

ACT 232

H.B. NO. 2354

A Bill for an Act Making an Appropriation for the Fiftieth Anniversary Commemoration of the Korean War Commission.

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

SECTION 1. Only five years had passed since the end of World War II when the United States found itself in a major international conflict. In the early morning hours of June 25, 1950, the communist government of North Korea launched an attack into South Korea.

Determined to support the world's democracies, the United States immediately led a United Nations force into the Korean War. What was envisioned as a short, decisive repelling of the enemy became a prolonged and frustrating fight that threatened to explode beyond Korean borders. The fighting lasted for three years until an uneasy peace returned to the region with a negotiated settlement that re-established the earlier boundary between North and South Korea.

One-and-a-half million American men and women, a cross-section of the nation's population, struggled side-by-side during the conflict. They served as soldiers, chaplains, nurses, clerks, and in a host of other combat and support roles. One hundred thirty-one individuals were awarded the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest commendation for combat bravery. Of the recipients, ninety-four had given their lives in heroic acts that earned them the honor.

The governor, through Executive Order No. 99-07, honors the men and women who served in Korea for their struggles and sacrifices under trying circumstances in service to their country and the cause of freedom by establishing the fiftieth anniversary commemoration of the Korean War commission. The purpose of the commission is to:

- (1) Gather information regarding the identity of Korean War veterans and their families, especially those who lost their loved ones during the war;
- (2) Recommend to the department of defense how Hawaii can identify, thank, and honor Korean War veterans and their families;
- (3) Recognize and remember the prisoners-of-war and missing-in-action;
- (4) Recognize the many contributions of women and minorities to the nation during the Korean War;
- (5) Provide the public with a clearer understanding and appreciation of the lessons, history, and legacy of the war, and the military's contribution in maintaining world peace and freedom;
- (6) Remember the forces engaged in preserving the peace, freedom, and prosperity of the Republic of Korea; and
- (7) Strengthen the bonds of friendship and relationships throughout the world by focusing on the twenty-two countries that fought as allies.

The fiftieth anniversary commemoration of the start of the Korean War is rapidly approaching. The legislature believes that Korean War veterans and their families should be identified, thanked, and properly recognized and honored.

The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to the fiftieth anniversary commemoration of the Korean War commission to carry out its mission throughout the State.

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SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$70,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2000-2001 to carry out the functions of the fiftieth anniversary commemoration of the Korean War commission throughout the State.

The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of defense for the purposes of this Act.

SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2000.

(Approved June 15, 2000.)