
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO MILITARY SERVICE.

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

1 SECTION 1. In 2005, the legislature passed Act 21, which
2 provided for a Hawaii medal of honor to express the deep
3 appreciation and gratitude of the people of Hawaii to the loved
4 ones of members of the military who sacrificed their lives in
5 defense of our nation and its freedom. Since 2006, there have
6 been more than two hundred forty recipients of the Hawaii medal
7 of honor.

8 Recently, President Barack Obama pledged to do more work to
9 prevent military suicides, saying that he was "committed to
10 removing the stigma associated with the unseen wounds of war."
11 One of President Obama's initiatives was to reverse a long-
12 standing policy of not sending condolence letters to the
13 families of service members who commit suicide while deployed to
14 a combat zone. Mental health and troop advocacy groups lauded
15 President Obama's decision.

16 The legislature finds that it is important to recognize the
17 men and women who have borne the incredible burden of war, and



1 it is crucial that the State recognize and honor Hawaii service
2 members who commit suicide on the battlefield or when deployed.

3 The purpose of this Act is to expand the scope of
4 eligibility requirements for the Hawaii medal of honor to
5 include service members who commit suicide on the battlefield or
6 on deployment.

7 SECTION 2. Section 5-22, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
8 amended as follows:

9 1. By amending its title and subsection (a) to read:

10 "[+]§5-22[+] **Hawaii medal of honor.** (a) The Hawaii medal
11 of honor may be awarded on behalf of the people of the State of
12 Hawaii to an individual who has been killed in action or
13 committed suicide, while:

14 (1) Engaged in an action against an enemy of the United
15 States;

16 (2) Engaged in military operations involving conflict with
17 an opposing foreign force;

18 (3) Serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an
19 armed conflict against an opposing armed force in
20 which the United States is not a belligerent party; or

21 (4) Serving in a combat zone as designated by presidential
22 order."



1 2. By amending subsection (c) to read:

2 "(c) Individuals eligible to receive the Hawaii medal of
3 honor include:

4 (1) Members of the Hawaii national guard who were legal
5 residents of Hawaii and were activated into service at
6 the time they were killed in action[+] or committed
7 suicide;

8 (2) Members of the United States military reserves who
9 were legal residents of Hawaii and were activated into
10 service at the time they were killed in action[+] or
11 committed suicide;

12 (3) Members of the regular United States armed forces who
13 were:

14 (A) Legal residents of Hawaii at the time they were
15 killed in action[+] or committed suicide; or

16 (B) Stationed in Hawaii by a proper order of the
17 United States Department of Defense at the time
18 they were killed in action[+] or committed
19 suicide; and

20 (4) Members of the Hawaii national guard, United States
21 military reserves, or regular United States armed
22 forces who:



1 (A) Attended a public or private educational
 2 institution in Hawaii at some period during their
 3 lives; and

4 (B) Were killed in action[-] or committed suicide."

5 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
 6 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

7 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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JAN 24 2013



Report Title:

Hawaii Medal of Honor; Military Suicide; Title 10 Status

Description:

Expands the scope of eligibility requirements for the Hawaii Medal of Honor to include service members, including members of the Hawaii national guard, United States military reserves, and regular United States armed forces, who commit suicide on the battlefield or when deployed.

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