

**ADVISORY BOARD ON VETERANS SERVICES
MINUTES**

A/V Conference Meeting at
Oahu – Tripler Hospital, VBA E-Wing, Honor Conference Room, 1st 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, May 3, 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

OVS Staff: Mr. Ron Han, OVS, Director
Ms. Yi Yam Lee, OVS, Administrative Services Assistant
Ms. Yolanda Ehere, OVS, Secretary

Ex-Officios: Ms. Nessie Shores, Representing the Director, VBA
Ms. Jennifer Gutowski, 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
Mr. Wilbert Pereira, 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 led the Pledge of Allegiance. After a moment of silence, called the meeting to order at 0905 hours.

II. MINUTES

The Board reviewed the April 5, 2019 minutes. Clay Park motioned to accept seconded by Jim Traxler. Minutes were unanimously accepted by the Board Members.

III. COMMUNICATIONS

None received.

IV. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Jennifer Gutowski, Director, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs – Pacific Island Health Care System-Medical –

Briefed on: The VA Mission Act, Community of Care initiatives, telehealth initiatives, and future advisories to be released on VA Mission Act procedural changes that should not affect sustained VA healthcare to the Veterans.

Clay Park asked a question on training of VA employees with the changes projected. Director Gutowski mentioned that training has already started and some of it will be “just in time” training.

Nessie Shores representing the Director, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs – Benefits -

Briefed on: the VBA Fact Sheet Handout, claims status, VBA Counselors progressing well on Maui and in Hilo, and upcoming workshops. Also, Mr. Sergio Chao has been selected as the new VBA Director to start over the next several months. Nessie Shores also announced she will be retiring on 31 May 19.

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

Briefed on: The recent congressional staffers visit, dis-internment status, infrastructure projects (new roads/curbs), 2025 new columbarium being planned, upcoming ceremonial programs at Punchbowl (Easter Sunrise, ANZAC Day, Memorial Day, Vietnam Candlelight Ceremony), and a cemetery rules awareness program being launched.

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 measures 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: 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 now rated at the two (2) star from a 5 Star rating based on the latest compliance assessment, and he also updated on how these compliance findings have been resolved.

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 website is live for registration. Also, a Summit Golf Tournament has been planned prior to the start.

Director Ann Greenlee, U.S. Department of Labor, VETS- Present. No change to report submitted.

Briefed on: Upcoming Job Fair and the Neal Blaisdell Center on 15 May 19.

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.

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 – No Report submitted.
5. Oahu – Mr. Michael Lilly -Report submitted. No additions.
6. Oahu – Mr. Clay Park - Report submitted. No additions.
7. Oahu – Ms. Bridget Komine - 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 was still working until the close of session the first week of May 2019.

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 2020 – Komine Liaison
Need to work on inscription for the plaque next
- b. Maui Veterans Cemetery Blessing/Dedication Event in 2019/2020 –
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 on 28 June 2019 at
Washington Place from 5:00 PM-7:00 PM.
- e. State Veterans Summit – Han Liaison

Firm dates: 21-22 Jun 2019 at the Hawaii Convention Center...please register...www.hiveteransfoundation.org

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

VII. NEW BUSINESS

Neighbor island board members please work with Kim Magday to travel for the State Veterans Summit and possibly conduct monthly meeting on Sat, 22 Jun 19.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

None

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Greenlee mentioned she will be assisting her daughter and grandchild in San Jose over the next 3-4 months and will do her best to call-in for our board proceedings.

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 0955 hours.

Yolanda Ehere - Recorder
Attachments