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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
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TESTIMONY ON SENATE RESOLUTION SCR 213, SR 172
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

March 25, 2019, 3:00 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 SCR 213, SR 172.

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.

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SCR-213

Submitted on: 3/21/2019 3:28:26 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/25/2019 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly support SCR213. All veterans, including deceased active duty members and spouses, should have expedited burials. Please pass this as well as SR172.

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