



HAWAII

STATE FOUNDATION on
CULTURE and the ARTS

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**TESTIMONY OF THE STATE FOUNDATION ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS
TO THE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

April 14, 2023 Conference Room 309 & Videoconference at 10:40AM

S.C.R. 100

**REQUESTING THE STATE FOUNDATION ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS TO
COLLABORATE WITH THE OFFICE OF VETERANS' SERVICES TO PLAN AND
CONSTRUCT MEMORIALS TO HONOR THE SACRIFICES AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF
VETERANS FROM HAWAII**

Chair Tam and members of the Committee, the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA), is pleased to offer **COMMENTS** on S.C.R.100. The SFCA works with all departments, including the Office of Veterans' Services on planning and integrating works of art into facilities as works of art are an important part of the State building presence as they tell the stories of place and humanize our built environment.

The State Foundation on Culture and the Arts, Art in Public Places Program acquires completed, portable works of art, and commissions artists to create works of art for specific locations. Works of art are displayed in over 640 sites statewide including schools, libraries, hospitals, airports, state office buildings, the State Capitol, the Hawai'i State Art Museum and the soon to be completed Daniel K. Akaka State Veterans' Home in Kapolei.

When curating public space, the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts looks to the legislature to designate specific statues, monuments, and memorials to honor individuals or events.

While monuments may "give tangible and visible recognition to the sacrifices and contributions of veterans and military personnel," participation in creative arts therapy or in community arts programs have proven to increase those individuals' quality of life. Arts in healing programs such as "Creative Forces" serve the unique and special needs of military patients and veterans who have been diagnosed with traumatic brain injury and psychological health conditions, as well as their families and caregivers. Healing arts use creativity through music, visual arts, dance, drama, creative writing, craft-making and other creative pursuits in both clinical and non-clinical settings to promote health and well-being and improve quality of life.

With over 110,000 veterans, service members and their dependents in Hawaii, such programming would be appropriate providing a mechanism for organizations sponsoring programs in the arts, culture and humanities to expand their focus to include veterans. If it is the desire of the Legislature, the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts endorses collaborating with the Office of Veteran's Services to plan an arts in healing program for consideration by the legislature for future appropriations.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this matter.

HEADQUARTERS
HAWAI'I ARMY NATIONAL GUARD
91-1227 ENTERPRISE AVENUE
KAPOLEI, HAWAI'I 96707-2150

TESTIMONY ON SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 100, SSCR 1489,
REQUESTING THE STATE FOUNDATION AND THE ARTS TO COLLABORATE
WITH THE OFFICE OF VETEARANS' SERVICES TO PLAN AND CONSTRUCT
MEMORIALS TO HONOR THE SACRIFICES AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO VETERANS
FROM HAWAI'I

PRESENTATION TO THE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, AND INTERNATIONAL
AFFAIRS

BY

COLONEL TYSON Y. TAHARA
CHIEF OF STAFF, HAWAI'I ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

APRIL 14, 2023

Chair Tam, Vice Chair Martinez, and respective members of the Committee on Culture, Arts, and International Affairs.

I am Colonel Tyson Tahara, Chief of Staff of the Hawai'i Army National Guard (HIARNG) in the State Department of Defense. The HIARNG provides written testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SCR 100, SSCR 1489.

The HIARNG has deployed Soldiers in support of nearly every major military ground operation that the United States has undertaken since the inception of the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT). All our deployed Soldiers made tremendous sacrifices to secure our freedom, and many even made the ultimate sacrifice of giving their lives for our State and Nation. Should this resolution pass, it will establish the key collaboration of the State Foundation of the Culture and the Arts with the State Office of Veterans' Services to plan and construct memorials to honor the sacrifices of our Veterans.

Each of the over 300 Servicemembers that gave their lives in service to our Nation during the GWOT left behind grieving families, friends, and comrades in arms. Even those Soldiers that returned home without injury found their experiences during deployment had forever altered their lives. Memorializing the sacrifices that all Hawai'i Veterans made in service will show our State's continued commitment to honoring our Servicemembers, Veterans, and the memory of those that died in service.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony in **Strong Support** of SCR100, SSCR 1489, supporting our Veterans and their loved ones who served during the GWOT.

