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# 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 veteran women services  
22 coordinator is requested to:  
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- 24 (1) Gather and distribute information about services  
25 available to women military members and veterans;  
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- 27 (2) Educate counselors within the Office of Veterans  
28 Services of the services provided to women veterans;  
29 and  
30
- 31 (3) Attend national conferences and participate in  
32 veterans services workshops to ensure that women  
33 veterans have a knowledgeable contact person who is  
34 able to direct women veterans to appropriate  
35 resources; and  
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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Veterans Services  
38 is requested to appoint as the veteran women services  
39 coordinator a veteran or present member or released member of  
40 the Hawaii Air or Army National Guard, who was discharged under  
41 honorable conditions; 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.

