

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



GOV. MSG. NO. 1219

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

May 29, 2025

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate,
and Members of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

The Honorable Nadine Nakamura
Speaker, and Members of the
House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Aloha President Kouchi, Speaker Nakamura, and Members of the Legislature:

This is to inform you that on May 29, 2025, the following bill was signed into law:

S.B. NO. 1377, S.D. 2,
H.D. 1, C.D. 1

RELATING TO VETERANS CEMETERIES.
ACT 119

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Josh Green M.D.".

Josh Green, M.D.
Governor, State of Hawai'i

on MAY 29 2025

THE SENATE
THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE, 2025
STATE OF HAWAII

ACT 119
S.B. NO. 1377
S.D. 2
H.D. 1
C.D. 1

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO VETERANS CEMETERIES.

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

1 SECTION 1. The purpose of this Act is to establish the
2 veterans cemeteries board, composed of representatives from
3 federal, state, and county departments and agencies, to provide
4 veterans cemeteries in the State with guidance, education,
5 technical assistance, and other support to ensure compliance
6 with standards set by the National Cemetery Administration of
7 the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

8 SECTION 2. Chapter 363, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
9 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
10 and to read as follows:

11 "§363- Veterans cemeteries board. (a) There shall be
12 established the veterans cemeteries board within the office in
13 the department of defense for administrative purposes only. The
14 veterans cemeteries board shall:

15 (1) Identify compliance issues faced by veterans
16 cemeteries in the State, the resources needed, and the
17 challenges encountered by departments or agencies that



1 manage veterans cemeteries, and work collaboratively
2 to resolve any issues;

3 (2) Devise solutions to address the issues identified in
4 paragraph (1) and implement the solutions
5 collaboratively with the state and county departments
6 and agencies represented on the board;

7 (3) Seek resources, including funding, legislative
8 initiatives, and intergovernmental program support;
9 and

10 (4) Interact with and invite interested community
11 agencies, organizations, stakeholders, and veterans
12 and citizens to participate in discussions and board
13 meetings.

14 (b) The veterans cemeteries board shall consist of the
15 following members:

16 (1) The director, or the director's designee, who shall
17 serve as the chairperson of the board;

18 (2) A representative of the National Memorial Cemetery of
19 the Pacific, by invitation of the director;

20 (3) The director of the department within the county of
21 Hawaii that is responsible for operating and



1 maintaining the county's veterans cemeteries, or the
2 director's designee;

3 (4) The director of the department within the county of
4 Kauai that is responsible for operating and
5 maintaining the county's veterans cemeteries, or the
6 director's designee;

7 (5) The director of the department within the county of
8 Maui that is responsible for operating and maintaining
9 the county's veterans cemeteries, or the director's
10 designee; and

11 (6) The cemetery operations manager of the Hawaii state
12 veterans cemetery, or the manager's designee.

13 The members of the veterans cemeteries board shall serve
14 without compensation but may be reimbursed for necessary
15 expenses, including travel expenses, incurred in the performance
16 of their duties. A majority of the members of the veterans
17 cemeteries board shall constitute a quorum for the conduct of
18 the business of the board. A majority vote of the members
19 present at a meeting at which a quorum is established shall be
20 necessary to validate any action of the veterans cemeteries
21 board.



1 (c) The veterans cemeteries board shall develop strategies
2 and make recommendations to meet compliance standards set by the
3 National Cemetery Administration of the United States Department
4 of Veterans Affairs. In developing the recommendations, the
5 veterans cemeteries board shall create, develop, and adopt a
6 statewide framework, which shall include:

7 (1) A clear understanding of the compliance standards for
8 cemetery grounds and maintenance set by the National
9 Cemetery Administration;

10 (2) Strategies and recommendations for grounds and
11 maintenance best practices to address the various
12 challenges and conditions of each cemetery location;
13 and

14 (3) A standardized system of data collection and
15 information sharing to support the intergovernmental
16 efforts of the board.

17 (d) The office shall provide necessary staff and other
18 support required by the veterans cemeteries board for the
19 performance of its duties.

20 (e) The veterans cemeteries board shall submit a report of
21 the board's findings and recommendations, including any proposed



1 legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior
2 to the convening of each regular session."

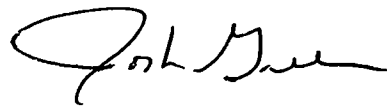
3 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

4 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



S.B. NO. 1377
S.D. 2
H.D. 1
C.D. 1

APPROVED this 29th day of May, 2025

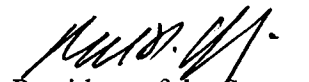
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josh Green", is written above the title of the Governor.


GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF HAWAI‘I

Date: April 30, 2025
Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96813

We hereby certify that the foregoing Bill this day passed Final Reading in the Senate
of the Thirty-Third Legislature of the State of Hawai‘i, Regular Session of 2025.


President of the Senate


Clerk of the Senate

SB No. 1377, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

Date: April 30, 2025
Honolulu, Hawaii

We hereby certify that the above-referenced Bill on this day passed Final Reading in the House of Representatives of the Thirty-Third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025.



Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker
House of Representatives



Brian L. Takeshita
Chief Clerk
House of Representatives