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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, June 5, 2026

ATTENDANCE

Board Members:

Mr. Blair Suzuki, Chair
Mr. Aris Banaag
Mr. James Hussey
Ms. Mary Kay Hertog, Vice Chair
Ms. Bridget Komine
Ms. Janet Covington – New Member

OVS Staff:

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

Guests:

Mr. Wade Ishii, Asst. 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
Mr. Kenneth Fink, Director, Department of Health
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. Roxanne (Rocky) Bruhn
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. Kauai Chartrand, Long Term Care Administrator, Yukio Okutsu State Veterans Home
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 JUNE 5, 2026

The Board reviewed June 5, 2026 agenda. James Hussey motion to approve the agenda. Mary Kay Hertog and Bridget Komine seconded.

IV. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF March 6, 2026

The Board reviewed March 6, 2026 minutes. James Hussey motion to approve the minutes as written. Aris Banaag seconded

V. COMMUNICATIONS

None

VI. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

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. No submitted report.

Mr. John Alamodin, Director, OVS – Not present and no additions to the report.

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 and no additions to the report.

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

Briefed on: As of today, the census is 80. The max is 120, but we're capping at 90 until the wallpaper in the facility is removed. The wallpaper is being removed by a contractor, and the walls are being repainted until that is completed at the end of July.

Mr. Kenneth Fink, Director, Department of Health

Briefed on: We are closely monitoring the Hantavirus andes strain and Ebola outbreaks at this time. The risk is very low to Hawaii, but we will continue to monitor it.

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: June is career fair month. There are a dozen career fairs coming up on the military bases at Keehi Lagoon for specifically veterans and at the Blaisdell.

Mr. James Horton, Cemetery Director, National Cemetery of the Pacific - Not present. No submitted report.

Mr. James Kurata, Administrator, Department of Accounting and General Services - Present and no additions to the 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.
 - We had a town hall on Tuesday and resources fair scheduled for this week.
 - Thank you to Maurice, Stacy, and interim director Thomas Steinbruner for attending!!
2. West Hawaii - James Hussey - Report submitted. No additions.
3. Oahu - Mr. Blair Suzuki, Chair - No report submitted. No additions.
4. Oahu - Ms. Bridget Komine - No report submitted. No additions. Last meeting!!
5. Oahu - Ms. Roxanne (Rocky) Bruhn - No report submitted. No additions.
6. Maui - Mr. Aris Banaag - Report submitted. No additions.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

None

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 – 9:48 am

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