

**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, March 1, 2024

ATTENDANCE

Board Members:

Ms. Bridget Komine, Chair
Mr. Blair Suzuki, Vice Chair
Ms. Roxanne (Rocky) Bruhn
Ms. Mary Kay Hertog

OVS Staff:

Gen. Bruce Oliveira , Interim Director
Ms. Yolanda Ehere, Secretary
Ms. Yam Yi Lee, Administrative Services Assistant

Guests:

Ms. Aiko Shibuya, Program Analyst, 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
Ms. Kai Chartrand, Long Term Care Administrator, Yukio Okutsu State Veterans Home
Ms. Katherine Korenaga, Community and Project Development Director, Department of Human Services
Ms. Carol Kanayama, Department of Labor and Industrial Relations
Mr. Gene Matias, Public Affairs Specialist, National Cemetery of the Pacific
Ms. Ann Greenlee, U.S. Department of Labor, VETS
Ms. Nicole Gray - Congresswoman Jill Tokuda Office Representative
Mr. Carlos Santana – Senator Mazie Hirono's Office Representative

Absent:

Mr. Michael Lilly
Mr. Reyn Kaupiko
Col. Pamela Ellison, Human Resources Officer, Hawaii Army National Guard

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

Chair Bridget Komine 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. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

IV. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 2, 2024

The Board reviewed the February 2, 2024 minutes. Roxanne (Rocky) Bruhn motioned to accept the February 2, 2024 minutes and Mary Kay Hertog seconded.

V. COMMUNICATIONS

None

VI. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Ms. Aiko Shibuya, Program Analyst, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs – Benefits

Briefed on: No changes on submitted report.

Chair Bridget Komine asked if someone who was having some difficulty with the GI bill in our State University system, could we address it to the VBA? Aiko answered yes and no. Yes, it does fall under benefits. It depends on what type of problem, but we could take it and see if we could answer it and if not, the GI Bill is centralized in Muskogee, so we could refer them to one of our contacts in Muskogee if needed.

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

Briefed on: On March 27th & 28th, Kauai PACT Act Registration and Community Call at the Kauai Vet Center from 10am to 6pm. Akaka Grand Opening is on target for April 5th.

Gen. Bruce Oliveira, OVS

Briefed on: 2 OVS staff members will be located at the new Akaka CBOC, For the Daniel K. Akaka Veterans Home, we're looking at the end of April acceptance of application for patient intake. New Operation Manager at Hawaii State Veteran Cemetery named Daniel Chung.

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

Briefed on: Hired new nursing leadership. Our current census is at 57. We are focusing on our marketing efforts.

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

Briefed on: Veterans Affairs Committee of the State Workforce Development Council is looking at military spouses as a focal point for workforce, Investment Opportunity, Innovation Act, unified plan for the state to help guide workforce development efforts in the state as well as local areas for the next four years.

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

Briefed on: Funding opportunity announcement that is currently open at grants.gov. Questions and answers from the information session was published.

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

Briefed on: Vietnam Veterans commemoration ceremony on March 29th at 9:30 AM. Easter Sunrise service on March 31st at 6:15 AM. There will be two USS Oklahoma Repatriation services on March 20th at 9:30 AM and on March 27th at 9:30 AM. Men killed in action when the USS Oklahoma sank. They were unknowns and they were disinterred in June of 2015. Now, they have been identified and the family has decided to repatriate them back to Punchbowl.

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

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

Department of Health – Not present. No submitted report.

VII. 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 - 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
- B. By Laws and Procedures
- C. Recognition and Awards – No Report or Update
- D. Women's Committee
 - In stand down mode waiting to address any OVS items/concerns
- E. Projects and Events Committee
 - Chair Bridget Komine proposed to leave the recognition and awards committee standing and work with OVS on recognition and awards. At that time the appointees will be determined.
 - Roxanne (Rocky) Bruhn motioned to accept this proposal and Mary Kay Hertog seconded.

IX. ADJOURN – 9:40 am

Mary Kay Hertog motioned, and Blair Suzuki seconded.
Yolanda Ehere – Recorder