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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
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TESTIMONY ON HCR 43 (HSCR 1777)
URGING HAWAII'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION AND THE GOVERNOR TO
COLLABORATE WITH THE LEGISLATURE TO ENSURE EXPEDITED BURIALS FOR
VETERANS, DECEASED ACTIVE DUTY MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED
FORCES, AND THEIR SPOUSES AT VETERANS CEMETERIES THROUGHOUT THE STATE
OF HAWAII

PRESENTATION TO THE
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL & MILITARY AFFAIRS

BY

MR. RONALD P. HAN
DIRECTOR OF THE STATE OFFICE OF VETERANS SERVICES

April 16, 2019, 1:35 pm

Good afternoon, Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Wakai, and members of the Committee:

I'm Ron Han, Director of the State Office of Veterans Services (OVS). I appreciate this opportunity to provide **comments** concerning the concepts in HCR 43, (HSCR 1777).

The State Office of Veterans Services, with administrative oversight for the eight State Veterans Cemeteries and with a dual partnership with the various Counties on the neighbor islands, does take into consideration the timely internment of eligible Veterans and their loved ones. Religious and cultural burial requirements and practices are discussed during the cemetery family orientation briefings before the scheduled cemetery committal service. Every effort is made by the cemetery staff to meet the cultural or religious conditions in alignment with established federal and state cemetery rules and regulations. In the cited example of the resolution, the Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery (HSVC) incurred one of the highest demand periods for internments over the last decade and reached capacity for internments that stretched out to over four weeks. Over the last year since this high capacity timeframe, the average internments have been between two to three weeks meshing with the funeral service schedules offered by the respective mortuaries. Concerning the cited example, the HSVC staff has not received any other complaints concerning timely interments within the last year. As a side note, the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl averages two weeks for their current internment schedule as 80% of their inurnments are in niches since their in-ground capacity has been fully utilized.

The OVS provides **comments** for this resolution so 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.

Ron Han: ronald.han@va.gov Phone: (808) 433-0422

HCR-43

Submitted on: 4/12/2019 5:59:47 PM

Testimony for PSM on 4/16/2019 1:35:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mike Golojuch	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support HCR43. We need to ensure that veterans, deceased active duty members of all U.S. Armed Forces, and their spouses have expedited burials at Veterans Cemeteries. It is one thing to say, "Thank you for your service" it is another to follow through and honor those veterans and family members by allowing expedited burials.

Please pass and support HCR43. Thank you.

Mike Golojuch, Lt Col, USAF(Ret)

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HCR-43

Submitted on: 4/16/2019 11:02:31 AM
Testimony for PSM on 4/16/2019 1:35:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for O`ahu County Democrats Legislative Priorities Committee	Support	No

Comments:

To the Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, the Honorable Glenn Wakai, and members of the Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs:

The O`ahu County Democrats Legislative Priorities Committee submits its testimony in support of HCR 43. It is in accord with the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs' position that all United States veterans and their spouses have earned the privilege to be buried in a veterans' cemetery and all decedents deserve the highest standards for burials, as is a long-standing tradition and practice of Native Hawaiian culture. HCR43 will assist in ensuring that burials for veterans, deceased active duty members of the United States Armed Forces, and their spouses at veterans cemeteries in Hawai'i are expedited in a timely manner so as to avoid unnecessary hardship and suffering during the time of loss for the surviving families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HCR43.

Mahalo nui loa.

Melodie Aduja

Chair, O`ahu County Democrats Legislative Priorities Committee