STATE OF HAWAII OFFICE OF VETERANS SERVICES
ADVISORY BOARD ON VETERANS SERVICES AGENDA

Microsoft Teams Meeting
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+1 808-829-4853,,360453336# United States, Honolulu
Phone Conference ID: 360 453 336#
Oahu Veterans Center
1298 Kukila Street, Honolulu, HI 96818
Friday, November 13, 2026
9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

AGENDA

I. **CALL TO ORDER**
II. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE / MOMENT OF SILENCE**
III. **ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER ROLL CALL**
IV. **COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLIC NOTICE** - Request all written testimony be received by the State of Hawaii Office of Veterans' Services 48 hours prior to the meeting to facilitate timely distribution to board members. Written testimony will still be accepted after this timeframe, and every attempt will be made to distribute to board members for review. If submitting written testimony, please note the board and agenda item(s) your testimony concerns. Send to: State of Hawaii Office of Veterans' Services (Tripler Army Medical Center) 459 Patterson Rd. E Wing, Rm 1-A103 Honolulu, HI 96819 Fax: (808) 433-0385. Email: ovs@hawaii.gov
V. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
VI. **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 2, 2026**
VII. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**
VIII. **PUBLIC TESTIMONTY ON ANY AGENDA ITEM** - Oral testimony will be taken at any time during the meeting.
IX. **DEPARTMENT REPORTS** - Reports limited to 5 minutes (Written reports are required before meeting begins and does not have to be restated)

1. Department of Veterans Affair – Benefits
    - Veteran's Benefit Update
    - Highlight Benefit Programs
    - Upcoming Events
2. Department of Veterans Affair – Medical
    - Veteran's Healthcare Update
    - Highlight Healthcare Programs
    - Upcoming Events
3. Director, OVS
    - Provide update on OVS operations
    - Provide latest info on OVS projects
    - Upcoming events
4. Department of Defense, Engineering Office
    - Brief OVS State Facility and Cemetery Projects
    - Highlight project timelines and construction milestones
5. Yukio Okutsu Veterans Home in Hilo
    - Update Facility Operations
    - Provide the latest staff and census numbers.

6. Daniel Kahikina Akaka State Veterans Home
    - Update Facility Operations
    - Provide the latest staff and census numbers.
7. Department of Health
    - Healthcare Update
    - Highlight Healthcare Programs
    - Upcoming Events
8. Department of Human Services
    - Human Services Update
    - Highlight Human Services Programs
    - Upcoming Events
9. Department of Labor and Industrial Relations
    - Labor and Industrial Relations Update
    - Highlight Labor and Industrial Relations Programs
    - Upcoming Events
10. Department of Accounting and General Service
    - War Memorials Update
    - Upcoming Events
11. U.S. Department of Labor, Veterans' Employment and Training Service
    - US DOL VETS Update
    - Highlight US DOL VETS Programs
    - Upcoming Events
12. National Cemetery of the Pacific
    - Punchbowl Update
    - Highlight Punchbowl Construction Projects
    - Upcoming Events

X. **BOARD MEMBER REPORTS** - Shall be in writing and submitted to OVS before the meeting begins.

1. Kauai - Ms. Mary Kay Hertog, Vice Chair
2. Oahu - Mr. Blair Suzuki, Chair
3. Oahu - Ms. Janet Covington
4. Oahu - Mr. Jason Seal
5. Oahu - Ms. Hollie Thomas
6. Maui - Mr. Aris Banaag
7. West Hawaii - Mr. James Hussey
8. East Hawaii - Vacant

XI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Legislative Committee - (Mr. Blair Suzuki)
B. By Laws and Procedures - (Ms. Mary Kay Hertog)
C. Recognition and Awards - (Open)
D. Projects and Events Committee - (Open)

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XII. OLD BUSINESS

Hawaii State Advisory Board on Veterans' Services – Strategic Goals

1. Ensure Hawaii's veteran memorials are properly maintained as dignified, respectful spaces that honor the service and sacrifice of veterans.
   Objective: Determine agency/entity responsible and encourage accountability to conduct oversight and maintenance of memorials.
2. Fully Staff the State Advisory Board
   Objective: Recruit and confirm 4 of 9 board members to effectively represent and advocate for veterans statewide (ensuring geographic and female quotas are met).
3. Support Priority Veteran Legislation
   Objective: Identify and advocate for legislation that reflects the pressing needs, rights, and interests of Hawaii's veteran community.
4. Strengthen the Hawaii Veteran Network
   Objective: Engage, connect, and empower veterans through outreach to VSOs and veteran networks across all islands.

XIII. NEW BUSINESS - Strategic Planning Session

A. Executive session to conduct annual planning session

XIV. ADJOURN

********** **IMPORTANT** **********

If you require special assistance, auxiliary aid and/or service to participate in this event (i.e., sign language interpreter; interpreter for language other than English, or wheelchair accessibility), please contact Yolanda Ehere at (808) 433-0423 or email your request to ovs@hawaii.gov at least three (3) business days prior to the meeting.