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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO VETERANS.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that many of the State's  
2 citizens are veterans of the armed forces and have skills that  
3 could be employed in projects that help protect and restore  
4 Hawaii's streams and watersheds and help protect natural  
5 resources from invasive species. These types of work have  
6 demonstrated benefits for many veterans who are coping with  
7 post-traumatic stress disorder or have other mental health or  
8 substance use disorders related to their service in the armed  
9 forces.

10           The legislature further finds that participation in  
11 environmental protection and restoration efforts provides an  
12 opportunity for veterans to obtain on-the-job training, which in  
13 turn can lead to certification in specific skill sets and  
14 living-wage employment in environmental protection and  
15 restoration.

16           The purpose of this Act is to pursue the establishment of a  
17 veterans conservation corps program to assist veterans in



1 obtaining training, certification, and employment in the areas  
2 of environmental protection, restoration, and management.

3 SECTION 2. (a) The office of veterans' services within  
4 the department of defense shall conduct a study on the  
5 feasibility of establishing a veterans conservation corps  
6 program to assist veterans in obtaining training, certification,  
7 and employment in the areas of environmental protection,  
8 restoration, and management. The study shall:

- 9 (1) Analyze steps necessary to establish and administer  
10 the program;
- 11 (2) Evaluate possible enrollment procedures;
- 12 (3) Develop a list of specific volunteer projects,  
13 training opportunities, and certifications in the  
14 areas of environmental protection, restoration, and  
15 management;
- 16 (4) Project the costs to establish and administer the  
17 program; and
- 18 (5) Include an analysis of the administration of the  
19 program by a private non-profit organization or  
20 through a partnership between the public and private  
21 sectors.



1           (b) The office of veterans' services shall submit a report  
2 of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed  
3 legislation, to the legislature no later than thirty days prior  
4 to the convening of the regular session of 2018.

5           SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



**Report Title:**

Veterans Conservation Corps; Department of Defense; Office of Veterans' Services

**Description:**

Requires the Office of Veterans' Services in the Department of Defense to conduct a study regarding the establishment and administration of a veterans conservation corps program to assist veterans in obtaining training, certification, and employment in the areas of environmental protection, restoration, and management. (HB227 HD1)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

