
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO MILITARY PERSONNEL AND THEIR FAMILIES.

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

1 SECTION 1. According to the Defense Manpower Data Center,
2 a total of 113,317 service members and their dependents live in
3 Hawaii and comprise about 8.2 per cent of Hawaii's population,
4 according to the 2011 Census Bureau estimate. An economic
5 report produced by The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii indicates
6 that total spending by the armed services in Hawaii was
7 \$6,500,000,000 in 2009, which resulted in direct and indirect
8 impacts exceeding \$12,200,000,000 to Hawaii's economy, and
9 accounted for more than 101,000 jobs and a reported
10 \$3,500,000,000 in household earnings.

11 Thousands of military families move to Hawaii every year,
12 and though Hawaii is part of the United States, the transition
13 to settle in and find a home, enroll children in school, and
14 care for and transport pets is significantly harder in Hawaii
15 than relocating within the continental United States. On some
16 levels, it is as complex as moving overseas to a foreign
17 country. Military moves are trying on families and a financial
18 cost to both the United States government and the family,



1 especially when spousal employment is considered. Many of these
2 issues can be addressed with a robust and universal information
3 center. However, this would just be the first step of
4 transitioning into a new place. Immersion and educational
5 programs would strengthen and provide longevity to the military
6 relocation process.

7 It is evident that the military and their family members
8 play a vital role in Hawaii's economy and compose a significant
9 percentage of its population. It would be in the best interest
10 of Hawaii and the United States Department of Defense to ensure
11 that armed service members not only have a seamless relocation
12 and transition to Hawaii, but also have a way in which to
13 integrate and connect into the community. No such pathway now
14 exists. Currently, service branches located on Oahu retain
15 their own informational and support channels for members
16 relocating to Hawaii. This ad hoc system is disjointed and
17 inefficient for the military members and their families.

18 The purpose of this Act is to create a center for
19 transition, immersion, and education that will act as a
20 stepping-stone for both military members and their families
21 transitioning to Hawaii, and for Hawaii residents to better
22 understand and engage with military members in the State. The



1 center shall be jointly funded by the armed services and the
2 State.

3 SECTION 2. Chapter 201, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
4 amended by adding two new sections to part I to be appropriately
5 designated and to read as follows:

6 "§201- Center for transition, immersion, and education;
7 military members and their families. (a) The department shall
8 establish a center for transition, immersion, and education for
9 military members and their families during their relocation to
10 the State.

11 (b) Activities of the center relating to transition may
12 include but not be limited to:

13 (1) Coordinating with the counties to facilitate the
14 processing of motor vehicle registrations and safety
15 checks on a military base;

16 (2) Disseminating up-to-date on-line information relating
17 to:

18 (A) Pet quarantine and required vaccinations;

19 (B) Motor vehicle registration and safety checks; and

20 (C) Temporary child-care and baby-sitting services;

21 (3) Creating a referral service for child care

22 professionals, home services, and health care; and



1 (4) Coordinating services with the department of education
2 for the enrollment of children of military personnel.

3 (c) Activities of the center relating to immersion may
4 include but not be limited to:

5 (1) Publishing a monthly magazine for military families
6 that outlines local events, restaurants, and
7 opportunities for military members to become
8 acquainted with the culture of the State;

9 (2) Hosting traditional cultural and military events;

10 (3) Promoting and facilitating partnerships between
11 military units and civic organizations;

12 (4) Coordinating community-building events; and

13 (5) Establishing a mutual host family program between
14 military families and local families.

15 (d) Activities of the center relating education may
16 include but not be limited to:

17 (1) Offering the following courses to military members and
18 their families:

19 (A) Cultural immersion, Hawaiian history, and
20 Hawaiian language classes; and

21 (B) The structure and functions of State and county
22 levels of government;



1 (2) Offering courses to Hawaii residents to explain the
2 role of the United States military in national
3 security, and the geopolitical significance of Hawaii;
4 and

5 (3) Sponsoring exchange and educational programs between
6 local elected officials and military base commanders
7 and their support staff.

8 §201- Center for transition, immersion, and education;
9 special fund. (a) There shall be established in the state
10 treasury, to be administered by the department, the center for
11 transition, immersion, and education special fund. Revenues of
12 the fund shall consist of:

- 13 (1) All fees received to operate the center;
14 (2) Appropriations made by the legislature to the fund;
15 (3) Matching funds received from the federal department of
16 defense;
17 (4) Any interest that accrues upon the balance in the
18 fund; and
19 (5) Any other revenues designated for the fund.

20 (b) Moneys in the fund shall be used for administering the
21 center for transition, immersion, and education for military
22 members and their families."



1 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
 2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
 3 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2013-2014 and
 4 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
 5 year 2014-2015 for the creation of a center for transition,
 6 immersion, and education for military members and their
 7 families; provided that no funds shall be made available under
 8 this Act unless the federal Department of Defense provides
 9 matching funds for the purpose for which these sums are
 10 appropriated.

11 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
 12 of defense for the purposes of this Act.

13 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

14 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2013.

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INTRODUCED BY:

[Handwritten signatures and names]
Oliver Foa
Oliver Foa
Oliver Foa
Bryan
Calvin K. Day
James W. Day
Linda Chizama
[Signature]
[Signature]

[Handwritten Signature]
Denny

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H.B. NO. 580

Report Title:

Military; Transition, Immersion, and Education Center;
Appropriation

Description:

Creates a center for transition, immersion, and education for military members and their families during their relocation to Hawaii. Appropriates funds.

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