

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



KENNETH S. HARA
MAJOR GENERAL
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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
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HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816-4495

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2591
RELATING TO A MEMORIAL

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

BY

MAJOR GENERAL KENNETH S. HARA
ADJUTANT GENERAL
DIRECTOR OF THE HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
AND HOMELAND SECURITY ADVISOR

FEBRUARY 7, 2022

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

I am Major General Kenneth Hara, Adjutant General, Director of the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency and Homeland Security Advisor.

The Department of Defense (DOD) provides written testimony in **SUPPORT** of SB 2591.

This measure, if passed, would authorize the issuance of bonds and appropriates funds for plans and design of a veterans' memorial, and replicas of the memorial on each neighbor island, as recommended by the Gulf War memorial task force pursuant to Act 139, Session Laws of Hawaii 2013. This Global War on Terrorism Memorial will honor and pay homage to those service members who paid the ultimate sacrifice with ties from Hawaii in one of the longest war campaigns in modern history. These memorials will be an important site for reflection and remembrance for families and for those who served, not just in this conflict and generation, but for all generations.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 2591.

The DOD 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.

MG Kenneth S. Hara@hawaii.gov; 808-672-1001



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
OFFICE OF VETERANS SERVICES
459 PATTERSON RD, E-WING, RM 1-A103
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96819

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2591
RELATING TO A MEMORIAL

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

BY

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

FEBRUARY 7, 2022

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

I am Ron Han, Director, State Office of Veterans Services (OVS) and I am providing written testimony in strong **SUPPORT** of SB 2591.

This measure, if passed, would authorize the issuance of bonds and appropriates funds for plans and design of a veterans' memorial, and replicas of the memorial on each neighbor island, as recommended by the Gulf War memorial task force pursuant to Act 139, Session Laws of Hawaii 2013. This Global War on Terrorism Memorial has gone through seven years of promising legislation only to fall short year after year. Honoring and paying tribute to our service members who paid the ultimate sacrifice in this extended conflict that has lasted over 20 years is long overdue.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 2591.

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.

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



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

Oahu Veterans Center
1298 Kukila St
Honolulu, HI 96818



February 4, 2022

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

Dear Senator Nishihara,

The Hawaii Commandery, Military Order of Foreign Wars, is pleased to provide testimony in support of SB2591.

MOFW Hawaii members continue to endorse efforts to establish a Memorial for the Gulf War and Global War on Terrorism Veterans, and strongly recommends that the Committee act to implement the recommendations of the State's Gulf War Memorial Task Force (GWMTF) submitted in 2014. The MOFW is encouraged that you are considering this bill to ensure that the many generations of Veterans who have served in this ongoing war on terrorism are appropriately recognized for their combat service. Over the last five years since the Task Force gave its recommendations, the war on terror continues, as evidenced by the recent strike against ISIS terrorists in Syria this month.

The Gulf War, and subsequent military actions associated with the Global War on Terror, together represent the longest period of sustained military conflict carried out by generations of American service members. With U.S. Counter-Terrorism operations still underway, this memorial will come at a critical time, and permit the citizens of the State of Hawaii the means to honor the sacrifices of our military personnel from 1990 until today, and into the future. It is appropriate for Hawaii to follow the example of other states in erecting its monuments to these veterans, and in particular those who died in service to the nation.

I may be reached at 477-8195, or secretary.hawaii.mofw.commandery@gmail.com

"Deus et Libertas"

Arthur N. Tulak
Colonel, U.S. Army, Ret.
Secretary, HI Commandery
Military Order of Foreign Wars

Visit our website: www.MOFWUS.org



NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

Department of Hawaii

438 Hobron Lane, Suite 407

Honolulu, Hawaii 96815

Testimony in Support of SB 2591

**Senate Committee On Public Safety, Intergovernmental, & Military Affairs Hearing
on Tuesday, February 8, 2022, 1:00 P.M. via Videoconference**

Senator Nishihara, Chair, Senator DeCoite, Vice Chair, and Committee Members,

The Department of Hawaii, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW Hawaii) represents 4,300+ members in 20 Posts located throughout the State of Hawaii. VFW is a federally chartered national association of soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen who have served the United States of America in wars, campaigns, and expeditions on foreign soil or in hostile waters.

SB 2591 authorizes the issuance of bonds (unspecified) and appropriates funds (unspecified) for plans and design of a veterans' memorial and replicas of the memorial on each neighbor island, as recommended by the Gulf War memorial task force pursuant to Act 139, Session laws of Hawaii 2013. This memorial and replicas would honor veterans of the Persian Gulf War, Operation Desert Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation New Dawn, Global War on Terrorism, Homeland Defense, and Operation Noble Eagle and those who have protected our borders by land, sea and air.

