

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 602, RELATING TO EXEMPTIONS FROM
REGISTRATION FEES

PRESENTATION TO THE
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

BY

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DIRECTOR OF STATE OFFICE OF VETERANS SERVICES

February 24, 2017
1:35 p.m.

Good Afternoon Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and members of the Committee:

I'm Ron Han, Director of the State Office of Veterans Services. I appreciate this opportunity to provide written testimony **in support** of the concepts in Senate Bill 602.

This measure would repeal the requirement that a disabled Veteran be in concurrent receipt of disability retirement pay in order to be exempt from the payment of annual vehicle registration fees. However, the Veteran must be a resident of Hawaii and be a 100% disabled Veteran as determined by the United States Department of Veteran Affairs. Additionally, their characterization of discharge must be other than dishonorable. In Hawaii, there are currently 3075 disabled Veterans rated at 100% by the VA.

Service connected 100% disabled Veterans served valiantly in uniform in support of and in sacrifice for our country. The freedoms we enjoy today have been paved by their dedicated and honored service. This is a small token of our appreciation for their heralded duty.

We defer to the agency with direct responsibility for implementation.

The OVS supports the concepts and intent expressed in this measure as long as its implementation does not impact or replace the priorities set forth in the Executive Budget.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of Hawaii's Veterans and their families.