**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 Kaumualii Highway, Hanapepe, HI 96716

Maui – PFC Kaho’ohanohano Armory, 2701 Maui Veterans Hwy, Kihei, HI 96753

**Friday, November 1, 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-call-in connection issue

Mr. Michael Lilly-call-in connection issue

Mr. Jim Traxler

Mr. Wilbert Pereira

OVS Staff: Mr. Ron Han, OVS, Director

Ms. Yam Yi Lee, OVS, Administrative Services Assistant

Ex-Officios: Ms. Deb-B Kamisato, Representing the Director, VAPIHCS

Guests: CPT Shaoyu Lee, State of Hawaii DOD Engineering

Mr. Sergio Chao, Director, VA Benefits

Absent: Ms. Chelsea Fernandez

Mr. Gene Maestas, Public Affairs Officer, National Cemetery of

the Pacific

Mr. Juan Babiak, Veterans Liaison, Yukio Okutsu State Veterans

Home-call-in connection issue

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 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 October 4, 2019 minutes. Jim Traxler motioned to accept seconded by Clay Park. Minutes were unanimously accepted by the Board Members.

**III. COMMUNICATIONS**

None

**IV. DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

**Ms. Deb-B Kamisato, Representing the Director, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs – Pacific Island Health Care System-Medical** -

Briefed on: Dr. Kathryn Ryder is the VAPIHCS’ New Chief of Staff, Dr. William Dubbs retired from the VA effective Wednesday October 9th, Job fair on November 4th at Ke`ehi Lagoon Memorial Park from 10am-12pm, Reminder - VA Is Smoke Free Since October 1st, Annual Retiree Seminar and Maui Veterans Caregiver Event on Nov 2, 2019, Director Gutowski will be featured on KHON Modern Wahine on November 10

**Mr. Sergio Chao, VA Honolulu Regional Office Veterans Service Center Manager, Representing the Director, VBA– Benefits** -

Briefed on: Update on Hilo staff will come in Mid-November

**Mr. Ron Han, Director, OVS** -

Briefed on: Veteran’s Day Ceremony on November 11th at Punchbowl, Triennial Report, Working on State budget, Opportunity to submit for Pillars of Excellency award with the Secretary of VA for Hoa Koa program

**Department of Defense, Engineering Office, Interim Chief Engineering Officer** –

Briefed on: Total of $250K of $250K expended for the Pacific Aviation Museum and is 99% completed, Total of $134K of $400K expended for the Pacific Aviation Museum Learning Laboratory, Pearl Harbor Honolulu Branch 46 -Project closed, West Hawaii Veterans Cemetery – conference call with DAGS and DOD on how to move forward, USS Missouri Memorial Association – Received $250K GIA appropriation to refurbish the superstructure of the USS Missouri. Hawaii State Veterans Home – still trying to resolve 2nd protest, East Hawaii Veterans Cemetery – waiting for contractor to finish the work, West Hawaii Veterans Center, Additional Columbaria – DAGS is working with the VA to obtain the niche covers, Kauai Veterans Cemetery – DOD accepted opportunity to participate in award, Maui Veterans cemetery Gravesite Restoration – Finished 3 of 4 phases, Maui Veterans Cemetery – got approved for funding of the additional columbaria niches.

Mr. Clay Park asked is there anything happening on Molokai and Lanai? The project on Lanai is completed. Lanai Veterans Cemetery open house is to be rescheduled.

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

Briefed on: participated in the Hawaii SHRM conference, Supporting the US Chamber HOH Career Summits

**Juan Babiak , Liaison, Yukio Okutsu Veterans Home in Hilo** - Not present. Mr. Han gave the report

Briefed on: CMS survey will go back up to a 4 star once the current CMS survey results are posted

**Mr. Gene Maestas, Public Affairs Officer, National Cemetery of the Pacific –** Not present. No submitted report

**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.

**Oahu Veterans Centers**- Not present. No submitted report.

**V. BOARD MEMBER’S REPORTS**

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

**V. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. Legislative Committee

No report.

1. By Laws and Procedures

No report.

1. Recognition and Awards

No report.

1. Women’s Committee
2. Trying to restart
3. Col. Ellison changed job, so will ask if she would like to keep the program or give the opportunity to someone else.
4. Project and Events Committee
5. Rededication of the WWII Memorial in 2020 – National Association of Letter Carriers will be paying for it, we do not need to go through state procurement.
6. Maui Veterans Cemetery Blessing/Dedication Event – Requesting for Chelsea to start definitive plans on how this dedication ceremony will take place…formulate an agenda, speakers, program.

**VII. NEW BUSINESS**

None

**VIII. OLD BUSINESS**

None

**IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

**XI. ADJOURN**

Yolanda Ehere - Recorder

Attachments