

**ADVISORY BOARD ON VETERANS SERVICES  
MINUTES**

A/V Conference Meeting at  
Oahu – Tripler Hospital, VBA E-Wing, Honor Conference Room, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Big Island (Hilo) – 1304 Kekuanaoa Street, Hilo, HI 96720  
Kauai – 1-3460 Kaunualii Highway, Hanapepe, HI 96716  
Maui – PFC Kaho’ohanohano Armory, 2701 Maui Veterans Hwy, Kihei, HI 96753  
Friday, January 4, 2019  
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

**ATTENDANCE**

Board Members: Ms. Ann Greenlee, Chair  
Ms. Bridget Komine, Vice Chair,  
Mr. Clay Park  
Mr. Harold Bugado  
Mr. Jim Traxler  
Ms. Chelsea Fernandez  
Mr. Wilbert Pereira

OVS Staff: Mr. Ron Han, Director, OVS

Ex-Officios: Ms. Eric Gaskins, Acting Director, VBA  
Ms. Jennifer Gutowski, Director VAPIHCS

Guests: 1Lt. Shao Lee, State of Hawaii DOD  
Mr. James Young, HIARNG IT-VTC Manager

Absent: Mr. Michael Lilly, Board Member  
Mr. Jim Horton, VA – Director, National Cemetery of the Pacific  
Ms. Amy Rohlfs, PAO/VHA  
Mr. Carlos Santana – Senator Mazie Hirono’s Office  
Department of Health  
Department of Human Services  
Oahu Veterans Center

**I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & CALL TO ORDER – A Moment of Silence**

Chair Greenlee led the Pledge of Allegiance and after a moment of silence, called the meeting to order at 0905 hours.

## **II. MINUTES**

The Board reviewed the December 7, 2018 minutes. Minutes were unanimously accepted by the Board Members.

## **III. COMMUNICATIONS**

None

## **IV. DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

### **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

**Acting Director Eric Gaskins, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs – Benefits -** No change to submitted report.

Discussed Veterans Resource Counselor (VRC) is on board on Maui (covering Maui, Molokai, Lanai). Mr. Sergio Chao will be the acting VBA Director for sixty days in bound from Arizona.

Board Member Park asked if VBA Counselors were traveling to Molokai and Lanai?

Response: January: Molokai February: Lanai

**Director Jennifer Gutowski, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs – Medical –**

Briefed on: The recent visit of VA Secretary Wilkie and VISN 21 Director Brandecker to Hawaii to meet with VA personnel and Veterans. An update on the ALOHA Center Project, the emphasis on VHA recruiting and hiring (rate is under 10%), the new Primary Care Team in Hilo, Minority Veterans Program Coordinator (Mr. Vincent Johnson), and that there was no impact to VBA or VHA services due to the recent government shut-down.

**Mr. Ron Han, Director, OVS -** No change to submitted report. – See Attached

Briefed on: OVS new accessions and job vacancies, the progress on the 2<sup>nd</sup> State Veterans Home, the upcoming first State Veterans Summit and the upcoming State Legislative Session (Jan-May 2019).

**First Lieutenant Shaoyu Lee, Department of Defense, Engineering Office, Interim Chief Engineering Officer -** Submitted report

Briefed and provided an update on CIP and expansion projects throughout the State involving our eight State Veterans Cemeteries and special projects like the 2<sup>nd</sup> State Veterans Home.

**Department of Health** – Not present. No submitted report.

**Department of Human Service** - Not present. No submitted report.

**Department of Labor and Industrial Relations** - Not present. No submitted report.

**U.S. Department of Labor, VETS** – Present. No submitted report.

## **V. BOARD MEMBER’S REPORTS**

1. Hilo – Mr. Harold Bugado - No change to submitted report.
2. Kona – Mr. Jim Traxler - No change to submitted report.
3. Kauai – Mr. Wilbert Pereira - No report submitted. No additions.
4. Maui – Ms. Chelsea Fernandez - No report submitted. No additions.
5. Oahu – Mr. Michael Lilly - No report submitted. No additions.
6. Oahu – Mr. Clay Park - No report submitted. No additions.
7. Oahu – Ms. Bridget Komine, Acting Chair - No change to submitted report.
8. Oahu – Ms. Ann Greenlee, Chair - No change to submitted report.

## **V. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- A. Legislative Committee  
No report.
- B. By Laws and Procedures  
No report.
- C. Recognition and Awards  
No report.
- D. Women’s Committee  
No Report.
- E. Project and Events Committee

- a. Rededication of the WWII Memorial in 2018 – Komine Liaison  
No update but still on the radar. Deferred to 2019.
- b. Maui Veterans Cemetery Blessing/Dedication Event in 2018 –  
Fernandez Liaison. No update.
- c. Dedication of the East Hawaii Korean War Memorial – Bugado  
Liaison. No report.
- d. WWI Centennial Commemoration 2018 – Han Liaison  
AAR Meeting planned for 31 Jan 2019.
- e. State Veterans Summit – Han Liaison  
Tentative date and venue: 21-22 Jun 2019 at the Hawaii Convention  
Center

**VI.**

**Veterans' Centers** – Not present. No written report submitted.

**VII. NEW BUSINESS**

None

**VIII. OLD BUSINESS**

None

**IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**X. WORKING SESSION – OVS / Advisory Board Issues / Ideas**

Recommend change of board meeting in June 2019 to coincide with State Veterans Summit, 21-22 Jun 19 at the Hawaii Convention Center and to bring all neighbor island reps in for this session...Motion by Jim Traxler...seconded by Harold Bugado...motion carried.

**XI. ADJOURN**

Motion to adjourn by Clay Park and seconded by Bridget Komine. Motion carried, meeting adjourned at 0949 hours.

RPH2 - Recorder  
Attachments