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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO FLAGS.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that more than 500,000  
2 Americans have been captured and interned as prisoners of war  
3 since the American Revolution. The largest number of prisoners  
4 held captive occurred during the Civil War when an estimated  
5 220,000 confederate soldiers were captured by the North and  
6 nearly 127,000 union soldiers were interned by the South.

7           Since World War I, over 142,000 Americans, including  
8 eighty-five women, have been captured and interned as prisoners  
9 of war. Not included in this figure are nearly 93,000 Americans  
10 who are classified as missing in action.

11           The legislature also finds that, as our country seeks out  
12 Al Qaeda terrorists in the Middle East, it is important to  
13 recognize and honor the extraordinary heroism of the brave men  
14 and women who risked or sacrificed their lives or their freedom  
15 in the past, as well as those who place their lives in harm's  
16 way on a daily basis in the present, such as in Afghanistan and  
17 Iraq.



1           The purpose of this Act is to require the National League  
2 of Families' POW/MIA flag to be flown with the United States and  
3 Hawaiian flags on state department of defense buildings to honor  
4 American prisoners of war and military personnel who are missing  
5 in action.

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

9           "§5- POW/MIA (Prisoner of war/missing in action) flag;  
10 recognition; use. (a) The State recognizes the National League  
11 of Families' POW/MIA (Prisoner of War/Missing in Action) flag  
12 that was recognized by the United States Congress through  
13 P.L. 101-355 on August 10, 1990.

14           (b) If a building is under the jurisdiction of the state  
15 department of defense, and the Hawaiian flag is flown under the  
16 same or a separate halyard as the flag of the United States of  
17 America, the POW/MIA flag shall be flown under the flag of the  
18 United States of America.

19           (c) This section shall not apply to halyards that do not  
20 fly any flags due to safety or community concerns."

21           SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

22



1 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2040.



**Report Title:**

Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Flag

**Description:**

Recognizes and requires the prisoner of war/missing in action flag to be flown with the U.S. and Hawaiian flags on state department of defense buildings; effective 7/1/2040. (SD2)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

