JAN 25 2012

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND THE HAWAII OFFICE OF VETERANS SERVICES TO DEVELOP COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES TO ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF WOMEN VETERANS.

WHEREAS, women have served honorably and with courage in all of America's wars and conflicts since the American Revolution; and

WHEREAS, nearly fifteen per cent of the United States Armed Forces is comprised of women; and

WHEREAS, the population of women veterans is increasing exponentially and is projected to comprise more than ten per cent of the total veteran population by the year 2020; and

WHEREAS, more than 11,000 women veterans reside in Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, veterans benefits have traditionally been designed to address the needs of male veterans; and

WHEREAS, the circumstances and challenges faced by women veterans are often different from those of their male counterparts; and

WHEREAS, there is a growing need to improve veterans services to address the specific needs of women veterans in such areas as medical and mental health care, child care services, housing, and financial assistance; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2012, the House of Representatives concurring, that the United States Department of Veterans Affairs and the Hawaii Office of Veterans

Services are urged to develop comprehensive programs and services to address the needs of women veterans; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii Office of Veterans Services is requested to submit a report to the Legislature on the progress made on the development of comprehensive programs and services to address the needs of women veterans no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2013; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Director of the Hawaii Office of Veterans Services.

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OFFERED BY:

France Ohun Callan.

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