

FEB 07 2008

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF VETERANS' SERVICES TO ADOPT A POLICY TO ENSURE A MINIMUM REPRESENTATION OF FEMALES ON THE POLICY ADVISORY BOARD ON VETERANS' SERVICES.

1 WHEREAS, section 363-3.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, creates
2 the policy advisory board on veterans' services within the
3 Office of Veterans' Services; and
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5 WHEREAS, the policy advisory board on veterans' services
6 consists of nine members appointed by the Governor as provided
7 by law;, with five members to be veterans and one each residing
8 in each of the Counties of Maui and Kauai; and
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10 WHEREAS, of the nine board members, five are veterans and
11 the totality of the membership is geographically prescribed; and
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13 WHEREAS, there is no provision in current law for the
14 required representation of female board members; and
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16 WHEREAS, females comprise a growing and significant number
17 of military personnel and veterans; and
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19 WHEREAS, in recognition of the importance of women veterans
20 and women veteran issues, the United States Department of
21 Veterans Affairs has established a Center for Women Veterans and
22 an Advisory Committee on Women Veterans (Public Law 98-169); and
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24 WHEREAS, the Advisory Committee on Women Veterans assesses
25 the needs of women veterans, with respect to Veterans Affairs
26 programs such as compensation, rehabilitation, outreach,
27 healthcare, etc. The Committee reviews Veterans Affairs'
28 programs, activities, research projects and other initiatives
29 designed to meet the needs of women veterans and makes
30 recommendations to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on ways to
31 improve, modify, and affect change in programs and services for
32 women veterans and follows up on all those recommendations; and



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WHEREAS, as a matter of policy, the Office of Veterans' Services should ensure that women are represented on the policy advisory board on veterans' services; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008, the House of Representatives concurring, that the Office of Veterans' Services is requested to adopt a policy to ensure a minimum representation of females on the policy advisory board on veterans' services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Veterans' Services report on its adoption of a policy to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2009, including the number of present members who are female and the number and percentage of female veterans in Hawaii in relation to the total number of veterans; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of the Office of Veterans' Services.

OFFERED BY: *Josephine R. Young*
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