
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING CONGRESS AND HAWAII'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO SUPPORT
THE VETERANS HEALTH AND BENEFITS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2013,
AND SUPPORT THE RECOGNITION AS VETERANS OF THOSE WHO SERVE
IN THE NATIONAL GUARD.

1 WHEREAS, the National Guard's roots date back to 1636; when
2 colonial militias made up of ordinary citizens would put down
3 their plows and pick up weapons to protect families and towns
4 from hostile attacks; and

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6 WHEREAS, commonly known as citizen-soldiers, members of
7 today's National Guard hold civilian jobs or attend college
8 while maintaining their military training part-time, always
9 ready to defend the American way of life in the event of an
10 emergency; and

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12 WHEREAS, while the National Guard originally focused on
13 protecting local communities, it eventually grew into a force
14 that complements the active-duty military when help is needed
15 anywhere in the world, including serving overseas in combat-
16 deployment roles; and

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18 WHEREAS, although the National Guard's primary area of
19 operation is the National Guard unit's home state, National
20 Guard members are often called on by the President of the United
21 States to respond to, among other things, homeland security
22 missions, domestic emergencies, counterdrug efforts, and
23 reconstruction missions in addition to overseas combat missions;
24 and

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26 WHEREAS, while many National Guard members have similar
27 duties and perform similar functions to their counterparts in
28 the active-duty military, Title 38, United States Code, excludes
29 from the definition of veteran, career reserve-component members



1 who have not served on active duty under Title 10, United States
2 Code, for other than training purposes; and

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4 WHEREAS, a portion of the Veterans Health and Benefits
5 Improvement Act of 2013, or S. 944, would honor as veterans "any
6 person who is entitled under chapter 1223 of Title 10, United
7 States Code, to retired pay for nonregular service or, but for
8 age, would be entitled under such chapter to retired pay for
9 nonregular service"; and

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11 WHEREAS, this cost-neutral provision would not bestow any
12 benefits other than the honor of claiming veteran status for
13 nearly 300,000 men and women who honorably served and sacrificed
14 as career reserve-component members, giving these individuals
15 the respect they deserve for their uniformed service to the
16 United States; now, therefore,

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18 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
19 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
20 Session of 2014, the Senate concurring, that Congress, including
21 Hawaii's Congressional delegation, is urged to support the
22 Veterans Health and Benefits Improvement Act of 2013,
23 particularly the section providing those serving in the National
24 Guard with veteran status; and

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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
27 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Speaker of the
28 United States House of Representatives, President Pro Tempore of
29 the United States Senate, and Hawaii's Congressional delegation.

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OFFERED BY:

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