

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



STEPHEN F. LOGAN
MAJOR GENERAL
ADJUTANT GENERAL
KA 'AKUKANA KENELALA

JOHN P. ALAMODIN
LIEUTENANT COLONEL
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

STATE OF HAWAI'I
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
KA 'OIHANA PILI KAUA
OFFICE OF VETERANS' SERVICES
459 PATTERSON ROAD, E-WING, ROOM 1-A103
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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL SB2545, SD1
RELATING TO VETERANS

BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

BY

JOHN P. ALAMODIN
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF VETERANS SERVICES

February 25, 2026

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Moriwaki, and members of the committee:

I am John P. Alamodin, Director, Office of Veterans Services, State of Hawaii,
Department of Defense

The Office of Veterans Services (OVS) provides written testimony to SUPPORT SB
2545, SD1

This measure seeks to repeal the 6/30/27 deadline by which the Maui State Veterans Home must be assimilated into a state agency having a Maui affiliation. Instead, requires the transfer of the Maui State Veterans Home to be completed as soon as practicable.

The State Veterans Homes are facilities that provide eligible Veterans with nursing home, domiciliary, or adult day care. These facilities are owned and operated by state government, and the VA's State Home Program provides an economical alternative to constructing, maintaining, and operating facilities for the provision of care to eligible Veterans. As of October 21, 2025, There are 175 State Veterans Homes with 169 nursing homes, 47 domiciliaries, and 3 adult day health care programs. With the Yukio Okutsu State Veterans Home in Hilo and the Daniel K. Akaka State Veterans Home in Kapolei, Hawai'i's State Veterans Home Program currently provides 215 residential long-term care beds across the State. The State Veterans Home on Maui will be the

third in Hawaii which add another 60-beds to the State Veterans Home Program and will address critical long-term care needs for Hawaii Veterans, their families, and Gold Star Parents statewide.

The proposed amendment to Section 3 of SLH 2024 Act 99 as reads “No later than June 30, 2027” change to read “As soon as practicable” will enable this important project to continue moving forward without time constraints, while also affording an extended opportunity for the formulation of a state agency having a Maui affiliation which is capable of fulfilling both ownership and operational oversight responsibilities for the new Hawaii State Veterans Home Maui.

On behalf of Hawaii Veterans and their families we serve, the Office of Veterans Services conveys its appreciation to the Committee for the opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of SB 2545, SD1.

John P. Alamodin
john.p.alamodin@hawaii.gov

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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2545 SD1
RELATING TO VETERANS

BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

BY

MAJOR GENERAL STEPHEN F. LOGAN
ADJUTANT GENERAL
DIRECTOR OF HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

February 25, 2026

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Moriwaki, and members of the committee:

My name is Major General Stephen F. Logan, The Adjutant General, State of Hawai'i, Department of Defense.

The State of Hawai'i, Department of Defense, submits written testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SB 2545 SD1.

This measure is legislation that our department and the Office of Veterans Services would likely have needed to introduce in the 2027 biennium if the Maui Hawaii Health Care Corporation, Maui Region Board was unable to reconstitute and assume operational responsibilities for the Hawai'i State Veterans Home (SVH) on Maui by the current legislatively mandated, June 30, 2027 deadline. Passing this legislation now alleviates any uncertainty regarding who may operate and oversee the SVH on Maui, while preserving the opportunity for a Maui affiliated state agency to assume that responsibility, if one is available and capable.

State Veterans Homes are facilities that provide eligible Veterans with nursing home care, domiciliary care, or adult day health care. These facilities are owned and operated by state government, and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) State

Home Program provides an economical alternative to constructing, maintaining, and operating facilities for the provision of care to eligible Veterans. As of October 21, 2025, there are 175 State Veterans Homes nationwide, including 169 nursing homes, 47 domiciliaries, and 3 adult day health care programs. With the Yukio Okutsu State Veterans Home in Hilo and the Daniel K. Akaka State Veterans Home in Kapolei, Hawai'i's State Veterans Home Program currently provides 215 residential long-term care beds across the State. The SVH on Maui will be Hawai'i's third State Veterans Home and will provide an additional 60 residential long-term care beds to serve Hawai'i Veterans and their Families, including Gold Star Parents, statewide.

SB 2545 amends Section 3 of Act 99, SLH 2024, which currently requires the SVH on Maui to be assimilated into a state agency having a Maui affiliation "no later than June 30, 2027." This bill simply replaces that deadline with more flexible language that would read, "as soon as practicable." This adjustment will enable this important project to continue moving forward without an arbitrary statutory deadline that could create unnecessary risk if an appropriate Maui-affiliated state agency is not yet identified or fully prepared to assume both ownership and operational oversight responsibilities. At the same time, the bill preserves and extends the opportunity to formulate or identify a qualified Maui-affiliated state agency capable of fulfilling those responsibilities.

On behalf of the Hawai'i Veterans and Families we serve, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important measure. We respectfully request your favorable consideration and and appreciate your support.

