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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 bill 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 main responsibilities of the veterans cemeteries board shall be  
15 as follows:

16           (1) Identify compliance issues faced by veterans  
17           cemeteries in the State, resources needed, and



1 challenges encountered by departments or agencies that  
2 manage veterans cemeteries and work collaboratively to  
3 resolve issues;

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

8 (3) Seek resource solutions including funding, legislative  
9 initiatives, and intergovernmental program support;  
10 and

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

15 (b) The veterans cemeteries board shall be comprised of  
16 the following members:

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

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



1       (3) The director of the department within the county of  
2       Maui responsible for operating and maintaining the  
3       county's veterans cemeteries, or the director's  
4       designee;

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

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

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

15       The members of the veterans cemeteries board shall serve  
16       without compensation but may be reimbursed for necessary  
17       expenses, including travel expenses, incurred in the performance  
18       of their duties. A majority of the members of the veterans  
19       cemeteries board shall constitute a quorum for the conduct of  
20       business of the board. A majority vote of the members present



1 at a meeting at which a quorum is established shall be necessary  
2 to validate any action of the veterans cemeteries board.

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

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

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

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

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



- 1 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.
- 2 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



S.B. NO. 1377  
S.D. 1

**Report Title:**

DOD; Office of Veterans' Services; 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. (SD1)

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