HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF VETERANS' SERVICES TO DIRECT ITS POLICY ADVISORY BOARD ON VETERANS' SERVICES TO FORMULATE VETERAN ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA OF STATEWIDE APPLICABILITY.

WHEREAS, the Office of Veterans' Services is required to assess the policies and practices of other agencies with respect to the delivery of services and benefits to veterans; and

WHEREAS, the Office of Veterans' Services is also required to assemble, analyze, compile, and disseminate factual up-to-date information with respect to the benefits, rights, and services of whatever nature to which veterans are entitled, or which may be available to them; and

WHEREAS, the Office of Veterans' Services has discovered that none of the current laws at different levels of government that provide benefits to certain categories of citizens, such as the poor or disabled, treat veterans as a special category that deserves priority consideration before any other category or group; and

WHEREAS, those current laws neither prioritize veterans as a special category above other categories nor prioritize subcategories of veterans within the category of veterans, such as the honorably discharged or the disabled; and

WHEREAS, the Office of Veterans' Services is assisted in its functions, duties, and activities by its Policy Advisory Board on Veterans' Services, which is comprised of veterans and the officials from the executive branch in the areas of health, human services, labor and industrial relations, and defense; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2009, that the Office of Veterans' Services is requested to direct its Advisory Board on Veterans' Services to formulate veteran eligibility criteria that could be implemented in all

HR LRB 09-1888.doc

state and county laws that provide benefits to its residents relating to health, education, human services, housing, loan financing, business development, and labor; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Veterans' Services is requested to submit a report of any findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature not later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2010; and

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13 14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Director of the Office of Veterans' Services and the Chair of the Policy Advisory Board on Veterans' Services.

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OFFERED BY:

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