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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 7, 2025

ATTENDANCE

Board Members:

Mr. Blair Suzuki, Chair
Ms. Mary Kay Hertog, Vice Chair
Mr. James Hussey

OVS Staff:

Mr. John Alamodin, Director
Ms. Yam Yi Lee, Administrative Services Assistant
Ms. Yolanda Ehere Secretary

Guests:

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. Katherine Korenaga, Family Resource Center Coordinator,
Department of Human Services
Mr. James Horton, Assistant Cemetery Director, National Cemetery of the Pacific

Absent:

Ms. Bridget Komine
Ms. Roxanne (Rocky) Bruhn
Mr. Aris Banaag
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. 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 Mary Kay Hertog 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 NOVEMBER 7, 2025

The Board reviewed November 7, 2025 agenda. Mary Kay Hertog motion to approve the agenda. James Hussey seconded.

IV. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 3, 2025

The Board reviewed October 3, 2025 minutes. James Hussey motion to approve the minutes as written. Mary Kay Hertog seconded.

V. COMMUNICATIONS

None

VI. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Ms. Stacey Bonnett, Director, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs – Benefits - Not present. No submitted report.

Mr. Maurice Martin, Community Outreach Coordinator /Interim Public Affairs Officer, VA Pacific Islands Health Care System – Medical - Not present but submitted report.

Mr. John Alamodin, Director, OVS

Briefed on: State Cemetery Board - We've had meetings since August. The National Cemetery administration is planning to visit all veterans cemeteries in Hawaii mid-January 2026/ Also, we are waiting for AG's analysis of bylaws. Next Meeting is December 11, 2025.

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

Briefed on: We submitted several capital improvement program budget requests through the legislature session for East Hawaii Veterans cemetery. For the Veterans Home on Maui, Great Design Studio was selected for the subject project, so in the next couple of months there will be several design review public meetings.

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

Briefed on: Due to the government shutdown, all CMS annual surveys have been halted. Our window is from October to December. We have 20 residents from our facility attending as honored guests for the Veterans Day parade.

Ms. Libby Pyo, Liaison Officer, Daniel K. Akaka State Veterans Home - Not present, but submitted report.

Mr. Kenneth Fink, Director, Department of Health

Briefed on: An organization reached out to me named Home Base. We recognize the need to expand access to behavioral health services for veterans. Director Alamodin and I are trying to see how we can coordinate a partnership to find a path for them to pursue operations here. Developments to follow.

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

Briefed on: Veterans Day Ceremony cancelled due to government shutdown.

Ms. Nicole Gray - Congresswoman Jill Tokuda Office Representative - Not present, but 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, Vice Chair – Report submitted.
2. West Hawaii - James Hussey - Report submitted.
 - We are going ahead with the Veterans Day ceremonies on Tuesday the 11th and before that we have a special ceremony to reinterment of the remains of a Medal of Honor winner.
3. Oahu - Mr. Blair Suzuki, Chair - No report submitted. No additions.
4. Oahu - Ms. Bridget Komine - 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.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

1. SAB 2025-1. Continuation of the 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.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

None

X. 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. Projects and Events Committee - No Report or Update

XI. ADJOURN – 9:29 am

Mary Kay Hertog motioned, and James Hussey seconded.
Yolanda Ehere – Recorder