

MAR 08 2022

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO RAISE THE MINIMUM AGE FOR
MILITARY COMBAT SERVICE TO TWENTY-ONE YEARS OF AGE.

1 WHEREAS, young adults are eligible to enlist in the United
2 States Armed Forces at eighteen years of age, or seventeen years
3 of age, with parental permission; and
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5 WHEREAS, neuroscience shows that adolescents' brains
6 continue to develop until approximately twenty-five years of
7 age, with the prefrontal cortex developing last; and
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9 WHEREAS, the prefrontal cortex is responsible for impulse
10 control, problem solving, and the ability to understand long-
11 term consequences; and
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13 WHEREAS, until the prefrontal cortex is fully developed,
14 adolescent brains operate primarily from the amygdala, which is
15 associated with emotion, aggression, and impulsive behavior; and
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17 WHEREAS, based on these developmental milestones,
18 adolescent military recruits may not be neurologically equipped
19 or sufficiently experienced to make life-or-death decisions in
20 combat situations; and
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22 WHEREAS, new recruits may need additional training to allow
23 them to become quick-thinking leaders in volatile and unexpected
24 situations; and
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26 WHEREAS, raising the minimum age for combat eligibility
27 would provide the military services the opportunity to better
28 train young recruits and to prepare them for battlefield
29 realities, including the possibility of injury, capture, or
30 death; and
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S.C.R. NO. 39

1 WHEREAS, providing additional training for young recruits
2 would help the military services develop a ready pool of well-
3 prepared, fully-capable, and combat-ready forces; now,
4 therefore,

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6 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
7 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022, the
8 House of Representatives concurring, that the United States
9 Congress is urged to raise the minimum age for military combat
10 service to twenty-one years of age; and

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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
13 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the
14 United States, Chairperson of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and all
15 members of the United States Congress.

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18 OFFERED BY:

Kurt Fessler

