

**ADVISORY BOARD ON VETERANS SERVICES  
MINUTES**

A/V Conference Meeting at  
Oahu-Hawaii Convention Center-Hawaii State Veterans Summit  
Room 308A  
Saturday, June 22, 2019  
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

**ATTENDANCE**

Board Members: Ms. Bridget Komine, Vice Chair,  
Mr. Clay Park  
Mr. Jim Traxler  
Ms. Chelsea Fernandez

OVS Staff: Mr. Ron Han, OVS, Director

Ex-Officios: Ms. Andrea Lapinski, Interim Director, VBA  
Ms. Jennifer Gutowski, Director, VAPIHCS

Guests: Mr. Carlos Santana – Senator Mazie Hirono’s Office  
Aurelie Mulcare, AMVETS Hawaii  
Ed Kawamura, Kauai Veterans Council  
Amy Rohlfs, VAPIHCS Public Affairs  
Brent Oto, USAR AAW  
Karl Calleon, KMO  
Rodney Boucher, AMVETS Hawaii  
Courtney Chandler, HI School of Professional Psychology  
Bo Mahoe, Maui Veterans Council  
Gerry Silva, AARP  
Edward Richardson, Work Force Development Committee  
Clifford Chun, AMVETS Hawaii  
Ron Lam, AMVETS Hawaii  
Donovan Lazarus , AMVETS Hawaii

Absent: Ms. Ann Greenlee, Chair  
Mr. Michael Lilly, Board Member  
Mr. Harold Bugado, 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**

Vice Chair Bridget Komine chaired the meeting and led the Pledge of Allegiance. After a moment of silence, called the meeting to order at 1015 hours.

## **II. MINUTES**

The Board reviewed the May 3, 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 latest concerning the VA Mission Act, Community of Care initiatives, urgent care locations, Veteran priority groups, prosthetics recruiting, and future Mission Act advisories.

Clay Park requested an update for the VA Call Center line: 1-800-214-1306 in the event Veterans had questions these programs and other initiatives.

**Andrea Lapinski, Interim 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 1 Jul 19.

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

Briefed on: OVS new accessions and job vacancies, the progress on the 2<sup>nd</sup> State Veterans Home, upcoming Veteran events and the latest measures approved by State Legislators affecting Veterans.

Chelsea Fernandez requested an update on the Maui Multi-Service Complex...latest: Senior Directors meeting being scheduled with VAPIHCS, DOD and DOE in Aug 19

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

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

**Deputy Director Bridget Komine, U.S. Department of Labor, VETS- Present. No change to report submitted.**

Briefed on: Upcoming Job Fair and the Neal Blaisdell Center on 31 Jul 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 – No change to submitted report.
4. Maui – Ms. Chelsea Fernandez – No change to submitted report.
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 a hardcopy legislative update on bills that were still awaiting the Governor's sign off to become law.

**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. National Association of Letter Carriers very supported of this memorial re-dedication in 2020.
- b. Maui Veterans Cemetery Blessing/Dedication Event in 2019/2020 – Fernandez Liaison. Realignment and Restoration work on grave markers still ongoing.
- c. Dedication of the East Hawaii Korean War Memorial – Bugado Liaison. 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  
21-22 Jun 2019 at the Hawaii Convention Center...over 600 have registered...[www.hiveteransfoundation.org](http://www.hiveteransfoundation.org)

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

**VII. NEW BUSINESS**

All guests were given the opportunity to address the board with many topics tabled and discussed. For example: Blue Water Navy update, workforce development initiatives, Veterans Treatment Court mentorship program, capital improvement projects, and future State Veterans Summits.

**VIII. OLD BUSINESS**

None

**IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Vice Chair Komine thanked all those in attendance for attending the first State Veterans Summit and these board proceedings.

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

**XI. ADJOURN**

Motion to adjourn by Jim Traxler and seconded by Chelsea Fernandez. Motion carried, meeting adjourned at 1145 hours.

RPH2 - Recorder  
Attachments