

**STATE OF HAWAII OFFICE OF VETERANS SERVICES'
ADVISORY BOARD ON VETERANS SERVICES MINUTES**

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, February 7, 2025

ATTENDANCE

Board Members: Ms. Bridget Komine, Chair
Mr. Blair Suzuki, Vice Chair
Ms. Mary Kay Hertog

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

Guests: Ms. Amy Rohlf, Public Affairs Officer, VA Pacific Islands Health Care
System – Medical
Maj. Shaoyu Lee, Chief Engineering Officer, State of Hawaii DOD Engineering
Ms. Katherine Korenaga, Community Project Dev Dir, Department of Human
Services
Mr. Lance Pridemore, Assistant Cemetery Director, National Cemetery of the Pacific

Absent: Ms. Roxanne (Rocky) Bruhn
Mr. James Hussey
Mr. Aris Banaag
Ms. Stacey Bonnett, Director, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Mr. Wade Ishii, Asst. 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 Bridget Komine led the Pledge of Allegiance. After a moment of silence, Chair Bridget Komine called the meeting to order at 0905 hours.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

III. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 3, 2025

The Board reviewed January 3, 2025 minutes. Mary Kay Hertog motion to approve the minutes. Blair Suzuki seconded.

IV. COMMUNICATIONS

None

V. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

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

Ms. Amy Rohlfs, Public Affairs Officer, VA Pacific Islands Health Care System – Medical
Briefed on: With all the changes happening in the federal government, we at VA Pacific Islands Health Care System (VAPIHCS) are still committed to ensuring that the veterans receive safe, compassionate and quality care, so that is not changing. Veterans can still call 1.800.214.1306 for appointments and questions. On February 15th and 17th, we are closed for President's Day. On March 6th and 7th, there will be a PACT Act Community Call outreach in Kauai. There are MRI services at the Akaka Clinic.

Mr. John Alamodin, Director, OVS

Briefed on: Cemeteries board bill passed through committees public safety and military affairs and there was no amendments.

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

Briefed on: Daniel K. Akaka Veterans Home admitted their first patient. we're still working on the CSMS licensure scheduled for next week. We have a meeting scheduled with the House Finance Vice Chair Rep. Kitagawa later this afternoon to discuss the future Maui Veterans Home.

Ms. Kauai Chartrand, Long Term Care Administrator, Yukio Okutsu State Veterans Home - Not present but submitted a report.

Mr. Kenneth Fink, Director, Department of Health - Not present. No submitted report.

Ms. Katherine Korenaga, Community Project Dev Dir, 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. No submitted report.

Mr. Lance Pridemore, Assistant Cemetery Director, National Cemetery of the Pacific– Present

Ms. Nicole Gray - Congresswoman Jill Tokuda Office Representative - Not present. No submitted report.

Senator Mazie Hirono's Office Representative - Not present. No submitted report.

VI. BOARD MEMBER'S REPORTS

1. Kauai - Ms. Mary Kay Hertog - Report submitted No additions.
2. West Hawaii – Mr. James Hussey - Report submitted. .
3. Oahu - Mr. Blair Suzuki, Vice Chair - No report submitted. No additions.
4. Oahu - Ms. Bridget Komine, Chair - 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

VII. OLD BUSINESS

SAB 2025-1: Discussion and decision making to convene a SAB planning session (date/time) to establish goal and objectives for 2025.

ACTION: Board members decided to convene on 4 April, immediately following the regular Advisory Board meeting.

SAB 2025-2: Discussion and decision making on establishing a permitted interaction group (PIG), pursuant to HRS 92-2.5(b)(1), and define the scope of each member's authority to established to explore various state Veterans benefits and identify areas where the SAB can effect change for Hawaii Veterans.

ACTION: A PIG was established with John Alamodin, Blair Suzuki, and Mary Kay Hertog as members.

SAB 2025-3: Discussion and decision making on how the SAB can receive/collect information on Veterans' needs and concerns.

ACTION: Suggestions to have OVS representatives attend Community Calls, state conventions for various veterans groups such as the American Legion, Disabled American Veterans and AMVETS were discussed.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Legislative Committee – Report submitted
 - Discussed which bills the board will provide testimony for. Next meeting in March, the Board will vote on the bills
- B. By Laws and Procedures - No Report or Update
- C. Recognition and Awards – No Report or Update
- D. Women's Committee - No Report or Update
- E. Projects and Events Committee - No Report or Update

IX. ADJOURN – 9:53 am

Mary Kay Hertog motioned, and Blair Suzuki seconded.

Yolanda Ehere – Recorder