
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO VETERANS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. Section 363-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 "**§363-3 Activities of the office.** Except as otherwise
4 provided by law, the office shall:

5 (1) Maintain or cause to be maintained, subject to the
6 control and supervision of the office, [~~a-center~~
7 centers statewide to which veterans, including their
8 families and dependents, may come for information,
9 counsel, aid, and assistance, including gender-
10 specific services and benefits, and by which they may
11 be directed or referred to any agency in the community
12 whose function it is, by law or otherwise, to provide
13 the services, assistance, or benefits which in each
14 instance appear necessary or appropriate. Agencies to
15 which any referrals may be made shall include[~~7~~] but
16 are not limited to[~~7~~] departments and divisions of the
17 federal and state governments, veterans'



1 organizations, and [~~so-called "private" social~~
2 ~~agencies;~~] nongovernmental social services agencies;

3 (2) Assume the initiative, in cooperation with agencies in
4 the community, for coordinating all services now
5 available, and which hereafter may become available,
6 for the use and benefit of veterans, including their
7 families and dependents, to the end that maximum
8 effectiveness of the services, including gender-
9 specific services and benefits, may be realized, and
10 overlapping and duplication of effort [~~as~~] between
11 agencies may be minimized;

12 (3) Assemble, analyze, compile, and disseminate factual,
13 up-to-date information with respect to:

14 (A) Benefits, rights, and services of whatever
15 nature, including gender-specific services and
16 benefits, to which veterans, including their
17 families and dependents, are entitled, or which
18 may be available to them; and

19 (B) The structure, functions, area of service, and
20 other pertinent information regarding each agency
21 and organization participating in the veterans'
22 assistance program in the State;



1 (4) Cooperate with federal departments and other agencies
2 which, by law, have responsibility for the
3 administration of rights and benefits, granted by the
4 federal government to veterans, including their
5 families and dependents[+], including gender-specific
6 rights and benefits such as breast and pelvic
7 examinations and other general reproductive health
8 care services and preventive health care counseling,
9 contraceptive services, menopause management, Pap
10 smears, and mammography;

11 (5) To the extent that funds are available:

12 (A) Contract with professional counseling specialists
13 to provide a range of direct treatment services
14 to veterans who suffer from the effects of their
15 participation in any war or military conflict
16 involving the United States, and to veterans in
17 the Hawaii national guard or military reserves
18 who served in:

19 (i) The Persian Gulf War, as defined in Title 38
20 U.S. Code Section 101; or

21 (ii) In an area designated as a combat zone or
22 qualified hazardous duty area by the



1 President of the United States during
2 Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation
3 Iraqi Freedom, or recognized as such by the
4 Internal Revenue Service for purposes of
5 exclusion from the income tax,

6 and their family members;

7 (B) Provide additional treatment services to veterans
8 of the Vietnam war for post-traumatic stress
9 disorder, especially for those veterans whose
10 post traumatic stress disorder has intensified or
11 surfaced due to the Persian Gulf War, Operation
12 Enduring Freedom, or Operation Iraqi Freedom;

13 (C) Provide an educational program designed to train
14 primary care professionals, such as mental health
15 care professionals, about the effects of war-
16 related stress and trauma;

17 (D) Provide informational and counseling services to
18 establish and foster peer support throughout the
19 State for families of deployed members of the
20 military reserves and the Hawaii national guard;

21 and



1 (E) Provide for the families of veterans a referral
 2 network of community mental health providers who
 3 are skilled in treating deployment stress, combat
 4 stress, and post-traumatic stress;

5 [+5+] (6) As soon as possible after the close of each
 6 fiscal year, compile and submit to the governor, for
 7 [~~such~~] any use or distribution [~~as~~] that the governor
 8 may deem appropriate, a comprehensive report of the
 9 activities and operations of the office, and of all
 10 disbursements and expenditures authorized by the
 11 office under this section; and

12 [+6+] (7) Inspect every three years all state war memorials
 13 and veterans' cemeteries for repair and maintenance
 14 deficiencies, and report all repair and maintenance
 15 problems at these memorials and cemeteries to the
 16 adjutant general, the comptroller, and the legislature
 17 prior to the start of the next regular session."

18 SECTION 2. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
 19 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

20 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

21

INTRODUCED BY:

Cindy Evans

[Signature]



Report Title:

Veterans; Gender-Specific Services; Additional Services

Description:

Clarifies that gender-specific treatment and services shall be made available to veterans. To the extent funds are available, requires office of veterans services to provide various additional services primarily dealing with war-related stress.

