

**STATE OF HAWAII OFFICE OF VETERANS SERVICES'
ADVISORY BOARD ON VETERANS SERVICES MINUTES**

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer, mobile app, or room device.

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 239 352 956 170

Passcode: cCMAp9

[Download Teams](#) | [Join on the web](#)

Or call in (audio only)

[+1 808-829-4853,470605296#](#) United States, Honolulu

Phone Conference ID: 470 605 296#

Office of Veterans' Services (Tripler Army Medical Center)

459 Patterson Rd. E Wing, Rm 1-A103 Honolulu, HI 96819

Friday, December 1, 2023

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

ATTENDANCE

Board Members: Ms. Bridget Komine, Chair
Mr. Michael Lilly
Ms. Mary Kay Hertog
Mr. Reyn Kaupiko
Ms. Roxanne (Rocky) Bruhn

OVS Staff: BG Bruce Oliveira, Interim Director
Ms. Yolanda Ehere, Secretary

Guests: Mr. Chris McNair, Veterans Service Center Manager, U.S. Department of
Veterans Affairs – Benefits
Ms. Amy Rohlfs, Public Affairs Officer, VA Pacific Islands Health Care System –
Medical
Mr. Wade Ishii, Asst. Chief Engineering Officer, State of Hawaii DOD
Engineering
Mr. Juan Babiak, Veterans Liaison, Yukio Okutsu State Veterans Home
Ms. Katherine Korenaga, Community and Project Development Director,
Department of Human Services
Mr. Gene Matias, Public Affairs Specialist, National Cemetery of the Pacific
Mr. Carlos Santana – Senator Mazie Hirono's Office Representative
Ms. Ann Greenlee, U.S. Department of Labor, VETS

Absent: Mr. Blair Suzuki, Vice Chair
Ms. Carol Kanayama, Department of Labor and Industrial Relations
Mr. David Liao, Department of Labor and Industrial Relations
Col. Pamela Ellison, Human Resources Officer, Hawaii Army National Guard
Ms. Nicole Gray - Congresswoman Jill Tokuda Office Representative

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

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

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

III. **MINUTES**

The Board reviewed the November 3, 2023 minutes. Roxanne (Rocky) Bruhn motioned to accept the November 3, 2023 minutes and Mary Kay Hertog seconded.

IV. **COMMUNICATIONS**

None

V. **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

Mr. Chris McNair, Veterans Service Center Manager, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs – Benefits

Briefed on: Rescheduled Outreach event on December 12th on the Island of Kauai.

Ms. Amy Rohlfs, Public Affairs Officer, VA Pacific Islands Health Care System - Medical

Briefed on: PACT Act community call in Kona - On December the 1st and 2nd, there will PACT Act registration and doing vaccines, health and blood pressure checks. The Leeward CBOC is going to remain open to help keep expansion of care out on the West side.

BG Bruce Oliveira, Interim Director, OVS

Briefed on: The committee came up with some ideas on how to memorialize Colonel Han: Scholarship and award for Youth Challenge Academy, the conference room or the dining facility in Akaka State Veterans Home, and in the future maybe naming the Maui state veterans home in Maui. The Maui Veteran's Home is on hold for now.

Mr. Wade Ishii, Asst. Chief Engineering Officer, State of Hawaii DOD Engineering

Briefed on: No changes on submitted report.

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

Briefed on: Shelly Ann Kauai Chartrand, MSW, NHA our Yukio Okutsu State Veterans Home Administrator, an HHSC/State Employee, will be providing coverage as our Acting VA Liaison in January.

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

Briefed on: No changes on submitted report.

Ms. Ann Greenlee, U.S. Department of Labor, VETS – Present. No submitted report.

Mr. Gene Matias, Public Affairs Specialist, National Cemetery of the Pacific – Present. No submitted report.

Mr. Carlos Santana, Senator Mazie Hirono's Office Representative - Present. No submitted report.

Ms. Nicole Gray - Congresswoman Jill Tokuda Office Representative - Not present. No submitted report.

Department of Health – Not present. No submitted report.

Mr. David Liao, Department of Labor and Industrial Relations - Not present. No submitted report.

VI. BOARD MEMBER'S REPORTS

1. Kauai - Ms. Mary Kay Hertog - Report submitted.
2. Maui - Mr. Michael Lilly - Not present. No submitted report.
3. Oahu - Mr. Blair Suzuki, Vice Chair - No report submitted. No additions.
4. Oahu - Ms. Bridget Komine, Chair - No report submitted. No additions.
5. Oahu - Ms. Reyn Kaupiko – No report submitted. No additions.
6. Oahu - Ms. Roxanne Bruhn - No report submitted. No additions.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Legislative Committee –No Report or Update
- B. By Laws and Procedures -- Will discuss at the next meeting.
- C. Recognition and Awards -
 - GABOVS 2024-1. "Discussion and decision making on the recommendations.
 - i. Recommending to the Advisory Board that we memorialize Colonel Han by either naming the dining facility or the conference room at Akaka Veterans Home in Kapolei.
 - ii. Mary Kay Hertog motioned based on the permitted interaction groups recommendations that either a conference room or the dining facility in the new Veterans Home, Akaka Veteran's home in Kapolei will be named in honor of Colonel Han.
 - iii. Roxanne (Rocky) Bruhn seconded the motion.
 - iv. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- D. Women's Committee -- No Report or Update
- E. Projects and Events Committee- No Report or Update

VIII. ADJOURN – 9:33 am

Mary Kay Hertog motioned, and Roxanne (Rocky) Bruhn seconded.

Yolanda Ehere – Recorder