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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO VETERANS CEMETERIES.

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

1           SECTION 1. The purpose of this Act is to establish the  
2 veterans cemeteries board, composed of representatives from  
3 federal, state, and county departments and agencies, to provide  
4 veterans cemeteries in the State with guidance, education,  
5 technical assistance, and other support to ensure compliance  
6 with standards set by the National Cemetery Administration of  
7 the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

8           SECTION 2. Chapter 363, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
9 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
10 and to read as follows:

11           "§363-       Veterans cemeteries board. (a) There shall be  
12 established the veterans cemeteries board within the office in  
13 the department of defense for administrative purposes only. The  
14 veterans cemeteries board shall:

15           (1) Identify compliance issues faced by veterans  
16               cemeteries in the State, resources needed, and  
17               challenges encountered by departments or agencies that



1 manage veterans cemeteries and work collaboratively to  
2 resolve issues;

3 (2) Devise solutions to address the issues identified in  
4 paragraph (1) and implement the solutions through a  
5 cross-representation of the state and county  
6 departments and agencies on the board;

7 (3) Seek resource solutions, including funding,  
8 legislative initiatives, and inter-governmental  
9 program support; and

10 (4) Interact with and invite interested community agencies  
11 and organizations, stakeholders, and concerned  
12 veterans and citizens to participate in discussions  
13 and board meetings.

14 (b) The veterans cemeteries board shall consist of the  
15 following members:

16 (1) The director, or the director's designee, who shall  
17 serve as the chairperson of the board;

18 (2) A representative of the National Memorial Cemetery of  
19 the Pacific, by invitation of the director;

20 (3) The director of the department or agency within the  
21 county of Maui responsible for operating and



1 maintaining the county's veterans cemeteries, or the  
2 director's designee;

3 (4) The director of the department or agency within the  
4 county of Hawaii responsible for operating and  
5 maintaining the county's veterans cemeteries, or the  
6 director's designee;

7 (5) The director of the department or agency within the  
8 county of Kauai responsible for operating and  
9 maintaining the county's veterans cemeteries, or the  
10 director's designee; and

11 (6) The cemetery operations manager of the Hawaii state  
12 veterans cemetery, or the manager's designee.

13 The members of the veterans cemeteries board shall serve  
14 without compensation but may be reimbursed for necessary  
15 expenses, including travel expenses, incurred in the performance  
16 of their duties. A majority of the members of the veterans  
17 cemeteries board shall constitute a quorum for the conduct of  
18 business of the board. A majority vote of the members present  
19 at a meeting at which a quorum is established shall be necessary  
20 to validate any action of the veterans cemeteries board.



1        (c) The veterans cemeteries board shall develop and make  
2 recommendations to meet compliance standards set by the National  
3 Cemetery Administration of the United States Department of  
4 Veterans Affairs. In developing its recommendations, the  
5 veterans cemeteries board shall create, develop, and adopt a  
6 statewide framework, which shall include:

7        (1) A clear understanding of compliance standards for  
8 cemetery grounds and maintenance set by the National  
9 Cemetery Administration;

10       (2) Strategies and recommendations for grounds and  
11 maintenance best practices to address the varying  
12 challenges and conditions of each cemetery location;  
13 and

14       (3) A standardized system of data collection and  
15 information sharing to support the intergovernmental  
16 efforts of the board.

17       (d) The office shall provide necessary staff and other  
18 support required by the veterans cemeteries board for the  
19 performance of its duties."

20       SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.



**1** SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



**Report Title:**

DOD; OVS; Veterans Cemeteries Board; Veterans Cemeteries

**Description:**

Establishes the Veterans Cemeteries Board within the Office of Veterans Services of the Department of Defense to provide veterans cemeteries in the State with guidance, education, technical assistance, and other support to ensure compliance with standards set by the National Cemetery Administration of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

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

