

**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, February 7, 2020**  
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

**ATTENDANCE**

Board Members: Ms. Ann Greenlee, Chair  
Mr. Clay Park  
Mr. Harold Bugado  
Mr. Michael Lilly  
Mr. Jim Traxler  
Mr. Wilbert Pereira

OVS Staff: Mr. Ron Han, OVS, Director  
Ms. Yolanda Ehere, Secretary

Ex-Officios: Ms. Amy Rohlfs, Representing the Director, VAPIHCS

Guests: Mr. Chris McNair, VA Honolulu Regional Office Veterans Service  
Center Manager, Representing the Director, VBA  
CPT Shaoyu Lee, State of Hawaii DOD Engineering  
Mr. Juan Babiak, Veterans Liaison, Yukio Okutsu State Veterans  
Mr. Jim Horton, Director, National Cemetery of the Pacific  
Mr. Carlos Santana – Senator Mazie Hirono’s Office

Absent: Ms. Bridget Komine, Vice Chair  
Ms. Chelsea Fernandez  
Department of Health  
Department of Human Services  
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations  
Oahu Veterans Center

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

Chair Ann Greenlee led the Pledge of Allegiance. After a moment of silence, called the meeting to order at 0900 hours.

**II. MINUTES**

The Board reviewed the December 6, 2019 minutes. Harold Bugado motioned to accept seconded by Jim Traxler. Minutes were unanimously accepted by the Board Members.

**III. COMMUNICATIONS**

None

#### **IV. DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

##### **Ms. Amy Rohlfs, Representing the Director, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs – Pacific Island Health Care System-Medical -**

Briefed on: Staffing Updates, New Suicide Prevention Coordinator (Justin Fienhold), Commissary and Exchange Privileges, National Salute to Veteran Patients will be on Friday, February 14 at 10am, Joint VA Resource Fair will be held on March 5<sup>th</sup> at the Oahu Vet Center

Clay Park reported there is still an issue with veterans receiving their prosthetics in a timely manner. Amy will follow up with the Director.

##### **Mr. Chris McNair, VA Honolulu Regional Office Veterans Service Center Manager, Representing the Director, VBA– Benefits -**

Briefed on: There was a Bluewater Navy conference held, 14,000 claims are being processed, Spread the word to other veterans that may have served in the Vietnam War about the Bluewater Act.

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

Briefed on: Hawaii State Veterans Home – gave a talking paper and project location information to all board members, Chairwoman Ann offered as a board to support the measure and Clay Park motioned board to support and seconded by Michael Lily. All in favor to send a letter from the board to the legislators.

##### **CPT Shaoyu Lee, State of Hawaii DOD Engineering–**

Briefed on: Hawaii State Veterans Home if all goes well completion will be early 2023, West Hawaii Veterans Center - December 9, 2019 received a letter from West Hawaii Veterans Council, Inc confirming that they will not pursue the subject project for State GIA funding. \$850K in design funds will be lapsed., East Hawaii Veterans Cemetery- Project construction 100% complete., Kauai Veterans Cemetery – Preliminary Design Review (35%) on February 4, 2020, Maui Multi Services Center – DOE missed BLNR Board Meeting on January 24, 2020, Lanai Veterans Cemetery held an open house for veterans and the community on December 27, 2019. It was a success., Maui veterans Cemetery Gravesite Restoration Phase II is 82% completed as of December 31, 2019.

##### **Mr. Juan Babiak , Liaison, Yukio Okutsu Veterans Home in Hilo –**

Briefed on: Current Rating is back at 4 stars

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

Briefed on: participated in Vets Corner at the Blaisdell, there will be another on in May 2020 – VBA and VHA are both invited.

**Mr. Jim Horton, Director, National Cemetery of the Pacific –**

Briefed on: Vietnam Veterans Ceremony on March 29<sup>th</sup>, Joint VA Resource Fair will be held on March 5<sup>th</sup> at the Oahu Vet Center from 5-6:30pm, New Upkeep project will be starting, Disinterment's of Korean War Veterans are below 500

Clay park asked if there are any veterans on Kalaupapa? Ron said yes about 4 showing on VA summaries by County.

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

## **V. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- A. Legislative Committee – Ron presented 5 bills for the board to possibly support (Please see attachment) The Board voted to support all the measures. Ron will let the board know when the hearings and testimonies are needed.
- HB 2230 (Michael Lily motioned to support and seconded by Clay Park) DOT supports as well
  - HB2478 (Michael Lily motioned to support and seconded by Jim Traxler) Amount needed is \$200K for design and planning
  - SB2767 (Michael Lily motioned to support and seconded by Jim Traxler) More details are needed
  - SB2783(Michael Lily motioned to support and seconded by Jim Traxler)
  - SCR21 (Clay Park motioned to support and seconded by Michael Lily)
- B. By Laws and Procedures  
No report.
- C. Recognition and Awards  
No report.
- D. Women’s Committee  
a. Ron will contact Col. Ellison about when the next meeting will be.
- E. Project and Events Committee  
a. Rededication of the WWII Memorial in 2020 – National Association of Letter Carriers will be fixing the memorial
  - Ron will contact the VSO who oversees the memorial to notify them of the upcoming re-dedication.
- b. 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**

- March 6th, 2020 - VBA E-Wing, Director’s VTel Room, 4th Floor, 4A105

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

## **XI. ADJOURN – 10:18am**

Yolanda Ehere – Recorder  
Attachments