

**ADVISORY BOARD ON VETERANS SERVICES
MINUTES**

A/V Conference Meeting at
Oahu – Tripler Hospital, VBA E-Wing, Koa Conference Room, 4st 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, April 5, 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. Michael Lilly
Mr. Harold Bugado
Mr. Jim Traxler
Mr. Wilbert Pereira

OVS Staff: Mr. Ron Han, Director, OVS

Ex-Officios: Mr. Chris McNair, Representing the Director, VBA
Ms. Amy Rohlfs, Representing the Director, VAPIHCS

Guests: Mr. Wade Ishii, State of Hawaii DOD Engineering
Mr. Carlos Santana – Senator Mazie Hirono’s Office
Mr. Gene Maestas, Public Affairs Officer, National Cemetery of
the Pacific
Mr. Juan Babiak, Veterans Liaison, Yukio Okutsu State Veterans
Home

Absent: Ms. Chelsea Fernandez, Board Member
Department of Health
Department of Human Services
Oahu Veterans Center

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

Chair Ann Greenlee chaired the meeting and Ms. Amy Rohlfs led the Pledge of Allegiance. After a moment of silence, called the meeting to order at 0905 hours.

II. MINUTES

The Board reviewed the March 1, 2019 minutes. Michael Lilly motioned to accept seconded by Clay Park. Minutes were unanimously accepted by the Board Members.

III. COMMUNICATIONS

Board received US Congressman Ed Case request for info on Veterans Issues...board members will query their island veterans and submit to HI-OVS for consolidation.

IV. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

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Amy Rohlfs representing Director Jennifer Gutowski, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs – Medical –

Briefed on: The VA Mission Act and changes forthcoming, telehealth initiatives, Sprint partnership with VA to support Veterans, update on the recent VA job fair (30 tentative offers), the upcoming Lanai Townhall, Volunteer Service Week, and the weekly radio (AM 940-KHVH) show on Tues and Thurs mornings discussing important Veteran issues.

Chris McNair representing the Director, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs – Benefits -

Briefed on: the VBA Fact Sheet Handout, claims status, Vocational Rehab stats, VBA Counselors permanently on Maui and in Hilo, and upcoming events: the Hilo and Kauai VBA Workshops

Public Affairs Officer, Gene Maestas, National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, Punchbowl-

Briefed on: Upcoming congressional staffers visit, dis-internment status, upcoming ceremonial programs at Punchbowl (Easter Sunrise, ANZAC Day, Memorial Day, Vietnam Candlelight Ceremony)

Ron Han, Director, OVS - No change to submitted report.

Briefed on: OVS new accessions and job vacancies, the progress on the 2nd State Veterans Home, the upcoming first State Veterans Summit and the latest measure being worked by State Legislators affecting Veterans (Jan-May 2019).

Wade Ishii, Department of Defense, Engineering Office, Interim Chief Engineering Officer – No change to submitted report

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

Juan Babiak, Veterans Liaison, Yukio Okutsu State Veterans Home- No change to submitted report.

Briefed on: A few highlights of his monthly report, that Yukio Okutsu State Veterans Home is going to a two (2) star-rating from a 5 Star rating based on latest compliance assessments although 20/21 of CMS metrics were exceeded. Juan was highlighted once again and thanked for his planning efforts working on the 2nd State Veterans Home.

Carlos Santana, Military and Veterans Affairs Liaison, Senator Mazie Hirono's Office

Briefed on: The upcoming and inaugural State Veterans Summit, slated for 21-22 June 19 at the Hawaii Convention Center and the call for agenda items and guest speakers.

Director Ann Greenlee, U.S. Department of Labor, VETS

Briefed on: Waiving residency requirements for AD spouses for specified certifications and licensing and that there are many job openings in the State. Michael Lilly commented that residency requirements in and of itself may not be constitutional.

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 change to report submitted.

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 - Report submitted. No additions.

4. Maui – Ms. Chelsea Fernandez - Report submitted. No additions.
5. Oahu – Mr. Michael Lilly -Report submitted. No additions.
6. Oahu – Mr. Clay Park - 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

Michael Lilly provided an update on bills and that the State Legislature is still in session until the first week of May 2019. Juan Babiak mentioned about a future measure on exemption of taxes for State Veterans Homes that could be introduced.

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
Need to work on inscription for the plaque next
- b. Maui Veterans Cemetery Blessing/Dedication Event in 2018 –
Fernandez Liaison. No update.
- c. Dedication of the East Hawaii Korean War Memorial – Bugado
Liaison. Construction is just underway...dedication date: 22 Jun 2019
- d. WWI Centennial Commemoration 2018 – Han Liaison
Final tribute to State Planning Committee in June 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

Neighbor island board members work with Kim Magday to travel for the State Veterans Summit and possibly conduct monthly meeting.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

None

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

XI. ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn by Michael Lilly and seconded by Clay Park. Motion carried, meeting adjourned at 1003 hours.

RPH2 - Recorder
Attachments