

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

3551

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 08 2016

RE: H.B. No. 2489  
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
President of the Senate  
Twenty-Eighth State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2016  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Ways and Means, to which was referred H.B. No. 2489 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to appropriate funds for the establishment of a veterans service counselor IV position within the State Office of Veterans' Services to assist all veterans, with a primary focus on female veterans.

Your Committee received written comments in support of this measure from the State Office of Veterans' Services, Hawaii State Democratic Women's Caucus, LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii, The Sex Abuse Treatment Center, and one individual.

Your Committee finds that women have served in the armed services throughout the nation's history. Currently, women constitute approximately fifteen per cent of the United States Armed Forces. Women are expected to exceed ten per cent of the total veteran population by the year 2020.

Your Committee also finds that female veterans have certain service needs that are separate from their male counterparts. However, veterans' benefits services are often designed to address the needs of male veterans rather than those of female veterans. Your Committee believes that a new counselor position within the State Office of Veterans' Services that primarily focuses on



assisting female veterans will help address the unique needs of female veterans.


Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Replacing its contents with the contents of Senate Bill No. 3113, S.D. 1, part I of which is substantially similar to this bill, and part II of which includes an appropriation for military and veterans commemoration events; and
- (2) Changing the effective date to July 1, 2076, to facilitate further discussion on the measure.

Your Committee notes that various proposals are being considered this session that would provide funding for different military and veteran commemoration events, such as anniversary events for the Vietnam War and Pearl Harbor attack. There is also a \$437,000 grant request being considered by the Legislature. Your Committee believes it is important that funding for these events continues to be considered, whether through the budget, a grant, or a separate bill. Accordingly, your Committee respectfully requests that the Administration indicate its preference for a funding mechanism for these events.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Ways and Means that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 2489, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Third Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 2489, S.D. 1.

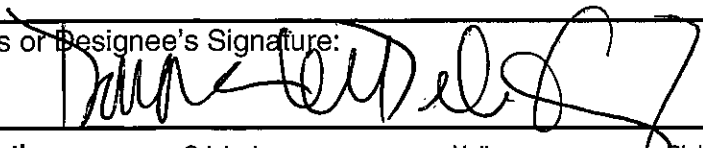
Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Ways and Means,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
JILL N. TOKUDA, Chair



The Senate  
Twenty-Eighth Legislature  
State of Hawai'i

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Ways and Means**  
**WAM**

Bill / Resolution No.:* <b>HB 2489</b>	Committee Referral: <b>PSM, WAM</b>	Date: <b>3/28/16</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
TOKUDA, Jill N. (C)	/			
DELA CRUZ, Donovan M. (VC)	/			
CHUN OAKLAND, Suzanne				/
ENGLISH, J. Kalani				/
GALUTERIA, Brickwood	/			
HARIMOTO, Breene				/
INOUYE, Lorraine R.	/			
RIVIERE, Gil	/			
TANIGUCHI, Brian T.	/			
WAKAI, Glenn				/
SLOM, Sam	/			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7</b>			<b>4</b>
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
Distribution:             Original     Yellow     Pink     Goldenrod File with Committee Report     Clerk's Office     Drafting Agency     Committee File Copy				

\*Only one measure per Record of Votes