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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO VOLUNTEER MONTH.

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

1       SECTION 1. The legislature finds that statistics released  
2   in November 2018 by the Corporation for National and Community  
3   Service, also known as Americorps, show that approximately  
4   seventy-seven million Americans volunteered a total of nearly  
5   seven billion hours in 2017, which is estimated to be worth  
6   \$167,000,000,000 in value.

7       The legislature acknowledges that many public agencies and  
8   private organizations in small towns, rural counties, and even  
9   the largest cities would not be able to function without the  
10   services provided by volunteers. From the anonymous volunteers  
11   who donate their resources to those whose efforts are part of a  
12   national organization or local grassroots group, volunteers  
13   provide valuable support to communities in times of need,  
14   including services such as fundraising; preparing, distributing,  
15   or serving food; mentoring youth; engaging in general labor;  
16   supplying transportation; providing professional or management  
17   assistance; supporting and staffing fire and ambulance  
18   departments; and providing medical care. The legislature also



1 recognizes that volunteerism strengthens the foundation of  
2 neighborhoods and communities, as it magnifies one's ability to  
3 perform good works and contribute to the greater good, and  
4 creates social momentum that increases the volunteer's desire to  
5 engage fully with the community.

6 The legislature also finds that in 1974, the United States,  
7 through presidential proclamation, designated the third week of  
8 April as National Volunteer Week to support, extend, and enhance  
9 the vital and valuable services offered by volunteers. Since  
10 then, National Volunteer Week has grown exponentially with  
11 thousands of volunteer projects and special events scheduled  
12 throughout the week. The legislature also acknowledges that in  
13 1991, the month of April became National Volunteer Month as part  
14 of President George H. W. Bush's A Thousand Points of Light  
15 campaign, as a month dedicated to honoring the volunteers in  
16 communities and encouraging volunteerism.

17 The selfless dedication of services by volunteers in the  
18 country has been essential, especially while the nation  
19 confronted and continues to recover from the challenges caused  
20 by the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic. Countless individuals  
21 volunteered their time, effort, and skills to administer



1 vaccines; staff vaccination centers; conduct testing and contact  
2 tracing; and provide food, water, and other necessities to  
3 individuals who were required to stay home during this hardship.  
4 In recognition of the enduring contributions of these  
5 volunteers, on April 16, 2021, President Joseph R. Biden issued  
6 a proclamation designating April 18 through April 24, 2021, as  
7 National Volunteer Week, calling upon all Americans to observe  
8 the week by volunteering in service projects across the country  
9 and pledging to make service a part of their daily lives.

10 The purpose of this Act is to designate the month of April  
11 of each year as the State's volunteer month to honor volunteers  
12 in the community and encourage participation in service projects  
13 throughout the month.

14 SECTION 2. Chapter 8, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended  
15 by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to  
16 read as follows:

17 "§8- Volunteer Month. The month of April shall be known  
18 and designated as "Volunteer Month" to honor volunteers in the  
19 community and encourage participation in service projects  
20 throughout the month. This month is not and shall not be  
21 construed as a state holiday."



- 1 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.
- 2 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2022.



**Report Title**

Volunteer Month; April

**Description:**

Designates the month of April of each year as the State's Volunteer Month; provided that the month is not construed as a state holiday. Takes effect 7/1/2022. (CD1)

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

