
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO VOLUNTEER MONTH.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that statistics released
2 in November 2018 by the Corporation for National and Community
3 Service also known as Americorps, show that approximately
4 seventy-seven million Americans volunteered a total of nearly
5 seven billion hours in 2017, which is estimated to be worth
6 \$167,000,000,000 in value.

7 The legislature acknowledges that many public agencies and
8 private organizations in small towns, rural counties, and even
9 the largest cities, would not be able to function without the
10 services provided by volunteers. From the anonymous volunteers
11 who donate their resources to those whose efforts are part of a
12 national organization or local grassroots group, these
13 volunteers provide valuable support to communities in times of
14 need, including services such as fundraising; preparing,
15 distributing, or serving food; mentoring youth; engaging in
16 general labor; supplying transportation; providing professional
17 or management assistance; supporting and staffing fire and



1 ambulance departments; and providing medical care. The
2 legislature also recognizes that volunteerism strengthens the
3 foundation of neighborhoods and communities, as it magnifies
4 one's ability to perform good works and contribute to the
5 greater good, and creates social momentum that increases the
6 volunteer's desire to engage fully with the community.

7 The legislature also finds that in 1974, through
8 presidential proclamation, the United States designated the
9 third week of April as National Volunteer Week to support,
10 extend, and enhance the vital and valuable services offered by
11 volunteers. Since then, National Volunteer Week has grown
12 exponentially with thousands of volunteer projects and special
13 events scheduled throughout the week. The legislature also
14 acknowledges that in 1991, the month of April became National
15 Volunteer Month as part of President George H. W. Bush's A
16 Thousand Points of Light campaign, as a month dedicated to
17 honoring the volunteers in communities and encouraging
18 volunteerism.

19 The selfless dedication of services by volunteers in the
20 country has been essential, especially while the nation was
21 confronted with and continues to recover from the disturbances



1 caused by the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic. Countless
2 individuals volunteered their time, effort, and skills to
3 administer vaccines; staff vaccination centers; conduct testing
4 and contact tracing; and provide food, water, and other
5 necessities to individuals who were required to stay home during
6 this hardship. In recognition of the enduring contributions of
7 these volunteers, on April 16, 2021, the current administration
8 issued a proclamation designating April 18 through April 24,
9 2021, as National Volunteer Week, calling upon all Americans to
10 observe the week by volunteering in service projects across the
11 county and pledging to make service a part of their daily lives.

12 The purpose of this Act is to designate the month of April
13 of each year as Volunteer Month in Hawaii to honor volunteers in
14 the community and encourage participation in service projects
15 throughout the month.

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

19 "§8- Volunteer Month. The month of April shall be
20 known and designated as "Volunteer Month" to honor volunteers in
21 the community and encourage participation in service projects



1 throughout the month. This month is not and shall not be
2 construed as a state holiday."

3 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

4 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2044.

5



Report Title

Volunteer Month; April

Description:

Designates the month of April of each year as Volunteer Month.
Effective 7/1/2044. (HD1)

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