

MAR 07 2014

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM TO ESTABLISH A SYSTEM-WIDE PROGRAM TO REQUIRE EACH COLLEGE, COMMUNITY COLLEGE, AND UNIVERSITY TO INCREASE SUPPORT AND SPECIALIZED STUDENT SERVICES TO VETERANS.

1 WHEREAS, as the combat mission draws to a close in Iraq and
2 Afghanistan, Hawaii's service members are returning home in vast
3 numbers and attempting to find employment or pursue higher
4 education; and

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6 WHEREAS, despite a proven work ethic and a philosophy of
7 service above self that are cultivated by military service, new
8 veterans still face a weak economy and high unemployment; and

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10 WHEREAS, according to the United States Department of
11 Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, the unemployment rate
12 reached twenty percent for male veterans age twenty-four and
13 under in 2012; and

14
15 WHEREAS, with an influx of service members comes a
16 heightened need to understand the military community, and the
17 higher education community has indicated a strong desire to
18 better serve this growing population; however, the higher
19 education community admits to a lack of information on how to
20 effectively serve veterans; and

21
22 WHEREAS, understanding veterans' benefits and obtaining
23 credit for military service are among the many hurdles that
24 veterans face on their journey to academic success and
25 employment; and

26
27 WHEREAS, as a result of the advocacy of the Hawaii Alliance
28 of Student Veterans and many of Hawaii's roughly 117,254
29 veterans, it is apparent that Hawaii must provide increased
30 support and specialized student services to returning service
31 members; and



1
2 WHEREAS, the University of Hawaii reported that
3 approximately 13,000 veterans in Hawaii were receiving federal
4 GI benefits, as of fall 2013; however, this number may not
5 reflect all veterans enrolled in the State's colleges and
6 universities because these institutions are not required to
7 track veterans or report enrollment trends, credits accepted,
8 completion rates, or other parameters of success; and
9

10 WHEREAS, Hawaii ranks number one in military commands, yet
11 the State's higher education institutions are behind many other
12 states in implementing military friendly policies in the key
13 areas of veteran support, faculty education, and credit
14 acceptance; and
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16 WHEREAS, within the University of Hawaii System, there is
17 no system-wide program that allows the universities and colleges
18 to communicate amongst each other, which hinders the success of
19 student veterans; and
20

21 WHEREAS, through implementing a system-wide program
22 focusing on veteran success, Hawaii's higher education community
23 will be given clear direction on how to accommodate veterans and
24 the discretion to make decisions that align with each school's
25 overall academic mission; and
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27 WHEREAS, the goal of a system-wide program is to strengthen
28 the understanding of, and empathy for, the veteran experience
29 and bolster investments in veterans' long-term success; and
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31 WHEREAS, institutions of higher learning will become aware
32 of the many differences between student veterans and the
33 traditional college student; develop a deeper understanding of
34 the mental health needs of service members, veterans, and their
35 families; and create relationships with student veterans, both
36 on campus and in the community; now, therefore,
37

38 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-seventh
39 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2014, the
40 House of Representatives concurring, that the University of
41 Hawaii System is urged to establish a system-wide program to
42 require each college, community college, and university to
43 increase support and specialized student services to veterans
44 by:



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- 2 (1) Designating a coordinator to be the single point of
- 3 contact for veterans;
- 4
- 5 (2) Posting veterans' services, programs, withdrawal
- 6 policies for mobilization and deployment, and credit
- 7 transfer policies on websites and other accessible
- 8 places;
- 9
- 10 (3) Tracking veterans through the application process and
- 11 assessing the skills of veterans;
- 12
- 13 (4) Exploring becoming a veteran supportive campus,
- 14 including establishing resource and student centers on
- 15 campus for student veterans and their families and
- 16 student family members of the Armed Forces who are
- 17 currently deployed, and offering community-based
- 18 collaborations to allow the private sector to support
- 19 the resource centers through financial aid and in-kind
- 20 gifts;
- 21
- 22 (5) Providing sensitivity and awareness training on
- 23 military and veterans' culture, including peer
- 24 mentoring and peer support programs;
- 25
- 26 (6) Offering student veteran orientation programs and at
- 27 least one course limited to veterans and taught by a
- 28 veteran or trained volunteer on veterans' issues;
- 29
- 30 (7) Providing outreach to local military bases; and
- 31
- 32 (8) Accepting the American Council on Education's
- 33 recommendation to award credit for military
- 34 experience, developing policies relating to military
- 35 transfer credit, publishing concise information
- 36 explaining the credit process, expanding agreements to
- 37 include credit for military training, and expediting
- 38 decisions regarding transfer of credit; and
- 39
- 40



S.C.R. NO. 85

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
3 Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii, President of the
4 University of Hawaii System, and Chancellors of each campus of
5 the University of Hawaii System.
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