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Office of Veterans’ Services

(Tripler Army Medical Center)

459 Patterson Rd. E Wing, Rm 1-A103

Honolulu, HI 96819

**Friday, June 7, 2024**

ATTENDANCE

Board Members: Ms. Bridget Komine, Chair

Mr. Blair Suzuki, Vice Chair

Mr. Michael Lilly

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: 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

MAJ Shao Yu L. Lee, R.A., Chief Engineering Officer, State of Hawaii DOD Engineering

Ms. Kaui 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. Jim Horton, Director, National Cemetery of the Pacific

Mr. Carlos Santana – Senator Mazie Hirono’s Office Representative

Absent: Mr. Reyn Kaupiko

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

Ms. Nicole Gray - Congresswoman Jill Tokuda Office Representative

Col. Pamela Ellison, Human Resources Officer, Hawaii Army National Guard

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

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

1. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None

1. **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF April 5, 2024**

The Board reviewed the April 5, 2024 minutes. Vice Chair Blair Suzuki motioned to accept the April 5, 2024 minutes and Roxanne (Rocky) Bruhn seconded.

1. **COMMUNICATIONS**

None

1. **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

**Mr. Chris McNair, Veterans Service Center Manager, 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: Grand opening and blessing for the Center for Pacific Islander Veterans Health. The Koa Challenge will be held again in November. It is being announced early because veteran athletes will need to get clearance from their primary care to participate.

**Gen. Bruce Oliveira, Interim Director, OVS**

Briefed on: Successful Legislative session – 2 bills have passed and are awaiting the Governor’s signature. SB2731- the license plates for veterans for Iraq and Afghanistan war and the second - SB 2837 the Oahu Regional Healthcare System replacing the Maui Regional Healthcare System for the potential 3rd Veteran’s Home on Maui. Briefing on the new OVS Director starting on June 17th. Ron’s Memorialization portrait will be placed at the Akaka Veteran’s Home.

**MAJ Shao Yu L. Lee, R.A., Chief Engineering Officer, State of Hawaii DOD Engineering**

Briefed on: No changes on submitted report but will be on extended leave until the end of the year.

**Ms. Kaui Chartrand, Long Term Care Administrator, Yukio Okutsu State Veterans Home**

Briefed on: Achieved a four-star rating in March. We’re at our highest census since we've opened, which is at 64 since 2021.

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

**Human Services**

Briefed on: No changes on submitted report, but one update. As of May 31, no veterans housed

at Pu‘uhonua o Nēnē, the temporary shelter on Maui.

**Ms. Carol Kanayama, Department of Labor and Industrial Relations**

Briefed on: Held several training sessions with MBTI, which is a federal Department of Labor

vets, approved contractor. These training sessions covered homeless veterans and how to serve

homeless veterans more effectively.

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

submitted report.

**Mr. Jim Horton, Director, National Cemetery of the Pacific**

Briefed on: Old columbarium is going to be closed to access for about six months.

**Ms. Nicole Gray - Congresswoman Jill Tokuda Office Representative –** Not Present. No submitted report.

**Mr. Carlos Santana, Senator Mazie Hirono’s Office Representative**

Briefed on: Senator Hirono was on Oahu last week. She met with Native Hawaiian veterans.

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

1. **BOARD MEMBER’S REPORTS**
2. Kauai - Ms. Mary Kay Hertog - Report submitted.

* Update – We started the third cohort called Strive to Strive Program. It’s a startup training resources to inspire veteran entrepreneurship.

1. Maui - Mr. Michael Lilly - Report submitted. No additions.
2. Oahu - Mr. Blair Suzuki, Vice Chair - No report submitted. No additions.
3. Oahu - Ms. Bridget Komine, Chair - No report submitted. No additions.
4. Oahu - Mr. Reyn Kaupiko – No report submitted. No additions.
5. Oahu - Ms. Roxanne Bruhn - No report submitted. No additions.
6. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**
7. Legislative Committee – No changes on submitted report.
8. By Laws and Procedures - No Report or Update
9. Recognition and Awards – No Report or Update
10. Women's Committee - No Report or Update
11. Projects and Events Committee - No Report or Update
12. **ADJOURN – 9:48 am**

Blair Suzuki motioned, and Michael Lilly seconded.

Yolanda Ehere – Recorder