

JAN 18 2013

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO VETERANS TREATMENT COURT.

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

1 SECTION 1. The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds
2 to support the veterans treatment court, which is intended and
3 designed to recognize the unique needs of veterans entering the
4 criminal justice system with mental illness and substance abuse
5 issues arising from their service to our country.

6 After September 11, 2001, members of the United States
7 armed forces and reserves and the Hawaii national guard were
8 engaged in combat in Afghanistan and Iraq at an unprecedented
9 pace. Recent research confirms that a significant number of
10 soldiers--by some estimates, one in five--return home from war
11 with a combat-related mental health condition, such as
12 post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, sexual
13 trauma, substance abuse, or other mental and emotional health
14 conditions.

15 The first veterans court was established in 2008 in
16 Buffalo, New York. Similar models have subsequently emerged
17 across the country. The goal of these courts is to enhance the
18 effectiveness of the criminal justice system through:



- 1 (1) Early intervention and diversion from incarceration;
- 2 (2) Individualized assessment of problems, including
- 3 those related to substance abuse;
- 4 (3) Judicial tracking and increased judicial involvement
- 5 in monitoring treatment participation using
- 6 incentives for compliance and graduated sanctions
- 7 for noncompliance;
- 8 (4) Encouragement of veterans to accept responsibility
- 9 for their conduct; (
- 10 (5) Provision of a mentor to assist with reintegration;
- 11 and
- 12 (6) Rehabilitation of veterans and their successful
- 13 reintegration into society.

14 Successful intervention by the veterans treatment court is
15 expected to have a long-term impact upon prison overcrowding,
16 the costs of high rates of incarceration, public safety,
17 probation and parole workloads, and case flow through the
18 judicial system.

19 The judiciary is seeking to establish a veterans treatment
20 court in the first circuit, which will require additional
21 personnel to provide case management services and defense and
22 prosecutorial legal services. Accordingly, this measure



1 authorizes additional positions and appropriates funding for the
2 judiciary and public defender's office, and appropriates
3 grant-in-aid funds to the Honolulu prosecutor's office.

4 SECTION 2. (a) The judiciary may establish one full-time
5 equivalent (1.0 FTE) permanent social worker IV position to
6 provide support to the veterans treatment court in the first
7 circuit.

8 (b) There is appropriated out of the general revenues of
9 the State of Hawaii the sum of \$45,576 or so much thereof as may
10 be necessary for fiscal year 2013-2014 and the same sum or so
11 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 to
12 fund the position authorized in subsection (a). The sums
13 appropriated shall be expended by the judiciary for the purposes
14 of this Act.

15 SECTION 3. (a) The department of budget and finance may
16 establish one full-time equivalent (1.00 FTE) permanent deputy
17 public defender position in the office of the public defender to
18 provide support to the veterans treatment court in the first
19 circuit.

20 (b) There is appropriated out of the general revenues of
21 the State of Hawaii the sum of \$112,699 or so much thereof as
22 may be necessary for fiscal year 2013-2014 and the sum of



1 \$111,099 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
2 2014-2015 to fund the position authorized in subsection (a).
3 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department of
4 budget and finance for the purposes of this Act.

5 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
6 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$192,713 or so much
7 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2013-2014 for a
8 grant-in-aid to the department of the prosecuting attorney of
9 the city and county of Honolulu to fund two full-time equivalent
10 (2.0 FTE) temporary deputy prosecuting attorney positions, to
11 provide support to the veterans treatment court in the first
12 circuit. The sum appropriated shall be expended by the
13 department of the prosecuting attorney of the city and county of
14 Honolulu for the purposes of this Act.

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

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INTRODUCED BY: *Amie M. ...*

By Request



S.B. NO. 439

Report Title:

Judiciary Package; Veterans Treatment Court; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds for positions to support a veterans treatment court in the first circuit.

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