

**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, December 6, 2024

ATTENDANCE

Board Members:

Ms. Bridget Komine, Chair
Mr. Blair Suzuki, Vice 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. 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
Ms. Katherine Korenaga, Community Project Dev Dir, Department of Human
Services
Mr. Lance Pridemore, Assistant Cemetery Director, National Cemetery of the Pacific

Absent:

Mr. James Hussey
Mr. Kenneth Fink, Director, Department of Health
Ms. Carol Kanayama, Department of Labor and Industrial Relations
Ms. Ann Greenlee, U.S. Department of Labor, VETS
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

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.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

III. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 1, 2024

The Board reviewed the November 1, 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 updates or changes to submitted report.

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

Briefed on: There was a press release from VA headquarters announcing the launch of a new outreach campaign to veterans with blast exposure. New research is suggesting that blast exposure can do more significant health damage than was previously realized. If veterans would like to find out more, they can call 1-800-214-1306 and to speak with claims and eligibility department.

Mr. John Alamodin, Director, OVS

Briefed on: Bill 62 2024 was introduced by City Council Members. It is related to motor vehicle registration exemption for veterans 65 years or older. At the next meeting, I will announce when the Veterans Home Dedication will be held.

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

Briefed on: County of Maui (Maui/Molokai/Lanai) - November 14, 2024: Request for \$35M for Construction in FB25-27 denied by B&F; appealed on November 18, 2024, but we have the approval of the Governor for our state match on that project.

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

Briefed on: We were in survey here with the state surveyors for CMS. The VA survey is still pending.

Mr. Kenneth Fink, Director, Department of Health - Not present. No submitted report.

Ms. Katherine Korenaga, Community Project Dev Dir, 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. Lance Pridemore, Assistant Cemetery Director, National Cemetery of the Pacific

Briefed on: No submitted report.

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. No additions.
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 Report or Update
- E. Projects and Events Committee - No Report or Update

VIII. ADJOURN – 9:23 am

Blair Suzuki motioned, and Mary Kay Hertog seconded.
Yolanda Ehere – Recorder