

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 1417 SD1, RELATING TO FILIPINO VETERANS
BURIAL ASSISTANCE

PRESENTATION TO THE
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

BY

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

February 21, 2019
10:00 a.m.

Good morning, Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the Committee:

I'm Ron Han, Director of the State Office of Veterans Services (OVS). I appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony **in support** of the concepts in Senate Bill 1417 SD1.

This measure appropriates funds and establishes a special non-lapsing fund if authorized by governing administrative rules for burial grants to qualifying Filipino veterans to provide funeral and burial services and transportation of their remains to the Philippines. Eligible Filipino veterans have earned the right to be buried in a National or State Veterans' Cemetery. This is the same entitlement provided to eligible military members and veterans of the United States Armed Forces. Through Act 105, Sessions Laws of Hawaii 2017, the legislature with approval by the Governor appropriated initial funding for this measure. With coordination with the Hawaii State Attorney General's Office and public hearings throughout the State in 2017, a new Hawaii Administrative Rules Section has been created.

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.

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

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



LATE

RODERICK K. BECKER
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OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

WRITTEN ONLY
TESTIMONY BY RODERICK K. BECKER
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 1417, S.D. 1

February 21, 2019
10:00 a.m.
Room 211

RELATING TO FILIPINO VETERANS BURIAL ASSISTANCE

Senate Bill (S.B.) No. 1417, S.D. 1, appropriates \$100,000 in general funds for FY 20 and for FY 21 for burial grants for qualified Filipino-American World War II veterans for funeral and burial services and for transportation of their remains to the Philippines. The bill also contains an unspecified lapse date where “funds appropriated and unencumbered as of July 30, 2021, shall not lapse but shall remain available for the purpose of the Act.”

The Department of Budget and Finance appreciates the intent of this bill to provide burial grants for qualified Filipino-American World War II veterans; however, this bill may have problems with the lapsing of funds. The Department of the Attorney General has opined that Article VII, Section 11, of the Hawaii State Constitution, provides that general funds may not be appropriated for a biennial appropriation with a lapse date more than one year beyond the biennial period. Thus, the FY 20 and FY 21 appropriations in S.B. No. 1417, S.D. 1, must lapse no later than June 30, 2022, which is one year beyond the close of the Fiscal Biennium 2019-21.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

SB-1417-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 12:54:59 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/21/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i	Support	No

Comments: