

ADVISORY BOARD ON VETERANS SERVICES MINUTES

Teams Audio
+1 808-829-4853, 755 320 183# (Dial-in Number)
Friday, June 4, 2021
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

ATTENDANCE

Board Members: Ms. Bridget Komine, Chair
Mr. Blair Suzuki, Vice Chair
Mr. Harold Bugado
Mr. Jim Traxler
Ms. Mary Kay Hertog
Ms. Roxanne (Rocky) Bruhn
Mr. Michael Lilly
Mr. Reyn Kaupiko

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

Guests: Dr. Adam Robinson, Director, VAPIHCS
Mr. Sergio Chao, Director, VBA Benefits
Capt. Shaoyu Lee, Chief Engineering Officer, State of Hawaii
DOD Engineering
Mr. Juan Babiak, Veterans Liaison, Yukio Okutsu State Veterans
Ms. Katherine Korenaga, Community and Project Development Director,
Department of Human Services
Ms. Ann Greenlee, U.S. Department of Labor, VETS
Mr. Jim Horton, Director, National Cemetery of the Pacific
Mr. Carlos Santana – Senator Mazie Hirono’s Office Representative

Absent: Department of Health
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations

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

Harold Bugado led the Pledge of Allegiance. After a moment of silence, Chair Bridget Komine called the meeting to order at 0900 hours.

II. MINUTES

The Board reviewed the April 9, 2021 & May 7, 2021 minutes. Blair Suzuki motioned to accept the minutes and Harold Bugado seconded.

III. COMMUNICATIONS

None.

IV. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Mr. Sergio Chao, Director, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs - Benefits

Briefed on: Invited Chris McNair to talk about updates to: Airborne Hazard and Agent Orange Presumptive Conditions (see attachment)

Dr. Adam Robinson, Director, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs - Pacific Island Health Care System-Medical

Briefed on: COVID Vaccine update – As of May 27th, 12,847 for veterans, spouses, caregivers, and staff have been vaccinated. We are following the state guidelines for masking. There will be a 2021 American Samoa Mental Health Summit on June 16th & 17th.

Mr. Ron Han, OVS, Director

Briefed on: Hiring additional counselor for Oahu, State Summit partnered with AARP, Thank you to all who supported the Daniel Akaka State Veterans Home Groundbreaking and participated virtually!! Spoke with COL Pam Ellison to reset the women's committee.

Capt. Shaoyu Lee, Chief Engineering Officer, State of Hawaii DOD Engineering

Briefed on:

- Pearl Harbor Aviation Museum (PAM) (Learning Laboratory) – Second Reimbursement sent May 2021 in the amount of \$156,069. Balance is at \$110,285.
- HSVC Upgrades and Improvements - 95% design submittal completed by consultant. Comments due May 18, 2021. Bid Open Scheduled for August 12, 2021.
- Hawaii State Veterans Home, Oahu - May 17, 2021: DAGS reviewing Nan Inc's (contractor) change order proposal (~\$6M) for escalation costs due to length of time between bid opening and grading / materials Notice to Proceed. May 31, 2021: Groundbreaking Ceremony.
- Kauai Veterans Cemetery – New Columbarium Wall Units - May 3, 2021: Received SHPD letter (dated April 27,2020) concurring that “No historic

properties affected” by project. Please note that concurrence letter came after project completion.

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

Briefed on: We received 10,000 KF94 individual packaged masks from Republic of Korea Consulate General in Honolulu. Thank you!! We are using the donated KF94 masks interchangeably with surgical masks. N95 masks are only utilized for use in our yellow zone (new admissions/quarantined) and our red zone (covid positive) if/ needed.

Ms. Katherine Korenaga, Community and Project Development Director, Department of Human Services

Briefed on: Nothing to add to submitted report.

Ms. Ann Greenlee, U.S. Department of Labor, VETS

Briefed on: Jobs added in May - 559,000 nationally.

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

Briefed on: We're allowed to start applications for doing ceremonies. Interment services are full on with no restriction.

Mr. Carlos Santana, Senator Mazie Hirono's Office Representative

Briefed on: 90% done with finalizing the virtual State Veterans Summit. Please help get the word out.

Department of Health – Not present. No submitted report.

Department of Labor and Industrial Relations - Not present. No submitted report.

V. BOARD MEMBER'S REPORTS

1. Kauai – Ms. Mary Kay Hertog – Report submitted. No additions.
2. Maui – Mr. Michael Lilly - Report submitted. No additions.
3. Oahu – Mr. Blair Suzuki, Vice Chair – Report submitted. No additions.
4. Oahu – Ms. Bridget Komine, Chair – Report submitted. No additions
5. Oahu – Ms. Reyn Kaupiko – Report submitted. No additions
6. Oahu - Ms. Roxanne Bruhn – Report submitted. No additions.
7. Big Island – Mr. Harold Bugado – Report submitted. No additions.
 - Thank you to the Board!!
8. Big Island – Mr. Jim Traxler – Report submitted. No additions.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Legislative Committee
 - No Report.
- B. By Laws and Procedures
 - No Report.
- C. Recognition and Awards
 - No Report.
- D. Women's Committee
 - No Report.
- E. Project and Events Committee
 - Rededication of the WWII Memorial
 1. Plaque is under production and we will be planning something for this year.
 - Maui Veterans Cemetery Blessing/Dedication Event - No Report

VI. NEW BUSINESS - None

VII. OLD BUSINESS - None

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Today is Harold Bugado's last meeting. Thank you for your service!

IX. WORKING SESSION - OVS / Advisory Board Issues / Ideas

X. ADJOURN – 9:44am

Harold Bugado motioned, and Mary Kay Hertog seconded.

Yolanda Ehere – Recorder

Attachment - Airborne Hazard and Agent Orange Presumptive Conditions