

MAZIE K. HIRONO
2ND DISTRICT, HAWAII

MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Congresswoman Hirono supports Wounded Warrior Act to correct conditions at military hospitals

Congresswoman Mazie K. Hirono voted last night to support the Wounded Warrior Assistance Act, which will help correct the deficiencies recently exposed by the *Washington Post* at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center. The bill will improve the delivery of medical and rehabilitation services at military and Veterans' Affairs (VA) hospitals nationwide.

Hirono, in remarks made in favor of the bill, stated that the act will provide the basic services that the injured soldiers deserve. One key provision mandates that case managers and advocates who be available to assist recovering and incapacitated patients in overcoming any bureaucratic hurdles so they can quickly receive needed care. The bill also funds improved training of health care professionals and better monitoring of patients to ease their transition from military hospitals to the VA medical care system.

Hirono said, "The Walter Reed experience showed that we cannot rely on the current system to provide these basic services and care. I am particularly pleased with the attention we will finally pay to the mental injuries, such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder that can be as crippling and incapacitating to our soldiers and veterans as physical injuries. These brave troops, who suffered severe physical, as well as mental injuries, shamefully did not receive proper treatment after faithfully serving their country.

H.R. 1538 properly recognizes the sacrifices our troops have made and provides the long overdue care and medical services our troops should expect from their government.”

The bill, which passed unanimously, follows House passage of the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations bill last week that approved \$2.8 billion for health care services for wounded and incapacitated military personnel and \$1.7 billion for veterans’ health care programs, in addition to setting a timetable for withdrawal of U.S. troops.

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