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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

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REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO ALLOW MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVES WHO ARE STILL RECOVERING FROM ILLNESSES OR INJURIES INCURRED IN THE LINE OF DUTY WHILE MOBILIZED FOR DEPLOYMENT TO IRAQ OR AFGHANISTAN, AND WHO HAVE EITHER BEEN DISCHARGED FOR MEDICAL REASONS OR RELEASED FROM ACTIVE DUTY TO THEIR RESERVE COMPONENT UNITS, TO CONTINUE TO HAVE ACCESS TO DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE MEDICAL FACILITIES ON THE SAME BASIS AS ACTIVE DUTY SERVICE MEMBERS, OR TO RECEIVE TRICARE COVERAGE ON THE SAME BASIS AS RETIREES.

1 WHEREAS, thousands of members of the National Guard and  
2 Reserves across the nation have been mobilized onto federal  
3 active duty for service in and deployed to Iraq, Afghanistan, or  
4 both; and

5  
6 WHEREAS, many reserve component military service members  
7 have sustained injuries or illnesses in the line of duty that  
8 have caused them to be placed in military retention processing  
9 units (MRPUs) on "medical hold" status in various military  
10 facilities around the county; and

11  
12 WHEREAS, the Legislature understands that several dozen  
13 reserve component military service members are now on medical  
14 hold status in Hawaii; and

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16 WHEREAS, the Legislature understands that it is a fairly  
17 common practice to give these individuals one year after their  
18 return from deployment in which to heal, at which point they are  
19 reevaluated and frequently either given a medical discharge or  
20 released from active duty to their National Guard or Reserve  
21 units; and

22  
23 WHEREAS, while the one year time limit may serve as a  
24 simple and clear standard for purposes of the United States  
25 Department of Defense military policy, the reality for many of  
26 these individuals is that one year is simply an inadequate



1 amount of time to heal from serious physical or mental illnesses  
2 or injuries sustained in the line of duty; and  
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4 WHEREAS, the United States Department of Defense is  
5 understandably cognizant of and concerned about the costs of  
6 keeping reserve component military service members on active  
7 duty for lengthy periods of time while they recover from  
8 illnesses or injuries; and  
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10 WHEREAS, the injured reserve component military service  
11 members in Hawaii are very concerned that their discharge from  
12 the military or being released from active duty to their reserve  
13 component units will terminate their eligibility for medical  
14 care at the United States Department of Defense medical  
15 facilities at which they have been treated; and  
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17 WHEREAS, with the termination of this eligibility, these  
18 reserve component military service members will have to rely  
19 upon either their private or employer sponsored health  
20 insurance, or facilities operated by the Veterans'  
21 Administration of the United States Department of Veterans'  
22 Affairs; and  
23

24 WHEREAS, the extensive media coverage of overcrowded and  
25 understaffed Veterans' Administration facilities and programs in  
26 recent years leaves many injured reserve component military  
27 service members very concerned about the care they will receive;  
28 and  
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30 WHEREAS, many ill and injured reserve component military  
31 service members would, if given a choice, prefer to continue to  
32 receive treatment at the United States Department of Defense  
33 medical facilities after they have been discharged or released  
34 from active duty to their reserve component units; and  
35

36 WHEREAS, this could be accomplished by allowing this  
37 relatively small group of reserve component military service  
38 members to either:  
39

- 40 (1) Continue to be treated at the United States Department  
41 of Defense medical facilities on the same basis as  
42 active duty service members after they have been  
43 discharged or released from active duty to their  
44 reserve component units; or



- 1  
2 (2) Provide them with coverage under the military's  
3 Tricare program on the same basis as military  
4 retirees; and  
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6 until such time as they have recovered completely from illnesses  
7 or injuries incurred in the line of duty after mobilization for  
8 deployment to either Iraq or Afghanistan; and  
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10 WHEREAS, either alternative, while not without cost, would  
11 be only a fraction of the cost of some proposals now in  
12 Congress, such as to provide Tricare coverage to all reserve  
13 component military service members; now, therefore,  
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15 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
16 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
17 Session of 2007, that the United States Department of Defense is  
18 requested to allow reserve component military service members  
19 who have sustained illnesses or injuries in the line of duty  
20 after mobilization for deployment in support of Operation Iraqi  
21 Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom to either:  
22

- 23 (1) Continue to be treated at the United States Department  
24 of Defense medical facilities on the same basis as  
25 active duty service members after they have been  
26 discharged or released from active duty to their  
27 reserve component units; or  
28

- 29 (2) Provide them with coverage under the military's  
30 Tricare program on the same basis as military  
31 retirees; and  
32

33 until such time as they have recovered completely from illnesses  
34 or injuries incurred in the line of duty after mobilization for  
35 deployment to either Iraq or Afghanistan; and  
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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Hawaii's congressional  
38 delegation is requested to take any and all appropriate actions  
39 to enact legislation or to work with the United States  
40 Department of Defense to implement these policy changes  
41 administratively; and  
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
2 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States,  
3 the United States Secretary of Defense, the members of Hawaii's  
4 congressional delegation, the Governor, and the Adjutant  
5 General.

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7  
8 OFFERED BY:



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