
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO ESTABLISH A
VETERAN WOMEN SERVICES COORDINATOR POSITION WITHIN THE
OFFICE OF VETERANS SERVICES.

1 WHEREAS, in 2012, the Legislature requested the Hawaii
2 Office of Veterans Services and the United States Department of
3 Veterans Affairs to develop comprehensive programs and services
4 to address the needs of female active duty military members and
5 veterans; and

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7 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Office of Veterans Services established
8 the Hawaii military women's task force to study the needs of
9 women veterans and develop programs to: improve the lives of
10 women who have served or are currently serving in the military;
11 identify and address the unique needs of women veterans; and
12 harness the power of women to influence change by empowering
13 women veterans through education and opportunities to improve
14 and increase resilience; and

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16 WHEREAS, the task force determined that women in the
17 military face multiple, inter-related, and complex problems,
18 which include a high rate of military sexual trauma; inadequate
19 health care after reentry into the civilian life; high rates of
20 post-traumatic stress syndrome; homelessness; and unemployment;
21 and

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23 WHEREAS, current estimates show that there are between
24 9,502 and 11,744 women veterans who reside in Hawaii; and

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26 WHEREAS, women in the National Guard or reserves for all
27 military branches have been activated in pursuit of the United
28 States' interest in Afghanistan, Iraq, the Philippines, and
29 other foreign nations; and

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1 WHEREAS, the Office of Veterans Services is the single
2 office responsible for the welfare of all veterans and their
3 dependents within the State; and
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5 WHEREAS; the Office of Veterans Services provides veterans
6 and their family members with assistance in filing claims with
7 the Department of Veterans Affairs and serves as a link for
8 programs and services offered by federal and state agencies; and
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10 WHEREAS, a veteran women services coordinator is needed
11 within the Office of Veterans Services to aid female active duty
12 service members and veterans with their specific needs and
13 issues; now, therefore,
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15 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
16 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
17 Session of 2013, the Senate concurring, that the Office of
18 Veterans Services is requested to establish a veteran women
19 services coordinator position; and
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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Veterans Services
22 is requested to appoint as the veteran women services
23 coordinator a veteran or present member or released member of
24 the Hawaii Air or Army National Guard, who was discharged under
25 honorable conditions; and
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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the veteran women services
28 coordinator is requested to:
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- 30 (1) Gather and distribute information about services
31 available to women military members and veterans;
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- 33 (2) Educate counselors within the Office of Veterans
34 Services of the services provided to women veterans;
35 and
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- 37 (3) Attend national conferences and participate in
38 veterans services workshops to ensure that women
39 veterans have a knowledgeable contact person who is
40 able to direct women veterans to appropriate
41 resources; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Adjutant General and
3 the Director of Veterans Services.

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