The HIARNG fully supports the intent expressed in this measure.

Colonel Tyson Tahara; tyson.y.tahara.mil@army.mil; 808-672-1456



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TESTIMONY ON SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 100, SSCR 1489,
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HONOR THE SACRIFICES AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO VETERANS FROM HAWAII

PRESENTATION TO THE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, AND INTERNATIONAL
AFFAIRS

BY

MAJOR GENERAL JOSEPH R. HARRIS II
COMMANDER, HAWAII AIR NATIONAL GUARD

APRIL 14, 2023

Chair Tam, Vice Chair Martinez, and respective members of the Committee on Culture, Arts, and International Affairs.

I am Maj Gen Joseph Harris, Commander of the Hawaii Air National Guard (HIANG) in the State Department of Defense, and I am providing written testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SCR 100, SSCR 1489.

This resolution, if passed, creates the foundational collaboration of the State Foundation of the Culture and the Arts with the State Office of Veterans' Services to plan and construct a main memorial at the Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery at Kaneohe and smaller replica memorials at the neighbor island State Veterans Cemeteries to honor our Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) fallen military members, our Veterans, our Gold Star Families and the families who have supported their loved ones who served during this elongated period of war which includes Operation Desert Storm in 1991 to conflicts in Iraq covering war campaigns including; Operation Iraqi Freedom (Mar 2003-Nov 2011), Operation New Dawn (Sep 2010-Dec 2011) and Operation Inherent Resolve (Jun 2014-Dec 2021) and conflicts in Afghanistan covering war campaigns including; Operation Enduring Freedom (Oct 2001-Dec 2014) and Operation Freedom Sentinel (Jan 2015-Aug 2021) and other conflicts globally that the US has participated in.

During twenty-one-years of war campaigns, more than 5,000 men and women serving in the HIANG participated in the GWOT. These men and women as well as their families sacrificed both at home and in distant locations to protect our nation and defend our freedom. HIANG personnel generated and flew countless combat missions, provided unparalleled command and control, delivered life-saving intelligence information and communications capabilities, and

secured critical infrastructure, often at great risk to themselves. Meanwhile, their families supported their loved ones while facing many challenges.

The construction of memorials throughout the state of Hawaii to honor our GWOT fallen military members, Veterans, and their families, to include our Gold Star Families, is an important step in recognizing their courage, sacrifice, and commitment to our country. These memorials will serve as a symbol of our gratitude and appreciation for their sacrifices and provide a place for us to come together to pay our respects.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony in **Strong Support** of SCR100, SSCR 1489, supporting our Veterans and their loved ones who served during this extended period of global conflict.

The HIANG 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.

Col Daniel Wrazien, daniel.wrazien.1@us.af.mil, 808-369-3507



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TESTIMONY ON SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 100, SSCR 1489,
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PRESENTATION TO THE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, AND INTERNATIONAL
AFFAIRS

BY

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

APRIL 14, 2023

Chair Tam, Vice Chair Martinez, and respective members of the Committee on Culture, Arts, and International Affairs.

I am Ron Han, Director of the State Office of Veterans Services in the State Department of Defense, The State Office of Veterans Services (OVS) provides written testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SCR 100, SSCR 1489.

This resolution, if passed, creates the foundational collaboration of the State Foundation of the Culture and the Arts with the State Office of Veterans' Services to plan and construct a main memorial at the Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery at Kaneohe and smaller replica memorials at the neighbor island State Veterans Cemeteries to honor our Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) fallen military members, our Veterans , our Gold Star Families and the families who have supported their loved ones who served during this elongated period of war. From Operation Desert Storm in 1991 to conflicts in Iraq covering war campaigns including; Operation Iraqi Freedom (Mar 2003-Nov 2011), Operation New Dawn (Sep 2010-Dec 2011) and Operation Inherent Resolve (Jun 2014-Dec 2021) and conflicts in Afghanistan covering war campaigns including; Operation Enduring Freedom (Oct 2001-Dec 2014) and Operation Freedom Sentinel (Jan 2015-Aug 2021) and other conflicts globally that the US has participated in.

