

ACT 231

H.B. NO. 625

A Bill for an Act Relating to the Aloha Spirit.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:

SECTION 1. The Aloha Spirit is truly the heart of Hawaii, the real reason that visitors return again and again to our State. The Aloha Spirit imparts a special quality to our State.

Many natives of Hawaii who have been nurtured by the Aloha Spirit move away but do not leave the Aloha Spirit behind. The Aloha Spirit is a phenomenon that inspires both residents, visitors, and others who are touched by it thousands of miles away.

The purpose of this Act is to honor individuals who, through their achievements, have provided extraordinary service to the State and brought it to national or international honor and recognition, and who further embody and exemplify the Aloha Spirit to the world. Stringent criteria and careful selection of members shall ensure that the prestige of the honor is truly special and meaningful to both the recipients and the State.

SECTION 2. Chapter 5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

“§5- Aloha order of merit. (a) There is established the Aloha order of merit, within the office of the governor for administrative purposes, to honor

individuals selected under this section. Individuals conferred the lifetime title of "member of the Aloha order of merit" shall be inducted into the order by the governor after receiving the approval of the legislature by concurrent resolution. Honorees shall have:

- (1) Achieved national or international recognition in their field either by a single event or by the totality of their work that has been either pioneering in their field or that has been outstanding in the long-term; and
- (2) (A) Contributed to the attainment of statehood for Hawaii;
 - (B) Devoted themselves to the betterment of the State, embodying the concept of the Aloha Spirit;
 - (C) Provided extraordinary service to the State; or
 - (D) Brought honor to the State.

(b) Honorees shall be selected by an Aloha order of merit committee. The committee shall consist of three members. Each member shall serve for a term of two years. One member of the committee shall be a member of the senate appointed by the president of the senate, one member of the committee shall be a member of the house of representatives appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives, and one member of the committee shall be appointed by the governor.

(c) Nominations for honorees shall be accepted by the committee from members of the legislature, the governor, and the general public. Nominations shall be in the form and manner prescribed by the office of the governor. The committee shall establish criteria for selection and induction to ensure and maintain the prestige of the order. The committee may select or choose not to select any individual from the nominations received in any given year.

(d) Upon induction or as soon thereafter as may be necessary, the governor may award appropriate mementos to members of the order.

(e) The governor may request a member of the order to serve as an emissary for the people of Hawaii on appropriate occasions."

SECTION 3. Chapter 5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

"§5- Aloha order of merit location. There shall be set aside within the Honolulu international airport an area to exhibit commemorative displays honoring members of the order. The displays may include likenesses of members and descriptions of the meritorious achievements of each member."

SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.¹

SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 1993, provided that Section 3 shall take effect on July 1, 1994.

(Approved June 18, 1993.)

Note

1. Edited pursuant to HRS §23G-16.5.