
SENATE 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.

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 eighty-five thousand
15 regular, United States reserves, and national guard troops have
16 been or will be 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 three
23 thousand and twenty-five hundred, respectively; and
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25 WHEREAS, as of January 2005, over eighty per cent of the
26 Hawaii Army National Guard, including the entire 29th Brigade
27 Combat Team, had been mobilized for deployment to either Iraq or
28 Afghanistan; and
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30 WHEREAS, even beyond the sheer numbers, however, the
31 effects of the call-up of the national guard were substantial;
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34 WHEREAS, although national guard and reserve members
35 recognize their duty and are willing to serve their nation, the



1 disruption to their personal and professional lives cannot be
2 denied; and

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4 WHEREAS, individuals from all walks of life--from college
5 students and engineers to physicians and public servants--are
6 plucked from their daily routines and sent overseas under
7 hostile conditions; and

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9 WHEREAS, for many, active service in the Hawaii National
10 Guard and military reserves entails a significant disruption in
11 their life plans; and

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13 WHEREAS, as beneficiaries of their courageous and dedicated
14 service, the people of this State bear a special responsibility
15 toward United States military forces, but particularly toward
16 our citizen-soldiers in the Hawaii National Guard and military
17 reserves; and

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19 WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that these patriotic men and
20 women deserve the full support of the State and the nation; and

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22 WHEREAS, the Legislature believes that one way government
23 can express its appreciation to its citizen soldiers is by
24 providing them with enhanced retirement benefits; now,
25 therefore,

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27 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-third
28 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2006,
29 that the federal government is requested to allow national guard
30 members and military reservists who satisfactorily serve for
31 twenty years or more in such military service to retire with
32 full retirement benefits; and

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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
35 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, members of Hawaii's
36 congressional delegation, the President of the United States,
37 the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, and the Speaker
38 of the United States House of Representatives.

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