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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING HAWAI'I'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION AND THE GOVERNOR TO COLLABORATE WITH THE LEGISLATURE TO ENSURE EXPEDITED BURIALS FOR VETERANS, DECEASED ACTIVE DUTY MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES, AND THEIR SPOUSES AT VETERANS CEMETERIES THROUGHOUT THE STATE OF HAWAI'I.

1 WHEREAS, this body recognizes that in Native Hawaiian  
2 culture, the proper burial of a deceased Native Hawaiian is an  
3 important sacred practice, rite, and right; and  
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5 WHEREAS, this body respects the rights of Native Hawaiians  
6 to be buried in a timely manner or with respect to the wishes of  
7 the decedent and families; and  
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9 WHEREAS, this body recognizes and supports the Association  
10 of Hawaiian Civic Clubs' position that all United States  
11 veterans and their spouses have earned the privilege to be  
12 buried in a veterans' cemetery and all decedents deserve the  
13 highest standards for burials, as is a long-standing tradition  
14 and practice of Native Hawaiian culture; and  
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16 WHEREAS, the family of a member of the Association of  
17 Hawaiian Civic Clubs recently experienced difficulty in securing  
18 a speedy burial for a deceased loved one at the Hawai'i State  
19 Veterans Cemetery in Kāne'ohe, O'ahu; and  
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21 WHEREAS, Mrs. Viola Lewis, a spouse of a predeceased United  
22 States veteran buried at the Hawai'i State Veterans Cemetery,  
23 passed away on February 19, 2018, but could not be buried for  
24 more than five weeks due to administrative delays at the  
25 cemetery; and  
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27 WHEREAS, appropriate legislation and sufficient funding are  
28 needed to expedite burials at all veterans cemeteries throughout  
29 Hawai'i; now, therefore,  
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# S.C.R. NO. 213

1 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature  
 2 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2019, the House of  
 3 Representatives concurring, that Hawai'i's congressional  
 4 delegation and the Governor are urged to collaborate with this  
 5 body to ensure expedited burials for veterans, deceased active  
 6 duty members of the United States Armed Forces, and their  
 7 spouses at veterans cemeteries in Hawai'i; and

8  
 9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor is also urged to  
 10 direct the Hawai'i Office of Veterans' Services to implement all  
 11 measures practicable and necessary to expedite burials at all  
 12 veterans cemeteries throughout Hawai'i; and

13  
 14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 15 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the members of Hawai'i's  
 16 Congressional Delegation; Secretary of Veterans Affairs; Under  
 17 Secretary for Memorial Affairs; Governor; Director of the Office  
 18 of Veterans' Services; Chair of the Board of Trustees, Office of  
 19 Hawaiian Affairs; and Mayors of the City and County of Honolulu  
 20 and Counties of Maui, Kaua'i, and Hawai'i.

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OFFERED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

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