Major General Stephen Logan, Stephen.f.logan@hawaii.gov; 808-672-1001



OAHU REGION HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION

**Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice-Chair**

February 25, 2026, 10:55 A.M.
(Via Video Conference)
Conference Room 211
Hawaii State Capitol

Sean Sanada
Oahu Region Chief Executive Officer
Hawaii Health Systems Corporation
Re: Comments

SB 2545, SD1 Relating to Veterans

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

Aloha and thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on SB 2545 SD1, which repeals the specific deadline by which the Maui State Veterans Home must be assimilated into a state agency having a Maui affiliation, but still requires that such transfer be completed as soon as practicable.

The Oahu Region understands the value that the Maui State Veterans Home will bring to the Maui veteran community. The Oahu Region also fully supports the proposition that, if possible, management of the Maui facility should be undertaken by a state entity with a Maui affiliation. In order to help facilitate the development of the Maui State Veterans Home and enable the Department of Defense, Office of Veterans' Services to meet all regulatory requirements for federal funding, the Oahu Region is currently maintaining temporary responsibility for the Maui facility. That being said, the Oahu Region remains committed to relinquishing responsibility for the Maui State Veterans Home once an appropriate Maui entity is established and is able to take over this important role.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure.

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2545 SD1
A BILL RELATING TO VETERANS**

**PRESENTATION TO
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**

**BY
Maj Aris A. Banaag
OFFICE OF VETERANS SERVICES
MAUI REPRESENTATIVE**

February 25, 2026

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Maj Aris Banaag, and I am testifying in strong SUPPORT of SB 2545 SD1.

Through my roles serving Maui’s veteran community—including as Vice President of the Maui County Veterans Council, Maui Representative for the Office of Veterans Services, and a member of the Maui County Prevent Suicide Task Force, I work directly with veterans, families, caregivers, and community partners who rely on accessible, high-quality long-term care options. These responsibilities have given me firsthand insight into the urgent need for a fully supported and properly governed State Veterans Home on Maui.

The proposed amendment to Section 3 of SLH 2024 Act 99, changing “No later than June 30, 2027” to “As soon as practicable,” is both reasonable and necessary. Removing the restrictive deadline allows this critical project to continue progressing without artificial constraints, while also providing the State with the flexibility needed to establish an appropriate Maui-based agency capable of assuming ownership and operational oversight of our future 3rd Hawaii State Veterans Home.

This adjustment ensures that planning, coordination, and execution can occur responsibly and deliberately—prioritizing the long-term success of the facility and the well-being of the veterans it will serve. For Maui’s veterans, their spouses, and our Gold Star families, this project represents not only essential healthcare access but also long-overdue equity in statewide veteran support infrastructure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and for your continued commitment to Hawaii’s veterans. I strongly SUPPORT SB 2545 SD1.

Maj Aris A. Banaag, aris.banaag.1@us.af.mil; 808-789-0650



**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2545 SD1
RELATING TO VETERANS**

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 25, 2026 at 10:55 AM
Conference Room 211 or via Videoconference

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Military Affairs Council ("MAC") supports SB 2545 SD1.

The MAC was established in 1985 when the Chamber was appointed by the State to serve as the liaison to the military. The MAC advocates on behalf of Hawaii's military, and is comprised of business leaders, academic institutions, State and County officials, members of the CODEL, community leaders, labor unions and organizations and retired U.S. flag and general officers. The MAC works to support Hawaii's location as a strategic U.S. headquarters in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region which is crucial for U.S. national and homeland security.

The Maui State Veterans Home is intended to provide skilled nursing, rehabilitation, hospice, Alzheimer's care, and respite services for Hawai'i's veterans. Ensuring that this facility is placed under an appropriate state agency with the expertise to operate a long-term care facility is critical to its success.

The transfer process has proven to be complex, involving logistical, labor, and financial considerations. Removing the fixed statutory deadline and allowing the transfer to occur as soon as practicable will help ensure a smooth, responsible transition that protects the interests of veterans, staff, and the State.

This measure provides needed flexibility to complete the transfer thoughtfully and effectively.

The Hawaii Military Affairs Council respectfully requests the Committee to pass this measure.

SB-2545-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 3:06:44 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2026 10:55:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support SB2545. Please pass this bill.

Mike Golojuch, Sr., Lt Col, USAF(Ret)

Past Chair, Advisor Board to the Office of Veterans' Services

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2545 SD1
A BILL RELATING TO VETERANS

PRESENTATION TO
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

BY

Thomas M. Driskill, Jr
COL, USA, MSC (Ret)
698 Kaulana Place
Honolulu, Hawaii
96821

February 25, 2026, 10:55 AM

Conference Room 211

Chair Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee,

I am Tommy Driskill and I am testifying in strong **SUPPORT** of SB 2545 SD1.

