

**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, September 6, 2024**

**ATTENDANCE**

**Board Members:** Ms. Bridget Komine, Chair  
Mr. Michael Lilly  
Ms. Roxanne (Rocky) Bruhn  
Mr. Reyn Kaupiko  
Mr. James Hussey

**OVS Staff:** Mr. John Alamodin, Director  
Ms. Yolanda Ehere, Secretary  
Ms. Yam Yi Lee, Administrative Services Assistant

**Guests:** Mr. Samuel Arreza, Acting Veterans Service Center Manager, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs – Benefits  
Ms. Jenifer Delemont, Public Affairs Specialist, VA Pacific Islands Health Care System – Medical  
Mr. Wade Ishii, Asst. Chief Engineering Officer, State of Hawaii DOD Engineering  
Ms. Kauai Chartrand, Long Term Care Administrator, Yukio Okutsu State Veterans Home  
Mr. Kenneth Fink, Director, Department of Health  
Ms. Katherine Korenaga, Community and Project Development Director, Department of Human Services  
Ms. Carol Kanayama, Department of Labor and Industrial Relations  
Ms. Ann Greenlee, U.S. Department of Labor, VETS  
Mr. Jim Horton, Director, National Cemetery of the Pacific, National Cemetery of the Pacific  
Ms. Nicole Gray - Congresswoman Jill Tokuda Office Representative

**Absent:** Mr. Blair Suzuki, Vice Chair  
Ms. Mary Kay Hertog  
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. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None

**III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The Board reviewed the September 6, 2024 agenda. Roxanne (Rocky) Bruhn motioned to accept the September 6, 2024 agenda as written, and Michael Lilly seconded.

**IV. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF August 2, 2024**

The Board reviewed the August 2, 2024 minutes. Roxanne (Rocky) Bruhn motioned to accept the August 2, 2024 minutes and Michael Lilly seconded.

**V. COMMUNICATIONS**

None

**VI. DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

**Mr. Samuel Arreza, Acting Veterans Service Center Manager, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs - Benefits**

Briefed on: No changes on submitted report.

**Ms. Jenifer Delemont, Public Affairs Specialist, VA Pacific Islands Health Care System – Medical**

Briefed on: No changes on submitted report.

**Mr. John Alamodin, Director, OVS**

Briefed on: Maui Veterans Home - Still in vetting process for a location. Reinserting the Governor's and Mayor's challenge to prevent suicide, Will be meeting with the DOH Chair for the committee on September 20<sup>th</sup>. Reestablishing Advisory Committee on Women's Veterans – Andrea will attend the next meeting to give an update. We will be proposing a legislative bill to create a veteran cemeteries board in which all counties including Honolulu County will have representation of all the departments that maintain our cemeteries. Akaka State Veterans Home - a targeted January or February 2025 dedication and opening.

**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: We were able to recruit 7 nurse aides and fund their training process. We hope to recruit them for permanent positions.

**Mr. Kenneth Fink, Director, Department of Health**

Briefed on: This month (September) is Suicide Prevention and Awareness Month, and we do have a list of activities throughout the month that is posted on our website for reference.

[\(https://health.hawaii.gov/camhd/suicide-prevention-resources/\)](https://health.hawaii.gov/camhd/suicide-prevention-resources/)

**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: Asked Yolanda to send out a flyer for our military spouse event. This was our first try in a long time to reach military spouses.

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

Briefed on: There will be a Federal Hiring Event Career Fair for veterans and the public at Ke'ehi Lagoon on September 17th.

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

Briefed on: Friday, September 20th at 10:00am there will be a POW MIA ceremony. This is going to be a bigger ceremony than normal here for this year because they have a lot of Gold Star families in attendance.

**Ms. Nicole Gray - Congresswoman Jill Tokuda Office Representative**

Briefed on: Rep. Tokuda has been attending various veterans events around the islands.

**Senator Mazie Hirono's Office Representative** - 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 - Report submitted. No additions.
  - Sadly, this is my last meeting. My term is up.
3. West Hawaii – Mr. James Hussey - Report submitted. No additions.
  - Introduced himself to the group.
4. Oahu - Mr. Blair Suzuki, Vice Chair - No report submitted. No additions.
5. Oahu - Ms. Bridget Komine, Chair - Report submitted. No additions.
6. Oahu - Mr. Reyn Kaupiko – No report submitted. No additions.
7. Oahu - Ms. Roxanne (Rocky) Bruhn - No report submitted. No additions.

**VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- A. Legislative Committee – No Report or Update
- 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 – 9:32 am**

Michael Lilly motioned, and Reyn Kaupiko seconded.  
Yolanda Ehere – Recorder