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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, February 6, 2026

ATTENDANCE

Board Members:

Mr. Blair Suzuki, Chair
Ms. Mary Kay Hertog, Vice Chair
Mr. Aris Banaag
Ms. Bridget Komine

OVS Staff:

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

Guests:

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, Family Resource Center Coordinator,
Department of Human Services
Mr. Lance Pridemore, Assistant Cemetery Director, National Cemetery of the Pacific
Ms. Nicole Gray - Congresswoman Jill Tokuda Office Representative

Absent:

Mr. James Hussey
Ms. Roxanne (Rocky) Bruhn
Mr. William Kyereme, Acting Director, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs – Benefits
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
Ms. Carol Kanayama, Department of Labor and Industrial Relations
Ms. Libby Pyo, Liaison Officer, Daniel K. Akaka State Veterans Home
Mr. Kenneth Fink, Director, Department of Health
Ms. Ann Greenlee, U.S. Department of Labor, VETS
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 FEBRUARY 6, 2026

The Board reviewed February 6, 2026 agenda. Mary Kay Hertog motion to approve the agenda. Bridget Komine seconded.

IV. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 2, 2026

The Board reviewed January 2, 2026 minutes. Mary Kay Hertog motion to approve the minutes as written. Aris Banaag seconded

V. COMMUNICATIONS

None

VI. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Mr. William Kyereme, Acting 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 and no additions to the report.

Mr. John Alamodin, Director, OVS

Briefed on: National Cemetery Administration Compliance Review – 1 cemetery passed. We are in the phase where the design team is charged to put together a 35% design concept, which they are actually a little bit ahead of schedule for the 3rd Veterans Home on Maui.

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

Briefed on: Received food certification from the VA survey on January 6th. We are in full compliance for the CMS survey effective February 4th.

Ms. Libby Pyo, Liaison Officer, Daniel K. Akaka State Veterans Home - Not Present and no additions to the report.

Mr. Kenneth Fink, Director, Department of Health – Not present. 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. Lance Pridemore, Assistant Cemetery Director, National Cemetery of the Pacific - Present, but no submitted report.

Ms. Nicole Gray - Congresswoman Jill Tokuda Office Representative - 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. No additions.
2. West Hawaii - James Hussey - No report submitted. No additions.
3. Oahu - Mr. Blair Suzuki, Chair - 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 - No report submitted. No additions.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

None

IX. NEW BUSINESS

None

X. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Legislative Committee – Report submitted. No additions.
- 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 – 10:09 am

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