HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE AND SUBCOMMITTEE ON MILITARY PERSONNEL TO ACT FAVORABLY ON H.R. 2148 AND TO REPORT THE BILL TO THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FOR FURTHER ACTION.

WHEREAS, Title 5 United States Code section 2108 defines the term "disabled veteran" to mean an individual who has served on active duty on the armed forces, has been separated therefrom under honorable conditions, and has established the present existence of a service-connected disability or is receiving compensation, disability retirement benefits, or pension because of a public statute administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs or a military department; and

WHEREAS, according to the United States Census, there were 21,900,000 military veterans residing in the United States in 2009; and

WHEREAS, of those veterans, 3,300,000 had a service-connected disability, with 652,000 having a disability rating of at least seventy per cent; and

WHEREAS, the Defense Commissary Agency was established under the authority, direction, control, and overall supervision of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Defense Commissary Agency is to provide an efficient and effective worldwide system of commissaries for the resale of groceries and related household items at reduced prices to members of the uniformed services, retired members, dependents of members, and other authorized patrons, to enhance their quality of life and to support military readiness, recruitment, and retention; and

WHEREAS, the quality of life and ability to earn income may be limited for a veteran with a service-connected disability, regardless of the assigned disability rating; and

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WHEREAS, authorized commissary patrons include disabled veterans with a disability rating of one hundred per cent; and

WHEREAS, disabled veterans with a disability rating of less than one hundred per cent are restricted in accessing commissary services; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 2148, the Disabled Veterans Commissary and Exchange Store Benefits Act, which would amend Title 10 of the United States Code to extend military commissary and exchange store privileges to veterans with a compensable service-connected disability and to their dependents, has been introduced and is pending in the United States House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 2148 has been referred to the United States House of Representatives Armed Services Committee and Subcommittee on Military Personnel; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2012, that the United States House of Representatives Armed Services Committee and Subcommittee on Military Personnel are urged to act favorably on H.R. 2148 and to report the bill to the United States House of Representatives for further action; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, regardless of an assigned disability rating, the Defense Commissary Agency is urged to allow all disabled veterans authorized access to commissary facilities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the President, Secretary of Defense, Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, Director of the Defense Commissary Agency, Majority Leader of the United States Senate, Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and members of Hawaii's congressional delegation.

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Robert Child Even

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