

Microsoft Teams meeting
Join on your computer, mobile app or room device
[Click here to join the meeting](#)
Meeting ID: 263 030 945 278
Passcode: HmTC9b
[Download Teams](#) | [Join on the web](#)
Or call in (audio only)
+1 808-829-4853,,360453336# Honolulu
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, September 5, 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 Ehre 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
Ms. Katherine Korenaga, Family Resource Center Coordinator,
Department of Human Services
Mr. James Horton, 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
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

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 SEPTEMBER 5, 2025

The Board reviewed September 5, 2025 agenda. Mary Kay Hertog motion to approve the agenda. Roxanne (Rocky) Bruhn seconded.

IV. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 1, 2025

The Board reviewed August 1, 2025 minutes. Bridget Komine motion to approve the minutes. Roxanne (Rocky) Bruhn seconded.

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: We held the first State Cemetery Board meeting on Thursday, August 28th. It was an introductory meeting. The next meeting will be held every 4th Thursday of the month. The NCA will be visiting Hawaii in January 2026. Senator Hirono staffers did a tour of the Akaka Veterans Home, and we briefed them on the 3rd home on Maui.

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

Briefed on: On August 6th, we had the consultant selection meeting. At the allotment request in the amount of \$10 million for the for the design and it's gone through BNF and is now, but I believe with the governor's office.

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: Census of 32 with one new admission coming in about 11:00 AM, The CMS came through and we're just waiting for final word from them that the facility is actually certified.

Mr. Kenneth Fink, Director, Department of Health – Not 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 - Not present, but no submitted report

Mr. James Horton, Cemetery Director, National Cemetery of the Pacific - Present and no additions to the 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.

VII. BOARD MEMBER'S REPORTS

1. Kauai - Ms. Mary Kay Hertog - No report submitted.
 - We do have a Vietnam veteran who has been selected to go out on the Lone Eagle Honor Flight to Washington DC for several days.
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.
 - There will be a Veterans meeting this Saturday at Leilehua Golf Course. I will be attending and will report back next month.
5. Oahu - Ms. Roxanne (Rocky) Bruhn - No report submitted. No additions.
6. Maui - Mr. Aris Banaag - Report submitted. No additions.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

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:

- Keep on the agenda for more discussion

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- Ensure Hawaii's veteran memorials are properly maintained as dignified, respectful spaces that honor the service and sacrifice of veterans.
Objective: Determine agency/entity responsible and encourage accountability to conduct oversight and maintenance of memorials.
- Fully Staff the State Advisory Board
Objective: Recruit and confirm 4 of 9 board members to effectively represent and advocate for veterans statewide (ensuring geographic and female quotas are met).
- Support Priority Veteran Legislation
Objective: Identify and advocate for legislation that reflects the pressing needs, rights, and interests of Hawaii's veteran community.
- Strengthen the Hawaii Veteran Network
Objective: Engage, connect, and empower veterans through outreach to VSOs and veteran networks across all islands.

X. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Legislative Committee – No Report or Update
- B. By Laws and Procedures
- 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 – 10:04 am

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