

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

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Phone Conference ID: 360 453 336#

Office of Veterans' Services

(Tripler Army Medical Center)

459 Patterson Rd. E Wing, Rm 1-A103

Honolulu, HI 96819

Friday, January 5, 2024

ATTENDANCE

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

OVS Staff: Mr. Jonathan Kimura, Veterans Services Coordinator
Ms. Yolanda Ehere, Secretary

Guests: Ms. Stacey Bonnett, Director, 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. 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

Absent: Ms. Yam Yi Lee, Administrative Services Assistant
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
Mr. Carlos Santana – Senator Mazie Hirono's Office Representative

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. ANNOUCEMENTS

None

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

IV. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 1, 2023

The Board reviewed the December 1, 2023 minutes. Mary Kay Hertog motioned to accept the December 1, 2023 minutes and Roxanne (Rocky) Bruhn seconded.

V. COMMUNICATIONS

None

VI. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Ms. Stacey Bonnett, Director, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs - Benefits

Briefed on: Outreach events at Kauai Veterans Center on January 9th from 9:00 AM to 2:30 and Kona Veteran Center on January 9th and January 23rd, both from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

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

Briefed on: We received the keys to the Akaka VA clinic, and we anticipate opening in the Spring 2024. Also, the CBOC in Kona is moving to a new location in Summer 2024.

Mr. Jonathan Kimura, Veterans Services Coordinator, OVS

Briefed on: When the Akaka VA clinic opens, OVS will have at least two VSOs there.

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

Briefed on: No changes on submitted report.

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

Briefed on: The bathroom located next to Columbarium, Court 13 is almost completed. It does have a kiosk with it and a grave site locator. It should be done at the end of the month

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

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

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.
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.
6. Oahu - Ms. Roxanne Bruhn - No report submitted. No additions.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Legislative Committee – No Report or Update
- B. By Laws and Procedures
 - Board Members will review the recommendations and discuss them at the February meeting.
- C. Recognition and Awards – No Report or Update
- D. Women's Committee
 - Chair Bridget Komine spoke with Col Ellison, and she is open to stepping aside for someone else to come on as the chair of this committee.
 - There is no update or action currently.
- E. Projects and Events Committee
 - Chair Bridget Komine will work on assigning board members to committees at the next meeting.

IX. ADJOURN – 9:24 am

Mary Kay Hertog motioned, and Michael Lilly seconded.

Yolanda Ehere – Recorder