




To: The State Land Use Commission
Subject: Testimony in support on HMP's Memorial Life Plan, Ltd. DBA Hawaiian Memorial Park Cemetery

7 June 2020
Hawaiian

We must expand the Hawaiian Memorial Park Cemetery and I enthusiastically support the expansion. This project has enormous public approval, will certainly provide needed jobs and create economic activity during our unemployment crisis. The sooner this is approved, the better for Hawaii.

I am only one of the 192,000 World War II orphans who have served in silence for 75 years. I am the Hawaii representative for the American World War II Orphans Network (AWON). Just as the greatest generation grows smaller and smaller, so do we. I stand here to have our voices heard. We are the forgotten casualties of war that lingers after the battles of victory. I am here to remind everyone of the pains of war upon children. Poets failed to praise us in verse and songwriters failed to sing about us. We have never earned a medal, yet we have carried the scars of war like a badge of courage. We never had a statue, never had a monument, nor ever had a memorial. Finally, three years ago Jay Morford fulfilled our dream. He is our hero and also Hershel "Woody" Williams who is planting Gold Star Memorials all around America. The Hawaiian Memorial Park Cemetery erected the Gold Star memorial appropriately at the gateway to the State's Veterans Cemetery. They also donated the land to the State for that Cemetery with a "promise" to expand and that promise must be kept. Here we are, it's time to expand up the hillside so that future sons and daughters have a place to rest looking across at the beautiful Ko'olau Mountains. Maybe there will be room for Gold Star orphans.

I served our troops for 42 years as an Army Entertainment Director. Hawaii is a small corner of the world where future generations of historians and students can join the experience of the beginning and end of World War II at the Arizona and the Missouri. They will visit Punchbowl and the Veteran's Cemetery, reading the names of those not forgotten. Let them also do it on the beautiful slopes of the expanded Memorial Park.

Vanita Rae Smith 
Proud daughter of PFC Ray Smith
"F" Troop, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division
Died of Wounds in Luzon, Philippines 28 April 1945
908 Maunawili Road, Kailua, HI 96734
vanitaraesmith@hawaii.rr.com 808-225-6927

2020 JUN 16 A 11:56
LAND USE COMMISSION
STATE OF HAWAII