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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO FAMILY COURTS.

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

1           SECTION 1. Chapter 571, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended by adding a new section to part V to be appropriately  
3 designated and to read as follows:

4           "§571- Spousal support and maintenance; veterans  
5 disability benefits. In determining whether to award an  
6 allowance for the support and maintenance of a spouse or former  
7 spouse, or the amount of any such allowance, the court shall not  
8 consider any federal disability benefits awarded to the obligor  
9 for service-connected disabilities pursuant to Title 38 United  
10 States Code Chapter 11."

11           SECTION 2. Section 580-47, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
12 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

13           "(a) Upon granting a divorce, or thereafter if, in  
14 addition to the powers granted in subsections (c) and (d),  
15 jurisdiction of those matters is reserved under the decree by  
16 agreement of both parties or by order of court after finding  
17 that good cause exists, the court may make any further orders as  
18 shall appear just and equitable (1) compelling the parties or



1 either of them to provide for the support, maintenance, and  
2 education of the children of the parties; (2) compelling either  
3 party to provide for the support and maintenance of the other  
4 party; (3) finally dividing and distributing the estate of the  
5 parties, real, personal, or mixed, whether community, joint, or  
6 separate; and (4) allocating, as between the parties, the  
7 responsibility for the payment of the debts of the parties  
8 whether community, joint, or separate, and the attorney's fees,  
9 costs, and expenses incurred by each party by reason of the  
10 divorce. In making these further orders, the court shall take  
11 into consideration: the respective merits of the parties, the  
12 relative abilities of the parties, the condition in which each  
13 party will be left by the divorce, the burdens imposed upon  
14 either party for the benefit of the children of the parties, and  
15 all other circumstances of the case. In establishing the  
16 amounts of child support, the court shall use the guidelines  
17 established under section 576D-7. Provision may be made for the  
18 support, maintenance, and education of an adult or minor child  
19 and for the support, maintenance, and education of an  
20 incompetent adult child whether or not the petition is made  
21 before or after the child has attained the age of majority. In  
22 those cases where child support payments are to continue due to



1 the adult child's pursuance of education, the agency, three  
2 months prior to the adult child's nineteenth birthday, shall  
3 send notice by regular mail to the adult child and the custodial  
4 parent that prospective child support will be suspended unless  
5 proof is provided by the custodial parent or adult child to the  
6 child support enforcement agency, prior to the child's  
7 nineteenth birthday, that the child is presently enrolled as a  
8 full-time student in school or has been accepted into and plans  
9 to attend as a full-time student for the next semester a post-  
10 high school university, college, or vocational school. If the  
11 custodial parent or adult child fails to do so, prospective  
12 child support payments may be automatically suspended by the  
13 child support enforcement agency, hearings officer, or court  
14 upon the child reaching the age of nineteen years. In addition,  
15 if applicable, the agency, hearings officer, or court may issue  
16 an order terminating existing assignments against the  
17 responsible parent's income and income assignment orders.

18 In addition to any other relevant factors considered[7] and  
19 subject to the limitation set forth in section 571- , the  
20 court, in ordering spousal support and maintenance, shall  
21 consider the following factors:

22 (1) Financial resources of the parties;



- 1 (2) Ability of the party seeking support and maintenance  
2 to meet his or her needs independently;
- 3 (3) Duration of the marriage;
- 4 (4) Standard of living established during the marriage;
- 5 (5) Age of the parties;
- 6 (6) Physical and emotional condition of the parties;
- 7 (7) Usual occupation of the parties during the marriage;
- 8 (8) Vocational skills and employability of the party  
9 seeking support and maintenance;
- 10 (9) Needs of the parties;
- 11 (10) Custodial and child support responsibilities;
- 12 (11) Ability of the party from whom support and maintenance  
13 is sought to meet his or her own needs while meeting  
14 the needs of the party seeking support and  
15 maintenance;
- 16 (12) Other factors which measure the financial condition in  
17 which the parties will be left as the result of the  
18 action under which the determination of maintenance is  
19 made; and
- 20 (13) Probable duration of the need of the party seeking  
21 support and maintenance.



1           The court may order support and maintenance to a party for  
2 an indefinite period or until further order of the court;  
3 provided that in the event the court determines that support and  
4 maintenance shall be ordered for a specific duration wholly or  
5 partly based on competent evidence as to the amount of time  
6 which will be required for the party seeking support and  
7 maintenance to secure adequate training, education, skills, or  
8 other qualifications necessary to qualify for appropriate  
9 employment, whether intended to qualify the party for a new  
10 occupation, update or expand existing qualification, or  
11 otherwise enable or enhance the employability of the party, the  
12 court shall order support and maintenance for a period  
13 sufficient to allow completion of the training, education,  
14 skills, or other activity, and shall allow, in addition,  
15 sufficient time for the party to secure appropriate employment."

16           SECTION 3. This Act does not apply to any action filed  
17 before its effective date.

18           SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
19 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

20           SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



**Report Title:**

Spousal Support and Maintenance; Veterans Disability Benefits

**Description:**

Prohibits courts from considering a person's federal veterans disability benefits in determining whether to award support and maintenance allowances or the amount of any such allowance to the person's spouse or former spouse. Effective July 1, 2050.  
(HB1110 HD1)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

