

**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, November 1, 2024

ATTENDANCE

Board Members: Ms. Bridget Komine, Chair
Ms. Roxanne (Rocky) Bruhn
Ms. Mary Kay Hertog

OVS Staff: Mr. John Alamodin, Director
Ms. Yolanda Ehere, Secretary
Ms. Yam Yi Lee, Administrative Services Assistant
Ms. Andrea Barringer, Veterans Services Counselor

Guests: Ms. Stacey Bonnett, Director, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs – Benefits
Ms. Amy Rohlf, Public Affairs Officer, VA Pacific Islands Health Care System – Medical
Mr. Tad Nakayama, Engineer V, State of Hawaii DOD Engineering
Ms. Kai Chartrand, Long Term Care Administrator, Yukio Okutsu State Veterans Home
Mr. Kenneth Fink, Director, Department of Health
Ms. Amanda Stevens, Public Information Officer, Department of Human Services
Ms. Ann Greenlee, U.S. Department of Labor, VETS
Mr. Gene Matias, Public Affairs Specialist, National Cemetery of the Pacific

Absent: Mr. Blair Suzuki, Vice Chair
Mr. James Hussey
Ms. Carol Kanayama, Department of Labor and Industrial Relations
Ms. Nicole Gray - Congresswoman Jill Tokuda Office Representative
Senator Mazie Hirono's 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

None

III. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 4, 2024

The Board reviewed the October 4, 2024 minutes. Mary Kay Hertog motion to approve the Minutes as amended. Roxanne (Rocky) Bruhn seconded.

IV. COMMUNICATIONS

None

V. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Ms. Stacey Bonnett, Director, 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: No changes on submitted report.

Mr. John Alamodin, Director, OVS

Briefed on: There were site visits to the Akaka State Veterans Home in Kapolei. There are two locations being vetted on Maui: Maui College campus location and Pulehounui District, adjacent to the Kaho Hanohano Armory. Legislation is being pushed through the Department of Defense related to establishing a state veteran cemeteries board. The purpose of this board is to provide some statewide oversight for the maintenance and upkeep of all statewide cemeteries. On November 10th, we will have a Veteran's Day Concert at the Kapiolani Bandstand, but we are awaiting the permit from City & County of Honolulu.

Mr. Tad Nakayama, Engineer V, 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 had our VA annual survey in June and in October we submitted our first submission for a plan of correction. We are expecting the arrival of our CMS surveyors any day now.

Mr. Kenneth Fink, Director, Department of Health

Briefed on: No updates

Ms. Amanda Stevens, Public Information Officer, Department of Human Services

Briefed on: No changes on submitted report.

Ms. Carol Kanayama, Department of Labor and Industrial Relations - Not present. No changes on submitted report.

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

Briefed on: No changes on submitted report.

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

Briefed on: Port 14 is nearly completed, just planning some grass and some foliage around the area. The parking lot has been cleared and paved. On Monday, November 11th, we will be having a Veteran's Day Ceremony at 10:00 a.m. We have embarked on a new project conducting disinterment of the unknowns that were killed during the West Lockdown Disaster on Pearl Harbor. Those unknowns are going to be disinterred this weekend and headed to the defense POWMIA Accounting Agency for identification.

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

Senator Mazie Hirono's Office Representative - Not present. No submitted report.

VI. BOARD MEMBER'S REPORTS

1. Kauai - Ms. Mary Kay Hertog - Report submitted.
 - Correction: Senator Hirono that was going to come into the Veterans Center to talk story, but unfortunately, that has been overcome by events.
2. West Hawaii – Mr. James Hussey - 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 - Ms. Roxanne (Rocky) Bruhn - No report submitted. No additions.

VII. 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 changes on submitted report.
- E. Projects and Events Committee - No Report or Update

VIII. ADJOURN – 9:24 am

Mary Kay Hertog motioned, and Roxanne (Rocky) Bruhn seconded.
Yolanda Ehere – Recorder