An unknown number of veterans living in Hawaii served during some of these campaigns that were foreign wars have become VFW members. Hawaii veterans who served in any of those campaigns should be honored with this memorial and replicas planned, designed and constructed as the Gulf War task force has recommended. VFW Hawaii strongly concurs with the legislature's finding that "public memorials are an essential form of recognition and remembrance to honor United States veterans and military service personnel who have served in and died as a result of war and conflict." All VFW Hawaii members join me in supporting this bill.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB 2591.

Lawrence M.G. Enomoto

Lawrence M.G. Enomoto

VFW Hawaii State Legislative Liaison

AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF HAWAII SUPPORTS SB 2591

- The thousands of members of the American Legion Department of Hawaii speak with one voice in support of SB 2591 Veterans' Memorial
- The American Legion is a congressionally sanctioned veterans service organization with millions of members
- The American Legion Department of Hawaii participates in memorial ceremonies at the WWI, WWII, and Korean and Vietnam memorials
- With knowledge of the dilapidated conditions at these memorials, the American Legion Department of Hawaii strongly supports the first creation of a memorial at the secure Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery in Kaneohe
- The American Legion Department of Hawaii believes there should be additional memorials on each island
- The American Legion Department of Hawaii believes there should be maintenance and security at these memorials
- The American Legion Department of Hawaii believes that the time to honor fallen veterans from the numerous conflicts after Vietnam is now

Jim Hussey, Commander

05 February 2022

For the Commander, Sent in by Mark DeVirgilio, Senior Vice Commander

SB-2591

Submitted on: 2/4/2022 12:50:05 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/8/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Blair Suzuki	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of SB2591. I am in STRONG SUPPORT of a Veterans' Memorial for Gulf War and GWOT Veterans.

Now that the conflicts in the Gulf have officially ended, it is important for us as a State and Community to recognize the sacrifice of those service members that paid the ultimate price in defending our nation's freedoms.

The Global War on Terror is the longest conflict in our nation's history and refers to the period of continuous overseas military conflicts that followed the attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001. Over 6 million men and women served in the military during the Gulf Wars and the Global Wars on Terror. Together they constitute 25% of the total living veteran population. Since 9/11, approximately 6,967 servicemembers have died and over 52,000 have been wounded.

In 2013, the State's Gulf War Memorial Task Force developed a plan to establish a memorial honoring the veterans of the Persian Gulf War, Operation Desert Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation New Dawn, Global War on Terroism, Homeland Defense, and Operation Noble Eagle, and those who have protected our borders by land, sea, and air. The Gulf War Memorial Task Force recommended to the State Legislature and Governor of the State of Hawaii the construction of a memorial with a prime location at the Hawaii State Veteran's Cemetery and replicas on each neighbor island across the State. This bill picks up where this task force report left off and authorizes money to fund the design and development of these memorials.

These memorials will provide veterans and their families, especially Gold Star families a permanent place in our State for reflecting, healing, and honoring those who served in these conflicts.

As a Hawaii-born resident who served in the Global War on Terror for 7 years, this memorial commemorates the sacrifice for those members I have served with who are no longer here today. The memorial would also provide a gathering place for those of us

veterans who are still here today, and acknowledge our service to America's longest conflict.

Thank you again for the opportunity to submit testimony and for all your support of our veteran community and for all your efforts to serve the people of Hawaii.

Thank you,

Blair Suzuki

Vice-Chair

State Advisory Board on Veterans' Services

SB-2591

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 8:43:30 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/8/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Reyn Kaupiko	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Legislative Committee,

I write in strong support of SB2591.

I am a proud Veteran of the OEF and OIF conflicts. Without hesitation many from generation answered the call for duty in the darkest times of recent memory, many did not return and many returned broken.

The significance of this memorial goes far beyond the idea of a place of remembrance. It represents closure for those of us who witnessed our friends and family pass.

It is undersandable there are many different areas and programs in need of funding from the SOH. BUT, the impact of this proposal on our community will affect masses. Everyone here in the state of Hawaii knows at least one veteran who has served in recent years please give us the oppurtunity to find our closure and peace.

Thank You,

Reyn Kaupiko

SB-2591

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 6:23:02 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/8/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Carlos A. Santana	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

It is time for the State of Hawaii to show support and appreciation for the sacrifices of our service members. This memorial will serve as a place of remembrance for those who gave their lives in the service of our community.

SB-2591

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 6:59:38 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/8/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Mike Golojuch, Sr.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support SB2591. This memorial honors those few who were willing to give their all in protecting our rights & freedoms.

Mike Golojuch, LT Col, USAF(Ret)

Former Chair, Veterans Advisory Board, State of Hawaii

Vice Chair, Veterans Caucus, DPH

Lifetime Member, Hawaii Aloha Chapter, MOAA; American Legion; Disabled Veterans of America