
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO ALLOW MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVES WHO ARE STILL RECOVERING FROM ILLNESSES OR INJURIES INCURRED IN THE LINE OF DUTY WHILE MOBILIZED FOR DEPLOYMENT TO IRAQ OR AFGHANISTAN, AND WHO HAVE EITHER BEEN DISCHARGED FOR MEDICAL REASONS OR RELEASED FROM ACTIVE DUTY TO THEIR RESERVE COMPONENT UNITS, TO CONTINUE TO HAVE ACCESS TO DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE MEDICAL FACILITIES ON THE SAME BASIS AS ACTIVE DUTY SERVICE MEMBERS, OR TO RECEIVE TRICARE COVERAGE ON THE SAME BASIS AS RETIREES.

1 WHEREAS, thousands of members of the National Guard and
2 Reserves across the nation have been mobilized onto federal
3 active duty for service in and deployed to Iraq, Afghanistan, or
4 both; and

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6 WHEREAS, many reserve component military service members
7 have sustained injuries or illnesses in the line of duty that
8 have caused them to be placed in military retention processing
9 units (MRPUs) on "medical hold" status in various military
10 facilities around the county; and

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12 WHEREAS, the Legislature understands that several dozen
13 reserve component military service members are now on medical
14 hold status in Hawaii; and

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16 WHEREAS, the Legislature understands that it is a fairly
17 common practice to give these individuals one year after their
18 return from deployment in which to heal, at which point they are
19 reevaluated and frequently either given a medical discharge or
20 released from active duty to their National Guard or Reserve
21 units; and

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1 WHEREAS, while the one year time limit may serve as a
2 simple and clear standard for purposes of the United States
3 Department of Defense military policy, the reality for many of
4 these individuals is that one year is simply an inadequate
5 amount of time to heal from serious physical or mental illnesses
6 or injuries sustained in the line of duty; and
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8 WHEREAS, the United States Department of Defense is
9 understandably cognizant of and concerned about the costs of
10 keeping reserve component military service members on active
11 duty for lengthy periods of time while they recover from
12 illnesses or injuries; and
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14 WHEREAS, the injured reserve component military service
15 members in Hawaii are very concerned that their discharge from
16 the military or being released from active duty to their reserve
17 component units will terminate their eligibility for medical
18 care at the United States Department of Defense medical
19 facilities at which they have been treated; and
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21 WHEREAS, with the termination of this eligibility, these
22 reserve component military service members will have to rely
23 upon either their private or employer sponsored health
24 insurance, or facilities operated by the Veterans'
25 Administration of the United States Department of Veterans'
26 Affairs; and
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28 WHEREAS, the extensive media coverage of overcrowded and
29 understaffed Veterans' Administration facilities and programs in
30 recent years leaves many injured reserve component military
31 service members very concerned about the care they will receive;
32 and
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34 WHEREAS, many ill and injured reserve component military
35 service members would, if given a choice, prefer to continue to
36 receive treatment at the United States Department of Defense
37 medical facilities after they have been discharged or released
38 from active duty to their reserve component units; and
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40 WHEREAS, this could be accomplished by allowing this
41 relatively small group of reserve component military service
42 members to either:
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1 (1) Continue to be treated at the United States Department
 2 of Defense medical facilities on the same basis as
 3 active duty service members after they have been
 4 discharged or released from active duty to their
 5 reserve component units; or

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 7 (2) Provide them with coverage under the military's
 8 Tricare program on the same basis as military
 9 retirees; and
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 11 until such time as they have recovered completely from illnesses
 12 or injuries incurred in the line of duty after mobilization for
 13 deployment to either Iraq or Afghanistan; and

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 15 WHEREAS, either alternative, while not without cost, would
 16 be only a fraction of the cost of some proposals now in
 17 Congress, such as to provide Tricare coverage to all reserve
 18 component military service members; now, therefore,

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 20 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 21 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
 22 Session of 2007, the Senate concurring, that the United States
 23 Department of Defense is requested to allow reserve component
 24 military service members who have sustained illnesses or
 25 injuries in the line of duty after mobilization for deployment
 26 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring
 27 Freedom to either:

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 29 (1) Continue to be treated at the United States Department
 30 of Defense medical facilities on the same basis as
 31 active duty service members after they have been
 32 discharged or released from active duty to their
 33 reserve component units; or

34
 35 (2) Provide them with coverage under the military's
 36 Tricare program on the same basis as military
 37 retirees; and
 38
 39 until such time as they have recovered completely from illnesses
 40 or injuries incurred in the line of duty after mobilization for
 41 deployment to either Iraq or Afghanistan; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Hawaii's congressional
2 delegation is requested to take any and all appropriate actions
3 to enact legislation or to work with the United States
4 Department of Defense to implement these policy changes
5 administratively; and

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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
8 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the
9 United States, the United States Secretary of Defense, the
10 members of Hawaii's congressional delegation, the Governor, and
11 the Adjutant General.

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14 OFFERED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark L. ...", is written over a horizontal line.

MAR 14 2007