Based upon my past years of experience as President/CEO, Hawaii Health Systems Corp (HHSC) Aug 1997 to Dec 2009, during which time I oversaw the planning, construction, opening and initial operation of the Yukio Okutsu State Veterans Home, Hilo and my work representing Director, Office of Veterans Services, DOD, SOH, interest in both the construction of the Daniel K. Akaka State Veterans Home (DKA SVH), Kapolei 2021 through 2024 as well as planning and design preparation for our new 3d Hawaii State Veterans Home (HI SVH) Maui 2025, I feel uniquely qualified to strongly **SUPPORT** this legislation.

The proposed amendment to Section 3 of SLH 2024 Act 99 as reads "No later than June 30, 2027" change to read "As soon as practicable" will enable this important project to continue moving forward without time constraints, while simultaneously affording an extended opportunity for the formulation of a state agency having a Maui affiliation which is capable of fulfilling both ownership and operational oversight responsibilities for our new 3d HI SVH Maui.

Thank you for your consideration of this legislation which we strongly **SUPPORT** on behalf of both our Maui Veterans and our State-wide Hawaii Veterans, their spouses and our Gold Star Parents.

Thomas M Driskill Jr, COL, USA, MSC (Ret), tmdriskill@gmail.com / 808-499-997

SB-2545-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 9:08:48 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2026 10:55:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry, Support

2545 SB RELATING TO VETERANS.

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2545 SD1
A BILL RELATING TO VETERANS

PRESENTATION TO
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

BY

Kathleen M. McNamara, Ph.D.
Clinical Psychologist
4000 Kula Highway
Kula, Hawai'i
96790

February 25, 2026

I am Dr. Kathleen M. McNamara and I am testifying in strong SUPPORT of SB 25.

I am a clinical psychologist and provided clinical services for 27 years to veterans as a full time staff psychologist with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) in Hawaii. During my time with the VA I had the privilege of serving our veterans on the neighbor islands, including being assigned as the full time staff psychologist at the Community Based Outpatient Clinic in Kahului, Maui. I am very aware of how important the presence of a Veterans Home is to our veteran community. I am especially aware of the importance to our veterans and their families that they can trust the services available to them are stable and predictable.

The proposed amendment to Section 3 of SLH 2024 Act 99 that will change the current language stating “No later than June 30, 2027” to read “As soon as practicable” will allow the State Veterans Home project on Maui to continue moving forward without the constraints of the existing statutory deadline. The change proposed by the amendment affords an extended opportunity to identify or formulate a qualified Maui-affiliated state agency capable of assuming ownership and operational oversight responsibilities. This will enhance the trust veterans have that services promised through this State Veterans Home on Maui will be stable and predictable.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony for this important issue. I strongly SUPPORT SB 2545 SD1 and request your favorable consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathlee M. McNamara, Ph.D., Clinical Psychologist, kmcnamara7@aol.com/808-351-5567

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2545 SD1
A BILL RELATING TO VETERANS

PRESENTATION TO
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
BY

WILLIAM C.S. PARK
66-940 KUEWA DRIVE
WAIALUA, HAWAII 96791

FEBRUARY 25, 2026

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee,

I am William C.S. Park and I am testifying in strong SUPPORT of SB 2545 SD1.

I am a Vietnam combat veteran who was born and raised in Hawaii. I retired from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) after more than 25 years. I then joined Helping Hands Hawaii where I worked as a Case Manager with primary responsibility for working with veterans having day-to-day problems related to the effects of their mental health issues. I was then requested to join Papa Ola Lokahi where I served as the Veterans Program Director. Through my work with Helping Hands Hawaii the difficulty veterans had navigating the VA system became all too clear to me. An informal gathering of myself and four other Vietnam veterans decided we should and could do something about this – veterans helping veterans. Following in the Hawaiian tradition we created what we referred to as “The Uncles” (later to be expanded to “The Uncles and Aunties Program”). We simply explained the system and encouraged our fellow veterans not to give up in seeking health care or other benefits. I continue as an “Uncle” today. More recently as a cultural practitioner I participated in committees relating to the new VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic in Kapolei and for the Daniel K. Akaka State Veterans Home. I share this background since it is the foundation from which I speak in SUPPORT of SB 2545 SD1. Through my many contacts with veterans and their families it became obvious that the importance of a State Veterans Home could not be underestimated. This was confirmed as I personally saw the impact on our veterans when the Daniel K. Akaka State Veterans Home opened.

The proposed amendment to Section 3 of Act 99, SLH 2024 changes the current requirement that the State Veterans Home proposed for Maui be assimilated into a state agency having a Maui affiliation “No later than June 3, 2027” to read “As soon as practicable.” This will allow the State Veterans Home project on Maui to move forward without time constraints. It also allows for

an extended opportunity to formulate or identify a qualified Maui-affiliated state agency capable of assuming ownership and operational oversight responsibilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony for this important issue. I strongly SUPPORT SB 2545 SD1 and respectfully request your favorable consideration.

With aloha,

William C.S. Park, 66-940 Kuewa Dr., Waialua, HI, kulakuaka7@gmail.com/808-221-7481