



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 BILL 374  
RELATING TO SPECIAL LICENSE PLATES FOR IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN WAR  
VETERANS

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

AND

THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND CULTURE AND THE ARTS

BY

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

FEBRUARY 8, 2023

Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Elefante and Chair Lee and Vice Chair Inouye, and respective Members of the Committees on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs and the Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts;

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 **SUPPORT** of SB 374.

This measure, if passed, creates license plates to honor Veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan Conflicts. For Iraq, the war campaigns covered should include; Operation Iraqi Freedom (Mar 2003-Nov 2011), Operation New Dawn (Sep 2010-Dec 2011) and Operation Inherent Resolve (Jun 2014-Dec 2021). For Afghanistan, the war campaigns should include; Operation Enduring Freedom (Oct 2001-Dec 2014) and Operation Freedom Sentinel (Jan 2015-Aug 2021).

A DD Form 214, Certificate of Discharge, is the primary military source document to verify a Veteran's federal eligibility. This is also used for the issuance of Veteran Specialty Plates. Special orders can also denote participation in these war campaigns.

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.

Ron Han, [ronald.p.han@hawaii.gov](mailto:ronald.p.han@hawaii.gov); 808-433-0422

From: CDR Geoffrey Cheng, Medical Service Corps, United States Navy Reserve  
To: State of Hawaii Senate, 32<sup>nd</sup> Legislature

Re: SB374

My name is Geoffrey Cheng, and I am a reserve officer in the United States Navy. I had the privilege to support our warfighters while on deployment at the NATO Role III Multinational Medical Unit (MMU) in Kandahar, Afghanistan from February to November 2014. I continue to serve in the U.S. Navy alongside many sailors from Hawaii or who call Hawaii home.

The withdrawal of our forces on 30 August 2021 from Kabul marked the end of our nation's 20 year war in response to the attacks on 9/11. Many people from Hawaii have served in our nation's armed forces during this conflict, proudly representing the spirit of our State and devotion to our country.

I believe it would be a great gesture on the part of this State to authorize a specialty license plate recognizing our veterans from the Afghanistan and Iraqi Wars. This plate continues our recognition of veterans from World War II, the Korean War, Vietnam, and the Persian Gulf War who have the opportunity to apply for a specialty license plate from these conflicts.

Thank you for your consideration!