
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 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 any issues;

3 (2) Devise solutions to address the issues identified
4 under paragraph (1) and implement the solutions
5 collaboratively with the state and county departments
6 and agencies on the board;

7 (3) Seek resources, including funding, legislative
8 initiatives, and intergovernmental program support;
9 and

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

14 (b) The veterans cemeteries board shall be comprised of
15 the 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 within the county of
21 Maui that is responsible for operating and maintaining



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

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

7 (5) The director of the department within the county of
8 Kauai that is 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 strategies
2 and make recommendations to meet compliance standards set by the
3 National Cemetery Administration of the United States Department
4 of Veterans Affairs. In developing the recommendations, the
5 veterans cemeteries board shall create, develop, and adopt a
6 statewide framework, that shall include:

7 (1) A clear understanding of the 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 (e) The veterans cemeteries board shall submit a report of
21 the board's findings and recommendations, including any proposed



1 legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior
2 to the convening of each regular session."

3 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

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



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. (SD2)

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