

**ADVISORY BOARD ON VETERANS SERVICES
MINUTES**

A/V Conference Meeting at
Oahu – Tripler Hospital, VBA E-Wing, Director’s VTel Room, 4th Floor, 4A105
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, March 6, 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. Yam Yi Lee, Administrative Services Assistant
Ms. Yolanda Ehere, Secretary

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

Guests: Mr. Sergio Chao, Director, VBA Benefits
CPT Shaoyu Lee, State of Hawaii DOD Engineering
Mr. Juan Babiak, Veterans Liaison, Yukio Okutsu State Veterans
Mr. Carlos Santana – Senator Mazie Hirono’s Office

Absent: Ms. Bridget Komine, Vice Chair
Mr. Michael Lilly
Ms. Chelsea Fernandez
Mr. Jim Horton, Director, National Cemetery of the Pacific
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 0905 hours.

II. MINUTES

The Board reviewed the February 6, 2020 minutes. Jim Traxler motioned to accept seconded by Harold Bugado. 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: Expanding on Coronavirus – There is a COVID-19 team that meets every day, reached out to radio station to do an in studio COVID-19 update, Facebook Live and Tele Townhall updates to keep the veteran population informed, Telehealth was featured on KITV 10pm newscast and Olelo, Limiting visitation to nursing home (CLC),

Questions for Amy

1. Carlos Santana asked are the resources fairs cancelled? Amy answered it's to be determined.
2. Clay Park asked how are you handling the veterans that's traveling from the mainland and they go visit the CBOC? What kind of information will you give them? What will happen to the veterans that ends up at the CBOC if they get hurt? Amy answered the executive leadership is working with the chief of medical officers at all of the CBOC on all of this.
3. Carlos Santana follow up question if a veteran is travelling from Nebraska to Hawaii and gets injured while he is here. What's the process for him to get medical care? Amy answered it depends on what his eligibilities are, if he is registered, if he getting care through VA.
4. Carlos asked if he is registered in Nebraska can they immediately look that up here? Amy answered we have the capabilities to look from wherever he is from. There is a nurse and that is her job; its travel. They can get care as long as they are registered in the VA system.
5. Clay asked if the veteran can use his VA card to prove? Amy answered absolutely.

Mr. Sergio Chao, Director, VBA– Benefits -

Briefed on: Coronavirus – coordinating with VHA in the event when Tripler starts treating patients, National Mission Essential travel only in the VA; essential travel and that includes neighbor island travel as well.

Mr. Ron Han, Director, OVS -

Briefed on: Hawaii State Veterans Home – Getting a lot of input from the state legislators, it went through the finance committee, single inspection system. Hawaii was selected as the location for the National State Association for Directors for August 2021

Questions for Ron

1. Chair Ann Greenlee asked any update on the World War II Memorial? Ron answered he talk to Jimmy Hisono. He is working hard on trying to get a vendor

to clear out the covered-up lettering by paint. He has checked the legal side about how the money can be used and private funding can be used.

2. Chair Ann Greenlee asked where are we on getting the wording on the plaque approved and the new plaque made? Ron answered spoke with Jimmy and his only concern was that he thought the plaque would be too large. We're having a conversation about the dimensions.

CPT Shaoyu Lee, State of Hawaii DOD Engineering–

Briefed on: Civil Aid Patrol - Letter requesting audit mailed on 02/25/20, 442nd Veterans Club received \$300K appropriation for construction of the 442nd Legacy Center, Governor received the funds for the Pacific Fleet and MOA executed, Governor approved release of funds for USS Missouri Memorial Association and the MOA sent to TAG for final signature and execution of contract. Hawaii State Veterans Home – tracking supplemental funding that is needed, House finance appropriated half of the budget, it is now up to the Ways and Means, Bowers & Kubota selected for Construction Management Services. West Hawaii Veterans Cemetery, Additional Columbaria units – 02/20/20 landscape pre-maintenance inspection conducted. West Hawaii Veterans Cemetery, Korean War Memorial - 03/02/20 HIENG provided guidance/comments on design. Kauai Veterans Cemetery, New Columbaria Wall – Waiting for fund certification to fully execute. Maui Multi Services Center – 03/02/20 VA pulled plug; HI DOE says cannot complete requires actions due to manning shortfalls in critical areas. Lanai Veterans Cemetery – completed, but awaiting last change order for changes from VA. Maui Veterans Cemetery Grave Restoration – almost complete. Maui Veterans Cemetery Additional Columbaria - 03/02/20 35% Design submittal completed

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

Briefed on: Meeting on COVID-19, Screening all visitors – asking a list of questions and using pink visitors' badges

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

Briefed on: U.S. Department of Labor has started to implementing their pandemic continuity operations plan – telework is being determined by week to week basis. Announcement for Homeless reintegration is on hold.

Mr. Jim Horton, Director, 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 – 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.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Legislative Committee
No Report
- B. By Laws and Procedures
No report.
- C. Recognition and Awards
No report.
- D. Women's Committee
 - a. No Report.
- E. Project and Events Committee
 - a. Rededication of the WWII Memorial in 2020 – No Report
 - b. Maui Veterans Cemetery Blessing/Dedication Event - No Report

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- Determine when the July meeting will be held
 - Motion to move the July meeting to July 10th. Jim Traxler motioned to accept seconded by Harold Bugado. All were in favor.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

None

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

XI. ADJOURN – 9:40am

Yolanda Ehere – Recorder
Attachments