

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, March 6, 2026

ATTENDANCE

Board Members:

Mr. Blair Suzuki, Chair
Mr. Aris Banaag
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:

Maj. Shaoyu Lee, Chief Engineering Officer, State of Hawaii DOD Engineering
Ms. Katherine Korenaga, Family Resource Center Coordinator,
Department of Human Services
Ms. Libby Pyo, Liaison Officer, Daniel K. Akaka State Veterans Home
Ms. Ann Greenlee, U.S. Department of Labor, VETS
Mr. James Horton, Cemetery Director, National Cemetery of the Pacific
Mr. James Kurata, Administrator, Department of Accounting and General Services
Ms. Nicole Gray - Congresswoman Jill Tokuda Office Representative

Absent:

Ms. Mary Kay Hertog, Vice Chair
Ms. Bridget Komine
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
Mr. Wade Ishii, Asst. Chief Engineering Officer, State of Hawaii DOD Engineering
Ms. Carol Kanayama, Department of Labor and Industrial Relations
Ms. Kauai Chartrand, Long Term Care Administrator, Yukio Okutsu State Veterans Home
Mr. Kenneth Fink, Director, Department of Health
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 MARCH 6, 2026

The Board reviewed March 6, 2026 agenda. James Hussey motion to approve the agenda. Roxanne (Rocky) Bruhn seconded.

IV. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 6, 2026

The Board reviewed February 6, 2026 minutes. Roxanne (Rocky) Bruhn 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 received the final findings on February 17. April 1st is the due date for all correction action plans.

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

Briefed on: The VA has lifted the restrictions for the grant funding for East Hawaii because the VA has extra funding this year. OVS did accept the funding for The East Hawaii Veterans Cemetery Restoration project in Hilo. Received grant opportunity for the Molokai Upgrades Improvement Cemetery, we are working with DAGS to see if we can accept.

Ms. Kauai Chartrand, Long Term Care Administrator, Yukio Okutsu State Veterans Home Relations - Not present. No submitted report.

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

Briefed on: As of today, the census is 67.

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 - Present, but no submitted report.

Mr. James Horton, Cemetery Director, National Cemetery of the Pacific

Briefed on: Asking the group about interests and thoughts for town halls on the other islands.

Mr. James Kurata, Administrator, Department of Accounting and General Services

Briefed on: We take care of the eternal flame, Korean Vietnam Memorial, and World War II Memorial. The Landscape maintenance is the primary maintenance crew of those memorials. There's a \$150,000 design grant in aid project to enhance the area security by fencing (fencing the area off). The World War II Memorial is heavily cleaned about twice a year.

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 – No report submitted. No additions.
2. West Hawaii - James Hussey - 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 – 9:53 am

James Hussey motioned, and Roxanne (Rocky) Bruhn seconded.
Yolanda Ehere – Recorder