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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, August 1, 2025

ATTENDANCE

Board Members:

Mr. Blair Suzuki, Chair
Ms. Mary Kay Hertog, Vice Chair
Ms. Bridget Komine
Mr. James Hussey
Ms. Roxanne (Rocky) Bruhn

OVS Staff:

Mr. John Alamodin, Director
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
Mr. Wade Ishii, Asst. Chief Engineering Officer, State of Hawaii DOD Engineering
Ms. Libby Pyo, Liaison Officer, 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. Aris Banaag
Maj. Shaoyu Lee, Chief Engineering Officer, State of Hawaii DOD Engineering
Ms. Kauai Chartrand, Long Term Care Administrator, Yukio Okutsu State Veterans Home
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

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

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

III. APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA OF AUGUST 1, 2025

The Board reviewed August 1, 2025 agenda. Mary Kay Hertog motion to approve the agenda.
James Hussey seconded.

IV. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 11, 2025

The Board reviewed July 11, 2025 minutes. Bridget Komine motion to approve the minutes.
Roxanne (Rocky) Bruhn seconded.

VII. BOARD MEMBER'S REPORTS

1. Kauai - Ms. Mary Kay Hertog - Report submitted.
 - The Kauai Veteran Center has had an MOA with the Red Cross to use our Veterans Center, as an emergency backup evacuation shelter mainly for hurricanes. But for the first time it was used for the tsunami warning. We along with the Red crossed housed about 160 stranded visitors at the airport.
2. West Hawaii - James Hussey - No 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 - No report submitted. No additions.

VIII. OLD 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:

- Look at the legislative incentives for the upcoming legislative session
- Look into the status of the state maintenance of monuments and memorials – John will send an update table with who takes responsibility for each veteran's cemetery.
- Keep on the agenda for more discussion

IX. NEW BUSINESS

None

X. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Legislative Committee – No Report or Update
- B. By Laws and Procedures
 - Bridget Komine motion to accept the changes to the bylaws as written. Roxanne (Rocky) Bruhn seconded. All in favor.
- C. Recognition and Awards – No Report or Update
- D. Women's Committee
 - John and Yolanda will need to do some research on this subject.
- E. Projects and Events Committee - No Report or Update

XI. ADJOURN – 10:29 am

Bridget Komine motioned, and Mary Kay Hertog seconded.
Yolanda Ehere – Recorder

V. COMMUNICATIONS

None

VI. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Ms. Stacey Bonnett, Director, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs – Benefits - Present and no additions to the report.

Mr. Maurice Martin, Community Outreach Coordinator /Interim Public Affairs Officer, VA Pacific Islands Health Care System – Medical - Present and no additions to the report.

Mr. John Alamodin, Director, OVS

Briefed on: The first cemetery board meeting will be held on Thursday, August 28th at 9am. The Pre-application for the 3rd Hawaii State Veterans Home on Maui was accepted and placed on the CIP list. We are awaiting the predesign for the Gulf War Memorials. We're trying to negotiate the fee with FAI architects.

Mr. Wade Ishii, Asst. Chief Engineering Officer, State of Hawaii DOD Engineering - Present and no additions to the report.

Ms. Kauai Chartrand, Long Term Care Administrator, Yukio Okutsu State Veterans Home Relations - Not present, but submitted report.

Ms. Libby Pyo, Liaison Officer, Daniel K. Akaka State Veterans Home

Briefed on: Our census is at 30. Last Friday, we received notification from the Veterans Affairs that the Akaka Veterans Home has been recognized officially as "A state veteran's home." In June, we went through the CMS survey. There was a few minor citations, and a plan of correction was submitted last Friday.

Mr. Kenneth Fink, Director, Department of Health – Present, but 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

Briefed on: The first ever military spouse career fair on Schofield happened about two or three weeks ago. It was sponsored by the state of Hawaii.

Mr. Lance Pridemore, Assistant Cemetery Director, National Cemetery of the Pacific - Present, but 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.