
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP
TO DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A STATE OF HAWAII
COMMEMORATIVE VIETNAM VETERANS MEDAL.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii had a proud history of military service to
2 the United States even before achieving statehood, such as
3 during the American Civil War in which over one hundred Native
4 Hawaiian and Hawaii-born residents fought; and

5
6 WHEREAS, Hawaii's proud history of military service went on
7 to include the participation of Native Hawaiian and Hawaii-born
8 residents in World War One, World War Two, the Korean War, and
9 subsequent wars through the present; and

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11 WHEREAS, the State has a deep connection to the Vietnam War
12 with over two hundred seventy-five local service members
13 memorialized on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington,
14 D.C.; and

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16 WHEREAS, the State actively honors its veterans through
17 traveling memorials, dedicated parades, and veteran-led
18 organizations; and

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20 WHEREAS, The Wall That Heals, a traveling three-quarter
21 scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington,
22 D.C., visited the University of Hawaii West Oahu campus in
23 January 2026; and

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25 WHEREAS, National Vietnam War Veterans Day is celebrated on
26 March 29 of each year and often features a parade in Waikiki;
27 and

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29 WHEREAS, local veterans are periodically honored with all
30 expenses paid "Honor Flights" to Washington, D.C. through
31 support from the Hawaiian Islands Honor Flight organization; and



1
2 WHEREAS, the State is home to active chapters of the
3 Vietnam Veterans of America, such as Oahu Chapter 858, that meet
4 monthly at the Oahu Veterans Center and participate in
5 ceremonies at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific;
6 now, therefore,
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8 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
9 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026, the
10 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
11 Defense is requested to convene a working group to develop
12 recommendations for a State of Hawaii commemorative Vietnam
13 Veterans Medal; and
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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
16 to include the following:
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- 18 (1) The Adjutant General, or the Adjutant General's
19 designee, who is requested to serve as chairperson of
20 the working group;
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- 22 (2) The Director of the Joint Staff of the Hawaii National
23 Guard, or the Director's designee;
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- 25 (3) The Director of the Office of Veterans' Services, or
26 the Director's designee;
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- 28 (4) One member representing Vietnam Veterans of America
29 Chapter 858, to be invited by the chairperson;
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- 31 (5) One member representing Vietnam Veterans of America
32 Chapter 1139, to be invited by the chairperson;
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- 34 (6) One member representing Vietnam Veterans of Maui
35 County, to be invited by the chairperson;
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- 37 (7) The State Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars -
38 Department of Hawaii, or the State Commander's
39 designee; and
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- 41 (8) Other members representing Hawaii veterans'
42 organizations, retired military and defense leaders,



1 and other interested participants, to be invited by
2 the chairperson; and
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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
5 to develop eligibility criteria and verification steps,
6 recommend an application process, and propose design
7 recommendations for a State of Hawaii Commemorative Vietnam
8 Veterans Medal to be awarded to Vietnam Veterans living in
9 Hawaii; and
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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group, with the
12 assistance of the Department of Defense and based on data
13 requested from state and federal defense agencies on
14 Hawaii-Specific Vietnam Veterans, is requested to submit a
15 report of its findings and recommendations, including any
16 proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty
17 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2027; and
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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report is requested to
20 include any estimated costs related to a State of Hawaii
21 Commemorative Vietnam Veterans Medal, including but not limited
22 to costs for:
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24 (1) Informing veterans in the State;

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26 (2) Design and production; and
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28 (3) Award and implementation; and
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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
31 to be dissolved on June 30, 2028; and
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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
34 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Adjutant General;
35 Director of the Joint Staff of the Hawaii National Guard;
36 Director of the Office of Veterans' Services; President of
37 Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 858; President of Vietnam
38 Veterans of America, Chapter 1139; President of Vietnam Veterans
39 of Maui County; and State Commander of the Veterans of Foreign
40 Wars - Department of Hawaii.

