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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO VETERANS.

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

1           SECTION 1. Section 363-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended by amending subsection (c) to read as follows:

3           "(c) The director shall have the following principal  
4 functions, duties, and powers:

5           (1) Serve as the principal official in state government  
6 responsible for the performance, development, and  
7 control of programs, policies, and activities under  
8 this chapter;

9           (2) Oversee, supervise, and direct the performance by the  
10 director's subordinates of activities in such areas as  
11 planning, evaluation, and coordination of veterans  
12 programs and development of a statewide service  
13 delivery network;

14           (3) Assess the policies and practices of other agencies  
15 with respect to delivery of services and benefits to  
16 veterans;

- 1           (4) Administer funds allocated for the office, and apply  
2           for, receive, and disburse grants and donations from  
3           all sources for veterans programs and services  
4           provided under this chapter;
- 5           (5) Establish a clearinghouse for complaints of persons  
6           regarding services to veterans, or operations of state  
7           and county agencies affecting veterans, investigate  
8           such complaints, and refer the complaints and the  
9           director's findings to the appropriate agency for  
10          corrective action;
- 11          (6) Adopt, amend, and repeal rules pursuant to chapter 91  
12          for the purposes of this chapter;
- 13          (7) Employ and retain such staff as may be necessary for  
14          the purposes of this chapter, in conformance with  
15          chapters 76, 89, and the appropriate collective  
16          bargaining agreements, executive orders, executive  
17          directives, or rules, except for the position of  
18          coordinator and executive secretary to the director,  
19          who shall be hired without regard to chapters 76 and  
20          89;
- 21          (8) Contract for or grant such services as may be  
22          necessary for the purposes of this chapter, including

1 a master contract with other state agencies receiving  
2 federal and state funds for programs and services for  
3 veterans, and purchase of service agreements with  
4 appropriate agencies; [~~and~~]

5 (9) Oversee the development, establishment, and operation  
6 of a state veterans cemetery on Oahu; develop and  
7 administer the policies and procedures of the state  
8 veterans cemetery in accordance with the United States  
9 Veterans Administration and existing state guidelines;  
10 oversee the maintenance of state veterans cemeteries  
11 on all islands[~~-~~]; and

12 (10) Act on behalf of deceased veterans found to be  
13 indigent at the time of death and without surviving  
14 immediate family members to ensure the burial or  
15 cremation and interment of the veteran's remains in a  
16 state veterans cemetery."

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

19 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.  
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**Report Title:**

Veterans Rights and Benefits; Burial

**Description:**

Requires the director of the office of veterans' services to act on behalf of deceased veterans found to be indigent at the time of death and without surviving immediate family members to ensure the burial or cremation and interment of the veteran's remains in a state veterans cemetery. (SD1)

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