
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PENSION AND RETIREMENT SYSTEMS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds the Peace Corps to be an
2 imminently important program. Created by President Kennedy in
3 the turbulence of the 1960's, its purpose was to advance peace
4 and friendship throughout the world. Today the organization
5 continues to plant the seeds of understanding and assistance
6 between peoples in a divisive world.

7 The legislature also finds that individuals who volunteer
8 for service with the Peace Corps are deserving of recognition
9 and credit for their time in service. They embody the lofty
10 ideals of compassion and altruism, which are needed as much
11 today as ever. Therefore, those who serve in the Peace Corps
12 should be given service credit in the state's pension and
13 retirement system, on par with what is given to those who serve
14 in the military.

15 SECTION 2. Chapter 88, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended
16 by adding a new section to part II to be appropriately
17 designated and to read as follows:



1 "§88- Credit for Peace Corps Service. Whenever used in
2 this section "Peace Corps service" means time spent as a
3 volunteer with the Peace Corps that has been documented through
4 a Certificate of Service issued by the Peace Corps.

5 (a) Any employee who becomes a member of the system in
6 accordance with section 88-42 after July 1, 2020, and has
7 rendered service in the Peace Corps, may be credited with
8 membership service credit for Peace Corps service of up to four
9 years or the actual number of years of peace corps service,
10 whichever is less, as follows:

11 (1) Any member with ten years of credited service in the
12 system may be credited with up to two years of
13 membership service credit;
14 (2) Any member with twenty years of credited service in
15 the system may be credited with up to three years of
16 membership service credit; and
17 (3) Any member with twenty-five years of credited service
18 in the system may be credited with up to four years of
19 membership service credit.

20 (b) Any employee who became a member of the system in
21 accordance with section 88-42 before June 30, 2020, and has



1 rendered service in the Peace Corps, may be credited with
2 membership service credit for Peace Corps service of up to four
3 years or the actual number of years of Peace Corps service,
4 whichever is less, as follows:

5 (1) Any member with eight years of credited service in the
6 system may be credited with up to two years of
7 membership service credit;

8 (2) Any member with twenty years of credited service in
9 the system may be credited with up to three years of
10 membership service credit; and

11 (3) Any member with twenty-five years of credited service
12 in the system may be credited with up to four years of
13 membership service credit.

14 (c) Any retiree receiving a pension or retirement
15 allowance under this chapter, who retired prior to July 1, 2020,
16 who rendered service in the Peace Corps and who had at least
17 eight years of credited service in the system at retirement,
18 shall be eligible for an increase in pension or retirement
19 allowance for each year of Peace Corps service up to four years,
20 as follows:



- 1 (1) A retiree with eight years of credited service in the
2 system at retirement may be certified with up to two
3 years of Peace Corps service;
- 4 (2) A retiree with twenty years of credited service in the
5 system at retirement may be certified with up to three
6 years of Peace Corps service; and
- 7 (3) A retiree with twenty-five years of credited service
8 in the system at retirement may be certified with up
9 to four years of Peace Corps service.
- 10 Upon certification by the system, each year of certified Peace
11 Corps service shall provide an increase of \$36 a month in the
12 retiree's pension or retirement allowance effective July 1,
13 2020; provided that the retiree claims the Peace Corps service
14 between July 1, 2020, and June 30, 2021. Peace Corps service
15 certified under this subsection shall not be considered
16 membership service credit nor shall it provide for any other
17 benefits under this chapter.
- 18 (d) For the purposes of subsections (a) and (b), the
19 latest membership date shall be used if there is a change in
20 membership date due to termination and re-entry into the system.



1 (e) Any retiree who returns to employment, is reenrolled
2 as a member of the system, and has at least three years of
3 credited service in the system during the period of reemployment
4 may be credited with membership service credit for active Peace
5 Corps service as provided in subsection (a) or (b); provided
6 that membership service credit shall be based upon the member's
7 total service and the service was not previously certified in
8 accordance with subsection (c).

9 (g) A member's Peace Corps service shall be considered
10 service in the member's occupation at the time that service is
11 credited. A class A or class B member's Peace Corps service
12 shall be purchased at the rate specified in section 88-45 and
13 the retirement allowance provided by that service shall be
14 calculated as provided in section 88-74. A class C member's
15 Peace Corps service shall be credited at no cost upon
16 certification by the system and the retirement allowance
17 provided by that service shall be calculated as provided in
18 section 88-282. A class H member's Peace Corps service shall be
19 purchased at the rate specified in section 88-325, and the
20 retirement allowance provided by that service shall be
21 calculated as provided in section 88-332.



1 (h) Any violation of this section shall result in the
 2 forfeiture of the amount of the purchase of membership service
 3 and loss of benefits and membership service credit for Peace
 4 Corps service. "

5 SECTION 2. New statutory material is underscored.

6 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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H.B. NO. 2727

Report Title:

Peace Corps Service Credit

Description:

This bill allows state and county employees who served in the Peace Corps up to four years credit in service time towards state retirement and pension plans.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