More than 327 servicemembers with Hawaii ties died in the line of duty during this lengthened period that has been labeled as one of the longest running wars in US history. Act 139, signed by then Governor Neil Abercrombie on June 21, 2013, created a special State Task Force headed by Gold Star Fathers and Distinguished Veterans, Allen Hoe and David Brostrom, with the late State Representative at the time, K. Mark Takai, a GWOT Veteran himself, to

collectively lead the Task Force in this endeavor for a GWOT Memorial(s) to honor and to never forget the sacrifices made by these men and women on behalf of a grateful State and Nation.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony in **Strong Support** of SCR100, SSCR 1489, supporting our Veterans and their loved ones who served during this extended period of global conflict.

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.

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

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



KENNETH S. HARA
MAJOR GENERAL
ADJUTANT GENERAL
KA 'AKUKANA KENELALA

STEPHEN F. LOGAN
BRIGADIER GENERAL
DEPUTY ADJUTANT GENERAL
KA HOPE 'AKUKANA KENELALA

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TESTIMONY ON SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 100, SSCR 1489,
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PRESENTATION TO THE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, AND INTERNATIONAL
AFFAIRS

BY

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

APRIL 14, 2023

Chair Tam, Vice Chair Martinez and members of the Committee on Culture, Arts, and International Affairs.

I am MG Kenneth Hara, Adjutant General, Director of the Emergency Management Agency and Homeland Security Advisor, State Department of Defense, and I'm providing written testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SCR 100, SSCR 1489.

This resolution, if passed, creates the foundational collaboration of the State Foundation of the Culture and the Arts with the State Office of Veterans' Services to plan and construct a main memorial at the Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery at Kaneohe and smaller replica memorials at the neighbor island State Veterans Cemeteries to honor our Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) fallen military members, our Veterans, our Gold Star Families and the families who have supported their loved ones who served during this elongated period of war. From Operation Desert Storm in 1991 to conflicts in Iraq covering war campaigns including; Operation Iraqi Freedom (Mar 2003-Nov 2011), Operation New Dawn (Sep 2010-Dec 2011) and Operation Inherent Resolve (Jun 2014-Dec 2021) and conflicts in Afghanistan covering war campaigns including; Operation Enduring Freedom (Oct 2001-Dec 2014) and Operation Freedom Sentinel (Jan 2015-Aug 2021) and other conflicts globally that the US has participated in.

I have served my entire military career during this GWOT period and have been deployed to both Iraq and Afghanistan for extended tours. In my current capacity, my Hawaii National Guardsmen continue to support and are committed to supporting the GWOT mission without fail. It is the right time to show our appreciation and to honor and pay tribute to our fallen

warriors and especially their families who have sacrificed much to preserve our freedoms and liberties.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony in Strong Support of SCR100 (SSCR 1489).

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 Hara, kenneth.s.hara@hawaii.gov; 808-672-1001.

SCR-100

Submitted on: 4/12/2023 1:55:28 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/14/2023 10:40:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leimomi Khan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support. With no disrespect for others, I would especially like to see memorials recognizing the contributions that Native Hawaiians have made while in the service of the Department of Defense and in those events articulated in testimonies given, i.e., From Operation Desert Storm in 1991 to conflicts in Iraq covering war campaigns including: Operation Iraqi Freedom (March 2003 - November 2011), Operation New Dawn (September 2010 - December 2011) and Operation Inherent Resolve (June 2014 - December 2021) and conflicts in Afghanistan covering war campaigns including: Operation Enduring Freedom (October 2001 - December 2014) and Operation Freedom Sentinel (January 2015 - August 2021) and other conflicts globally that the United States has participated in.