
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 bill 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 main responsibilities of the veterans cemeteries board shall be
15 as follows:

16 (1) Identify compliance issues faced by veterans
17 cemeteries in the State, resources needed, and



1 challenges encountered by departments or agencies that
2 manage veterans cemeteries and work collaboratively to
3 resolve issues;

4 (2) Devise solutions to address the issues identified
5 under paragraph (1) and implement the solutions
6 through a cross-representation of the state and county
7 departments and agencies on the board;

8 (3) Seek resource solutions including funding, legislative
9 initiatives, and intergovernmental program support;
10 and

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

15 (b) The veterans cemeteries board shall be comprised of
16 the following members:

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

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



1 (3) The director of the department within the county of
2 Maui responsible for operating and maintaining the
3 county's veterans cemeteries, or the director's
4 designee;

5 (4) The director of the department within the county of
6 Hawaii responsible for operating and maintaining the
7 county's veterans cemeteries, or the director's
8 designee;

9 (5) The director of the department within the county of
10 Kauai responsible for operating and maintaining the
11 county's veterans cemeteries, or the director's
12 designee; and

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

15 The members of the veterans cemeteries board shall serve
16 without compensation but may be reimbursed for necessary
17 expenses, including travel expenses, incurred in the performance
18 of their duties. A majority of the members of the veterans
19 cemeteries board shall constitute a quorum for the conduct of
20 business of the board. A majority vote of the members present



1 at a meeting at which a quorum is established shall be necessary
2 to validate any action of the veterans cemeteries board.

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

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

12 (2) Strategies and recommendations for grounds and
13 maintenance best practices to address the varying
14 challenges and conditions of each cemetery location;
15 and

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

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



- 1 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.
- 2 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



Report Title:

DOD; Office of Veterans' Services; Veterans Cemeteries Board;
Veterans Cemeteries

Description:

Establishes the Veterans Cemeteries Board within the Office of Veterans' Services of the Department of Defense to provide veterans cemeteries in the State with guidance, education, technical assistance, and other support to ensure compliance with standards set by the National Cemetery Administration of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. (SD1)

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