



**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 TRANSPORTATION AND CULTURE AND THE ARTS AND  
THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND  
MILITARY AFFAIRS**

**March 21, 2023 Conference Room 224 & Videoconference at 3:01PM  
S.C.R. 100 /SR110**

**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**

Chairs Lee, Wakai and members of the Committee, the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA), is pleased to offer **COMMENTS** on S.C.R.100/ SR110. 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.



STATE OF HAWAII  
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**  
**KA 'OIHANA PILI KAUA**  
**OFFICE OF VETERANS' SERVICES**  
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TESTIMONY ON SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 100, SR110  
REQUESTING THE STATE FOUNDATION AND THE ARTS TO COLLABORATE WITH THE  
OFFICE OF VETERANS' SERVICES TO PLAN AND CONSTRUCT MEMORIALS TO HONOR  
THE SACRIFICES AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO VETERANS FROM HAWAII

PRESENTATION TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND CULTURE AND THE  
ARTS AND

THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY  
AFFAIRS

BY

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

MARCH 21, 2023

Chair Lee, Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Inouye and Vice Chair Elefante, and respective Members of the Senate Committees.

I am Ron Han, Director of the State Office of Veterans Services in the State Department of Defense (DOD). The State Office of Veterans Services (OVS) provides written testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SCR 100, SR110.

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 in 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 (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.

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 United States 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 this Senate Resolution 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.

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**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

STATE OF HAWAII  
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**  
**KA 'OIHANA PILI KAUA**  
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TESTIMONY ON SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 100  
AND SENATE RESOLUTION 110  
REQUESTING THE STATE FOUNDATION AND THE ARTS TO COLLABORATE WITH THE  
OFFICE OF VETERANS' SERVICES TO PLAN AND CONSTRUCT MEMORIALS TO  
HONOR THE SACRIFICES AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO VETERANS FROM HAWAII

PRESENTATION TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND CULTURE AND THE  
ARTS AND

THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY  
AFFAIRS

BY

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

MARCH 21, 2023

Chair Lee, Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Inouye and Vice Chair Elefante , and respective Members of the Senate Committees.

I am MG Kenneth Hara, Adjutant General, Director of the Emergency Management Agency and Homeland Security Advisor, State Department of Defense. We submit the following written testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SCR 100 and SR 110.

This resolution, if passed, creates the foundational collaboration between 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, as well as smaller replica memorials at our 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, our Hawaii national guardsmen continue to support 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 on this Senate Resolution supporting our Veterans and their loved ones.

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](mailto:kenneth.s.hara@hawaii.gov); 808-672-1001

**SCR-100**

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 2:59:14 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/21/2023 3:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Allen K Hoe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am fully in support of the purpose and intent of SCR100 and respectfully join in and support the testimony of Major General Kenneth S. Hara as well as Ron Han, Director of the Office of Veterans Services.\

Allen K. Hoe, Gold Star Father of 1Lt Nainoa K. Hoe (KIA January 22, 2005)