

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

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Office of Veterans' Services

(Tripler Army Medical Center)

459 Patterson Rd. E Wing, Rm 1-A103

Honolulu, HI 96819

**Friday, April 5, 2024**

**ATTENDANCE**

Board Members: Mr. Blair Suzuki, Vice Chair  
Mr. Michael Lilly  
Ms. Roxanne (Rocky) Bruhn  
Ms. Mary Kay Hertog

OVS Staff: Ms. Yolanda Ehere, Secretary  
Ms. Yam Yi Lee, Administrative Services Assistant

Guests: Mr. Wade Ishii, Asst. Chief Engineering Officer, State of Hawaii DOD Engineering  
Ms. Katherine Korenaga, Community and Project Development Director,  
Department of Human Services  
Mr. Gene Matias, Public Affairs Specialist, National Cemetery of the Pacific  
Ms. Nicole Gray - Congresswoman Jill Tokuda Office Representative

Absent: Ms. Bridget Komine, Chair  
Mr. Reyn Kaupiko  
Gen. Bruce Oliveira , Interim Director  
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs – Benefits  
VA Pacific Islands Health Care System – Medical  
Ms. Kauai Chartrand, Long Term Care Administrator, Yukio Okutsu  
State Veterans Home  
Ms. Carol Kanayama, Department of Labor and Industrial Relations  
Ms. Ann Greenlee, U.S. Department of Labor, VETS  
Col. Pamela Ellison, Human Resources Officer, Hawaii Army National Guard  
Mr. Carlos Santana – Senator Mazie Hirono's Office Representative

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

Vice Chair Blair Suzuki led the Pledge of Allegiance. After a moment of silence, Vice Chair Blair Suzuki called the meeting to order at 0900 hours.

**II. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None

III. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The Board reviewed the April 5, 2024 agenda. Mary Kay Hertog motioned to approve the April 5, 2024 agenda and Roxanne (Rocky) Bruhn seconded.

IV. **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 1, 2024**

The Board reviewed the March 1, 2024 minutes. Mary Kay Hertog motioned to accept the March 1, 2024 minutes and Roxanne (Rocky) Bruhn seconded.

V. **COMMUNICATIONS**

None

VI. **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

**U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs – Benefits** – Not Present, but submitted a report

**VA Pacific Islands Health Care System – Medical** - Not present. No submitted report.

**Gen. Bruce Oliveira, OVS** - Not Present, but submitted a report

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

Briefed on: No changes on submitted report

**Ms. Kauai Chartrand, Long Term Care Administrator, Yukio Okutsu State Veterans Home** – Not present. No submitted report.

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

Briefed on: No changes on submitted report

**Ms. Carol Kanayama, Department of Labor and Industrial Relations** - Not present. No submitted report.

**Ms. Ann Greenlee, U.S. Department of Labor, VETS** - Not present. No submitted report.

**Mr. Gene Matias, Public Affairs Specialist, National Cemetery of the Pacific**

Briefed on: American Samoa Government of Veterans Affairs came on Wednesday to discuss cemetery operations, development and staffing. The Republic of Korea National Cemetery Director will be coming to discuss development, operations and staffing for national cemeteries.

**Ms. Nicole Gray - Congresswoman Jill Tokuda Office Representative** - Present. No submitted report.

**Mr. Carlos Santana, Senator Mazie Hirono's Office Representative** – Not present. No submitted report.

**Department of Health** – Not present. No submitted report.

**VII. BOARD MEMBER'S REPORTS**

1. Kauai - Ms. Mary Kay Hertog - No report submitted. No additions.
2. Maui - Mr. Michael Lilly - No report submitted. No additions.
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 - Mr. Reyn Kaupiko – No report submitted. No additions.
6. Oahu - Ms. Roxanne Bruhn - No report submitted. No additions.

**VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- A. Legislative Committee – No changes on submitted report
- B. By Laws and Procedures - No Report or Update
- C. Recognition and Awards – No Report or Update
- D. Women's Committee - No Report or Update
- E. Projects and Events Committee - No Report or Update

**IX. ADJOURN – 9:13 am**

Mary Kay Hertog motioned, and Roxanne (Rocky) Bruhn seconded.  
Yolanda Ehere – Recorder