



Mufi Hannemann for Veterans and Military Families

Expand State Veterans Services

All veterans, especially our returning veterans, deserve the best medical services from our U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The State of Hawaii needs to partner with the Federal Government to ensure that the needs of our veterans are met. Mufi Hannemann will assess an increase in the number of veteran counselors at the Hawaii Office of Veterans Services. In addition, Hannemann will work on simplifying the current system and making it more user-friendly.

Support our National Guard and Reserves

Our National Guard and Reservists are called upon more frequently to deploy to hostile areas across the world. National Guard soldiers and airmen also serve our State during natural and man-made disasters. Mufi Hannemann supports our Guard and Reserves and will consider expanding services, including state education aid for our National Guard soldiers and airmen.

Combat Homeless - "Zero Tolerance"

Hawaii has its share of homeless veterans. The VA's homeless services reach only a small portion of this population. Mufi Hannemann will work with non-profit agencies like the U.S. VETS and will develop new state-run programs to expand services for homeless veterans. Mufi Hannemann will establish a "zero tolerance" policy for veterans falling into homelessness.

Solicit Advice from Military Families

The Governor needs to have direct relationships with area military base commanders beyond the ceremonial level. In addition, the Governor needs to hear from the troops on-the-ground. Mufi Hannemann will form the Hawaii Military Families Advisory Board, which will consist of

military family representatives, including members of the National Guard and Reserves. This board will be charged with identifying and developing plans to address and ease the burdens on the military family.

Create State Veterans Court

A Veterans Court would better integrate the judicial process and the VA system. It would provide judges with access to much-needed treatment and counseling services from the VA. Mufi Hannemann will look to create the Hawaii Veterans Court, which will target reservists and members of the National Guard.

Support the Military Child

Hawaii has done much to improve the educational services to the children of military families, especially those who are deployed. Mufi Hannemann supports the Joint Venture Education Forum, a partnership between the Hawaii Department of Education and the military service units in Hawaii. Mufi Hannemann also supports the re-enactment of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children, which the Legislature needs to pass in 2011.

Construct an Iraq/Afghanistan Memorial

Nearly 10 years since that fateful day, our sons and daughters continue to be placed in harms way. More than 260 people with Hawaii ties have been killed in action during the recent conflict. Mufi Hannemann believes that the State of Hawaii should consider erecting a permanent memorial in the Capitol District to honor the sacrifices of these military personnel, those killed on September 11, 2001, and the first-responders who have paid the ultimate sacrifice.