

JAN 21 2022

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO VOLUNTEER MONTH.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that statistics released
2 in November 2018 by the Corporation for National and Community
3 Service also known as Americorps, show that approximately
4 seventy-seven million Americans volunteered a total of nearly
5 seven billion hours in 2017, which is estimated to be worth one
6 hundred sixty-seven billion dollars in value.

7 The legislature acknowledges that many public agencies and
8 private organizations in small towns, rural counties, and even
9 the largest cities, would not be able to function without the
10 services provided by volunteers. From the anonymous volunteers
11 who donate their resources to those whose efforts are part of a
12 national organization or local grassroots group, their missions
13 provide valuable support to communities in times of need,
14 including services such as fundraising; preparing, distributing,
15 or serving food; mentoring youth; engaging in general labor;
16 supplying transportation; providing professional or management
17 assistance; supporting and staffing fire and ambulance



1 departments; and providing medical care. The legislature also
2 recognizes that volunteerism strengthens the foundation of
3 neighborhoods and communities, as it magnifies one's ability to
4 perform good works and contribute to the greater good, and
5 creates social momentum that increases the volunteer's desire to
6 engage fully with the community.

7 The legislature also finds that in 1974, the United States
8 through presidential proclamation, designated the third week of
9 April as National Volunteer Week to support, extend, and enhance
10 the vital and valuable services offered by volunteers. Since
11 then, National Volunteer Week has grown exponentially with
12 thousands of volunteer projects and special events scheduled
13 throughout the week. The legislature also acknowledges that in
14 1991, the month of April became National Volunteer Month as part
15 of President George H. W. Bush's A Thousand Points of Light
16 campaign, as a month dedicated to honoring the volunteers in
17 communities and encouraging volunteerism.

18 The selfless dedication of services by volunteers in the
19 country has been essential, especially while the nation
20 confronted and continues to recover from the disturbances caused
21 by the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic. Countless individuals



1 volunteered their time, effort, and skills to administer
2 vaccines; staff vaccination centers; conduct testing and contact
3 tracing; and provide food, water, and other necessities to
4 individuals who were required to stay home during this hardship.

5 In recognition of the enduring contributions of these
6 volunteers, on April 16, 2021, the current administration issued
7 a proclamation designating April 18 through April 24, 2021, as
8 National Volunteer Week, calling upon all Americans to observe
9 the week by volunteering in service projects across the county
10 and pledging to make service a part of their daily lives.

11 The purpose of this Act is to designate the month of April
12 each year as the State's volunteer month to honor volunteers in
13 the community and encourage participation in service projects
14 throughout the month.

15 SECTION 2. Chapter 8, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended
16 by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to
17 read as follows:

18 "§8- Volunteer Month. The month of April shall be known
19 and designated as "Volunteer Month" to honor volunteers in the
20 community and encourage participation in service projects



1 throughout the month. This month is not and shall not be
2 construed as a state holiday."

3 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

4 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

5

INTRODUCED BY:

Bennett J. Minich



S.B. NO. 2262

Report Title

Volunteer Month

Description:

Designates the month of April as Volunteer Month; provided that the month is not construed as a state holiday.

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