

**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, February 2, 2024

ATTENDANCE

- Board Members: Ms. Bridget Komine, Chair
Mr. Blair Suzuki, Vice Chair
Mr. Michael Lilly
Ms. Mary Kay Hertog
Mr. Reyn Kaupiko
- OVS Staff: Mr. Jonathan Kimura, Veterans Services Coordinator
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
Ms. Katherine Korenaga, Community and Project Development Director, Department of Human Services
Mr. Gene Matias, Public Affairs Specialist, National Cemetery of the Pacific
Ms. Ann Greenlee, U.S. Department of Labor, VETS
Mr. Carlos Santana – Senator Mazie Hirono's Office Representative
- Absent: Ms. Roxanne (Rocky) Bruhn
Mr. Wade Ishii, Asst. Chief Engineering Officer, State of Hawaii DOD Engineering
Ms. Carol Kanayama, 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

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

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Micheal Lily - The wall that heals is going to be on the Island of Maui from February 9th to the 13th. It is a three-quarter replica of the Vietnam Memorial and it's going to be installed at the War Memorial Stadium

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Board reviewed the February 2, 2024 agenda. Mary Kay Hertog motioned to approve the February 2, 2024 agenda and Blair Suzuki seconded.

IV. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 5, 2024

The Board reviewed the January 5, 2024 minutes. Mary Kay Hertog motioned to accept the January 5, 2024 minutes and Reyn Kaupiko 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.

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

Briefed on: Akaka CBOC ceremony will be held on April 5th at 10am. Kona CBOC will be moving into a new building in late spring. March 23rd & 24th - American Samoa outreach event.

Mr. Jonathan Kimura, Veterans Services Coordinator, OVS

Briefed on: Staff went for a site visit to the Akaka CBOC.

Mr. Wade Ishii, Asst. Chief Engineering Officer, State of Hawaii DOD Engineering – Not present.

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 - Present. No submitted report.

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

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

Briefed on: Met with staff from the counties on the state cemeteries and learned that their federal grants have been suspended because inspections determine some deficiencies that need to be corrected. we've reached out to VA to get some details and we're going to work with the counties and the state to get those grants back online.

Ms. Carol Kanayama, Department of Labor and Industrial Relations - Not present.

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.
 - Late last year, Kauai County Council passed an amendment to our real property tax law that now allows veterans who are 80% and higher to be exempt from real property taxes.
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 – Report submitted. No additions.
 - Follow up question to VHA about healthcare providers on Molokai.
 - Amy answered “Our Maui chief overseas, our Molokai veterans so please let us know what concerns and needs you know.
6. Oahu - Ms. Roxanne Bruhn - Report submitted. No additions.
- 7.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Legislative Committee
 - SB3267 - it would require any state funded facility built on Hawaiian homelands for use by veterans for use by veterans, be managed and operated by veterans.
 - SB3245 - exempts qualified disabled veterans for manual motor vehicle fees etc. Veterans must be 100% disabled.
- B. By Laws and Procedures
 - The Board reviewed the updates to the Bylaws.
 - Blair Suzuki motioned to accept the administrative recommendations as submitted agenda and Mary Kay Hertog seconded.
 - All were in favor.
- 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 – 9:38 am

Mary Kay Hertog motioned, and Michael Lilly seconded.
Yolanda Ehere – Recorder