

Honolulu, Hawaii  
February 16, 2018

RE: H.B. No. 2445  
H.D. 1

Honorable Scott K. Saiki  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Twenty-Ninth State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2018  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Veterans, Military, & International  
Affairs, & Culture and the Arts, to which was referred H.B. No.  
2445 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO DIVORCE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to protect the disability  
benefits earned by disabled veterans by prohibiting courts from  
considering federal disability benefits awarded to a military  
veteran when determining the disposition of property pursuant to a  
divorce decree.

The Office of Veterans Services, National Association for  
Uniformed Services Hawaii Chapter (HI-1), and a concerned  
individual testified in support of this measure.

Your Committee notes that it was made aware that the Supreme  
Court of the United States may have already rendered a decision  
that makes this measure unnecessary. However, the Department of  
the Attorney General was unable to provide information to your  
Committee on this matter prior to, or at the hearing.  
Accordingly, your Committee finds that this measure should  
continue to be discussed to determine if it is necessary and  
requests the Department of the Attorney General to present this



information to the Committee on Judiciary should it deliberate this measure further.

Your Committee has amended this measure by changing its effective date to March 19, 2100, to facilitate further discussion.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Veterans, Military, & International Affairs, & Culture and the Arts that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 2445, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 2445, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Judiciary.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Veterans,  
Military, & International  
Affairs, & Culture and the  
Arts,

  
MATTHEW S. LORESTI, Chair



State of Hawaii  
House of Representatives  
The Twenty-ninth Legislature

HSCR 735-18

**Record of Votes of the Committee on Veterans, Military, & International Affairs, & Culture  
and the Arts**

<b>Bill/Resolution No.:</b> HB 2445	<b>Committee Referral:</b> VMI, JUD	<b>Date:</b> 2/15/2018		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
<b>The recommendation is to:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
VMI Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. LoPRESTI, Matthew S. (C)	X			
2. FUKUMOTO, Beth (VC)	X			
3. CACHOLA, Romy M.	X			
4. CHOY, Isaac W.	X			
5. ITO, Ken	X			
6. OHNO, Takashi	X			
7. ONISHI, Richard H.K.	X			
8. TOKIOKA, James Kunane	X			
9. WOODSON, Justin H.				X
10. WARD, Gene	X			
<b>TOTAL (10)</b>	9			1
<b>The recommendation is:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ committed acronym(s) did not support recommendation.				
<b>Vice Chair's or designee's signature:</b>				
<b>Distribution:</b> Original (White) – Committee    Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office    Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				