underdog.
- Freely gives of her time and quick to volunteer often before being asked.
- Maintains strong ties to veterans as depicted by long-time membership and as past President of the Big Island National Guard and Retirees Association (BINGRA).
- Willing to accept challenges and new experiences.
- Possesses a growth mindset and willingly accepts personal discomfort to further self-development.
- Able to function under conditions of risk.
- "Can do" attitude.

How the Board will benefit:

- She will give the Director and other Board members her best efforts, thoughts and advise.
- She will bring her "can do" attitude and volunteerism spirit to uplift and encourage the board to look at new perspectives and innovative approaches to address and promote veterans' issues.

- She will not be shy about advocating for programs, activities and legislation regarding services and entitlements to veterans.
- Fearlessness and selfless in advocating for veterans.

I believe she will be an ideal fit and the Director of Veterans' Services will be well served by Donna being on the Board. I hope you will agree and confirm Donna Shimizu to the Advisory Board on Veterans' Services.

If I can be further assistance in providing additional details concerning this matter, I can be reached at 808-895-3007, by email at alansubica@gmail.com or by U.S. Postal mail at the address below.

Sincerely,

Alan Subica
PO Box 1169
Kurtistown, Hawaii 96760

cc: Donna Shimizu

GM-563

Submitted on: 4/6/2022 10:26:36 AM

Testimony for PSM on 4/12/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mike Golojuch, Sr.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support Donna Shimizu to be appointed to the Advisory Board on Veterans' Services. She would be an asset to the board and veterans. Please confirm her appointment.

Mike Golojuch, Sr., Lt Col, USAF(Ret), Past Chair, Advisory Board on Veterans' Services

January 17, 2022

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chairman
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental
And Military Affairs
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 214
Honolulu, HI 96813

REFERENCE: GM563

SUBJECT: Confirmation Hearing for the Appointment of Ms. Donna Shimizu to the State Advisory Board on Veterans' Services

Dear Senator Nishihara:

I AM IN SUPPORT OF HER APPOINTMENT TO THE STATE ADVISORY BOARD ON VETERANS' SERVICES.

My name is Wayne T. Nishijima. I am a 28 year veteran of the U.S. Army, Hawai'i Army National Guard, and the U.S. Army Reserves and retired at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. I am currently the Secretary of the Big Island National Guard Retirees' Association and served for about 3 years on the County of Hawai'i Veterans Advisory Committee during the tenure of Mayor Billy Kenoi. I am also a Vietnam Veteran and have been living in Hilo since 1979.

I am writing this testimony in favor of Ms. Donna Shimizu's nomination to the State Advisory Board on Veterans' Services.

Ms. Donna Shimizu is highly qualified to serve on the State Advisory Board on Veterans' Services.

- She served in the Hawai'i Air National Guard from 1976 to 2011;
- She actively volunteers with The Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) from May 2017 to the present;
- Served as the Air Guard Island Representative and Treasurer to the Hawai'i National Guard State Advisory Council (HING SAC) from September 2012 to present;
- Served as President of the Big Island National Guard Retirees' Association (BINGRA) from 2012 through 2015, and continues as a member and past immediate President to present;
- Coordinator for the Hau'oli Street Neighborhood Watch from May 2017 to present.

I fully expect Ms. Donna Shimizu to serve as a dedicated advocate for all Veterans in Hawai'i while serving on the State Advisory Board on Veterans' Services. I base this on having known Ms. Donna Shimizu for many years and especially since her retirement from the Hawai'i Air National Guard and after she joined the Big Island National Guard Retirees' Association. She quickly became it's President for two 2-year terms, bringing renewed energy to the organization. I worked closely with her and observed first hand her collaborative approach to solving problems and developing meaningful activities for the BINGRA membership. She continues to display her leadership skills and her desire to help the veterans on the Big Island. She is with bountiful energy, not afraid to speak up, thinks *out of the box*, and a true champion for Hawai'i's Veterans.

If confirmed I have full confidence that Ms. Donna Shimizu will be a valuable member of the State Advisory Board on Veterans' Services and that she will put her heart and soul into this honored position to serve all veterans in the State of Hawai'i.

If I can be further assistance in providing additional details concerning, I can be reached at 808-987-6036, by email at waynen377@yahoo.com or by U.S. Postal mail at the address below.

Sincerely,

Wayne T, Nishijima
377 Huali Pl
Hilo, HI 96720-2614

cc: Donna Shimizu

GM-563

Submitted on: 4/10/2022 7:04:53 PM

Testimony for PSM on 4/12/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Donna Shimizu	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha! My name is Donna Shimizu and I was born and raised on the Big Island with a family history of military involvement and commitment. I myself have served 35 honorable years with the Hawaii Air National Guard.

I have been attending virtual Advisory Board on Veterans' Services meetings for the past eight months, getting acquainted with conduct and procedures. I have also been attending the East Hawaii Veterans organization meetings to listen to updates and concerns from various veteran groups.

I feel I am able to be an effective and efficient voice for veterans and it would be my honor and privilege to be given the opportunity to serve as an advocate for them.

TESTIMONY

GM563 Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation

To the Advisory Board on Veterans' Services,
Gubernatorial Nominee,
DONNA N. SHIMIZU
for a term to expire 6-30-2023

PRESENTATION TO THE

SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND
MILITARY AFFAIRS

BY
MS. CORIN KIM

April 6, 2022

Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair DeCoite, and members of the Committee:

I am Corin Kim, Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Coordinator for a program at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo as well as Mrs. Shimizu's eldest daughter. I appreciate this opportunity to provide comments in **support** of Donna N. Shimizu to the State Advisory Board on Veterans Services, for a term to expire 6-30-2023.

I am sure other testimony from colleagues of my mom can attest to how she possesses the drive, work ethic, and experience that will add value to the State Advisory Board on Veterans' Services and the community the Board aims to serve. I am writing to attest to her character and dedication that I feel will benefit the Board and community.

For my whole life, my mom has been involved in her community and daughters' lives, while still heavily committed to her work for those who serve our country. Her military training was reflected in my upbringing, as her home valued discipline, honesty, and structure. I was raised to use initiative when completing tasks, follow through with commitments, and have integrity in my daily life. Although I am no longer a child, those values and lessons are ingrained in me, just as they continue to be pillars in her life.

As an adult, I now understand the weight of the commitment and sacrifices my mom made. When she works with veterans, those who are currently enlisted, their families, and the community, I see the passion she has and the willingness to give of her time, when many others might have felt it was "no longer their responsibility". She continues to go the extra mile, even when she is retired, and I even still hear her trying to recruit people to the Air National Guard in casual conversation because she has such a deep level of respect for the uniform.

I understand testimony from a close family member may be assumed to hold bias, but I truly feel my mom will bring a valuable voice and add another reliable person to your Board, allowing all of you to better service your communities. Thank you for your time.

Corin Kim, corink@hawaii.edu, (808) 345-8341