

MAR 13 2012

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING HAWAII'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO VOTE IN FAVOR OF  
H.R. 2148, 112TH CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION, TO EXTEND  
MILITARY COMMISSARY AND EXCHANGE STORE PRIVILEGES TO  
VETERANS WITH A COMPENSABLE SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY  
AND THEIR DEPENDENTS.

1           WHEREAS, pursuant to title 5 United States Code section  
2 2108, a "disabled veteran" means an individual who has served on  
3 active duty in the armed forces, has been separated therefrom  
4 under honorable conditions, and has established the present  
5 existence of a service-connected disability or is receiving  
6 compensation, disability retirement benefits, or pension because  
7 of a public statute administered by the Department of Veterans  
8 Affairs or a military department; and

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10           WHEREAS, according to the United States Census' 2009  
11 American Community Survey, there are 21.9 million military  
12 veterans in the United States; and

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14           WHEREAS, of the 21.9 million military veterans, 3.3 million  
15 veterans have a service-connected disability with 652,000 having  
16 a service-connected disability rating, which determines the  
17 severity of one's disability, of seventy percent or higher on a  
18 disability scale from zero to hundred; and

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20           WHEREAS, the Defense Commissary Agency operates a worldwide  
21 chain of commissaries providing groceries to military personnel,  
22 retirees, and their families in a safe and secure shopping  
23 environment; and

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25           WHEREAS, commissaries contribute to family readiness,  
26 enhance the quality of life for America's military and their  
27 families, and help recruit and retain the best and brightest men  
28 and women to serve the country; and

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1 WHEREAS, the mission of the Defense Commissary Agency is to  
2 deliver a vital benefit of the military pay system that sells  
3 grocery items at cost while enhancing quality of life and  
4 readiness; and

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6 WHEREAS, authorized commissary patrons only include one  
7 hundred percent disabled veterans with service-connected  
8 disabilities, while disabled veterans with a service-connected  
9 disability who have been determined to be less than one hundred  
10 percent disabled are restricted from accessing the commissary;  
11 and

12  
13 WHEREAS, H.R. 2148, 112th Congress, First Session (H.R.  
14 2148), was introduced to amend chapter 54 of title 10 United  
15 States Code to extend military commissary and exchange store  
16 privileges to all veterans with a compensable service-connected  
17 disability and their dependents; and

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19 WHEREAS, H.R. 2148 has been referred to the House Armed  
20 Services Committee and the House Armed Services Subcommittee on  
21 Military Personnel and is pending in the United States House of  
22 Representatives; now, therefore,

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24 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-sixth  
25 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2012, the  
26 House of Representatives concurring, that Hawaii's Congressional  
27 delegation is requested to vote in favor of H.R. 2148 to extend  
28 military commissary and exchange store privileges to veterans  
29 with a compensable service-connected disability and their  
30 dependents; and

31  
32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
33 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to Hawaii's Congressional  
34 delegation, the President of the United States of America, the  
35 Secretary of Defense, the Under Secretary of Defense for  
36 Personnel and Readiness, the Director and Chief Executive  
37 Officer of the Defense Commissary Agency, the President of the  
38 United States Senate, and the Speaker of the United States House  
39 of Representatives.

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OFFERED BY: Stizanne Ohnum Oakland

*Will Egan*

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