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, May 2 2025

ATTENDANCE

Board Members:	Ms. Bridget Komine, Chair Mr. Blair Suzuki, Vice Chair Ms. Mary Kay Hertog Ms. Roxanne (Rocky) Bruhn Mr. Aris Banaag
OVS Staff:	Ms. Yolanda Ehere Secretary Ms. Yam Yi Lee, Administrative Services Assistant
Guests:	Ms. Stacey Bonnett, Director, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Mr. Maurice Martin, Community Outreach Coordinator /Interim Public Affairs Officer, VA Pacific Islands Health Care System – Medical Maj. Shaoyu Lee, Chief Engineering Officer, State of Hawaii DOD Engineering Mr. Wade Ishii, Asst. Chief Engineering Officer, State of Hawaii DOD Engineering Ms. Kaui Chartrand, Long Term Care Administrator, Yukio Okutsu State Veterans Home Ms. Cheree Wee, Administrator, Daniel K. Akaka State Veterans Home Mr. Kenneth Fink, Director, Department of Health Ms. Katherine Korenaga, Family Resource Center Coordinator, Department of Human Services Ms. Ann Greenlee, U.S. Department of Labor, VETS Mr. Lance Pridemore, Assistant Cemetery Director, National Cemetery of the Pacific
Absent:	Mr. James Hussey Mr. John Alamodin, Director Ms. Carol Kanayama, Department of Labor and Industrial Relations Mr. Lance Pridemore, Assistant Cemetery Director, National Cemetery of the Pacific 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

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 MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 2, 2025

The Board reviewed May 2, 2025 minutes. Roxanne (Rocky) Bruhn motion to approve the minutes. Mary Kay Hertog seconded.

IV. COMMUNICATIONS

None

V. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

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

Briefed on: Introduced William, the new Acting Service Center Manager for the next 120 day. He is the new replacement for Chris McNair.

Mr. Maurice Martin, Community Outreach Coordinator /Interim Public Affairs Officer, VA Pacific Islands Health Care System – Medical

Briefed on: Reminder will be at Hawaii National Guard this weekend. Pact ACT community call

Question from Rocky: Federal Tort Claim Act: Will massage therapist be required to apply for this and do they have to do this? Maurice will get more info

Mr. John Alamodin, Director, OVS - Absent

Maj. Shaoyu Lee, Chief Engineering Officer, State of Hawaii DOD Engineering

Briefed on $35 million was It was placed back into the budget

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

Mr. Kenneth Fink, Director, Department of Health - No submitted report.

Ms. Katherine Korenaga, Family Resource Center Coordinator, Department of Human Services - Present and no additions to the report.

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

Ms. Ann Greenlee, U.S. Department of Labor, VETS - Present and no additions to the report.

Mr. Lance Pridemore, Assistant Cemetery Director, National Cemetery of the Pacific– Present. 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 - No report submitted. No additions.
2. West Hawaii - 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.
6. Maui - Mr. Aris Banaag - Report submitted. No additions.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

None

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

SAB 2025-1: SAB 2025-1. Discussion and decision making to establish goals and objectives for the SAB in 2025. Board members will convene immediately following the regular Advisory Board meeting.
ACTION: Push to June meeting
SAB 2025- 2. Discussion and decision making to approve the recommended changes to the Bylaws for the Advisory Board on Veterans Services.
ACTION: Push to June meeting

BIG MAHALO TO BRIDGET KOMINE!!! WE THANK YOU FOR EVVERYTHING YOU HAVE DONE FOR THIS COMMITTEE!!

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Legislative Committee
B. By Laws and Procedures
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

X. ADJOURN – 9:47 am

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