
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ALLOW NATIONAL GUARD MEMBERS AND MILITARY RESERVISTS WITH TWENTY OR MORE YEARS OF SERVICE TO RETIRE WITH FULL RETIREMENT BENEFITS AT AGE FIFTY-FIVE.

- 1 WHEREAS, the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001,
2 continue to have repercussions today; and
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- 4 WHEREAS, thousands of military service members and their
5 families are in the midst of coping with troop deployments to
6 dangerous, volatile, and unstable areas of the world, such as
7 Iraq and Afghanistan; and
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- 9 WHEREAS, in addition, many of those who have already
10 completed one tour of duty face re-deployment in what the United
11 States Department of Defense describes as the largest series of
12 troop rotations since World War II; and
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- 14 WHEREAS, for instance, approximately 85,000 regular, United
15 States reserves, and national guard troops have been or will be
16 deployed to Iraq as part of the rotation; and
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- 18 WHEREAS, such a massive mobilization and deployment of
19 United States forces has not left Hawaii untouched; and
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- 21 WHEREAS, the assigned strength of the Hawaii Army National
22 Guard and Hawaii Air National Guard stands at around 3,000 and
23 2,500, respectively; and
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- 25 WHEREAS, as of January 2005, over 80 percent of the Hawaii
26 Army National Guard, including the entire 29th Brigade Combat
27 Team, had been mobilized for deployment to either Iraq or
28 Afghanistan; and



1 WHEREAS, even beyond the sheer numbers, the effects of the
2 call-up to National Guard and reserve members were substantial;
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5 WHEREAS, although national guard and reserve members
6 recognize their duty and are willing to serve their nation, the
7 disruption to their personal and professional lives cannot be
8 denied; and
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10 WHEREAS, individuals from all walks of life--from college
11 students and engineers to physicians and public servants--are
12 plucked from their daily routines and sent overseas under
13 hostile conditions; and
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15 WHEREAS, for many, active service in the Hawaii National
16 Guard and military reserves entails a significant disruption in
17 their life plans; and
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19 WHEREAS, as beneficiaries of their courageous and dedicated
20 service, the people of this state bear a special responsibility
21 toward United States military forces, but particularly toward
22 our citizen-soldiers in the Hawaii National Guard and military
23 reserves; and
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25 WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that these patriotic men and
26 women deserve the full support of the State and the nation; and
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28 WHEREAS, the Legislature believes that one way government
29 can express its appreciation to its citizen soldiers is by
30 providing them with enhanced retirement benefits; now,
31 therefore,
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33 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
34 Twenty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
35 of 2006, the Senate concurring, that the federal government is
36 requested to allow national guard members and military
37 reservists who satisfactorily serve for 20 years or more in such
38 military service to retire with full retirement benefits at 55
39 years of age; and
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41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
42 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, members of
43 Hawaii's Congressional delegation, the President of the United



- 1 States, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, and the
- 2 Speaker of the United States House of Representatives.

