A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO MEMORIALS.

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

SECTION 1. The freedom and security that United States citizens enjoy today are direct results of the sacrifices and continued vigilance of the United States armed forces over the course of our nation's history. The sacrifices of the members of the United States armed forces have preserved the liberties that have made this nation unique in the world community.

While members of the United States armed forces have engaged in numerous conflicts worldwide for over two centuries, more recent combat missions have included:

1. The Persian Gulf War, from August 2, 1990, to February 28, 1991, which culminated in the liberation of Kuwait from Iraq;
2. The air-and-land conflict known as Operation Desert Storm, which began on January 17, 1991, and lasted through April 11, 1991;
3. Operation Iraqi Freedom, which was a military campaign that was led by United States troops and conducted...
from March 20, 2003, through August 31, 2010, and 
later re-named "Operation New Dawn";

(4) Operation Enduring Freedom, more commonly known as the 
"War in Afghanistan", which is an ongoing effort; and 

(5) Combined Joint Task Force – Operation Inherent Resolve 
(CJTF-OIR), which is an ongoing military operation led 
by the United States that aims to "degrade and 
destroy" the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant 
(ISIL).

Members of the United States armed forces have also served 
a pivotal role in the Global War on Terrorism, Homeland Defense, 
and Operation Noble Eagle, and continue to protect our borders 
by land, sea, and air.

Recognition of the sacrifices of the United States armed 
services members, many of whom paid the ultimate sacrifice, can 
be found throughout the State. Two of the most prominent 
memorials are the USS Arizona Memorial and the National Memorial 
Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl. However, a number of 
additional memorials exist commemorating the sacrifices of the 
men and women in uniform from Hawaii who have served this 
country, including the Korean and Vietnam War Memorials on the
grounds of the state capitol, which were dedicated in 1994. Thus, it is both fitting and necessary for the State to give
tangible and visible recognition for the sacrifices and
contributions of veterans from Hawaii who served in the Persian
Gulf War, Operation Desert Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom,
Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation New Dawn, Operation
Inherent Resolve, the Global War on Terrorism, Homeland Defense,
and Operation Noble Eagle and who have protected our borders by
land, sea, and air.

Recognizing the need for such a memorial, Act 139, Session
Laws of Hawaii 2013, required the office of veterans' services,
with the assistance of the department of accounting and general
services, the department of defense, and the state historic
preservation division, to develop a plan to establish a memorial
honoring the veterans of the Persian Gulf War, Operation Desert
Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom,
Operation New Dawn, the Global War on Terrorism, Homeland
Defense, and Operation Noble Eagle and those who have protected
our borders by land, sea, and air.

In response to Act 139, the office of veterans' services
created the Hawaii gulf war memorial task force to develop a
plan to establish a Hawaii Gulf War Memorial. The task force
held multiple monthly meetings, conducted surveys, and held a
public hearing on the matter. In its report to the legislature,
the task force stated that, based upon its findings and
research, the ideal spot for the memorial would be on the
grounds of the Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery in Kaneohe on the
island of Oahu. The task force also recommended that replicas
of the memorial be located at state veterans cemeteries
statewide. Finally, the task force recognized that the name
"Gulf War Memorial" may be too restrictive, as the intent of
this project is to honor not only those who have served in the
Persian Gulf conflicts but also those who have served in the
various theaters of the Global War on Terrorism.

Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to appropriate
moneys to plan and design a memorial honoring the veterans of
the recent conflicts in the Persian Gulf, Iraq, Afghanistan, and
the various theaters of the Global War on Terrorism, to be
located at the Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery in Kaneohe and
with replicas to be located in each of the state veterans
cemeteries on the neighbor islands.
SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of $ or so much
thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 and the
same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
2020-2021 for the planning and design of a memorial honoring the
sacrifices of the service members of the recent conflicts in the
Persian Gulf, Iraq, Afghanistan, and the various theaters of the
Global War on Terrorism to be located on the grounds of the
Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery in Kaneohe on the island of Oahu
and with replicas of the memorial to be located at state
veterans cemeteries statewide.

The sums appropriated shall be expended by the office of
veterans' services, in consultation with the department of
accounting and general services, for the purposes of this Act.

SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.

INTRODUCED BY:
Report Title:
Global War on Terrorism; Veterans' Memorial; Appropriation

Description:
Appropriates funds for the planning and design of a memorial to honor service members of the recent conflicts in the Persian Gulf, Iraq, Afghanistan, and the various theaters of the Global War on Terrorism, to be located at the Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery in Kaneohe, on the island of Oahu, and replicas of the memorial to be located at state veterans cemeteries statewide. Appropriates funds.

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