

Proclamation

WHEREAS, since the American Revolutionary War and Civil War, women have proudly served our country—as nurses during World War I, as ferry pilots during World War II, as nurses in Mobile Army Surgical Hospitals (MASH) in the Korean War and Vietnam War, and as helicopter pilots in Afghanistan and over the skies of Iraq in support of the Global War on Terrorism; and

WHEREAS, women nurses formally became a part of the United States Armed Forces since the inception of the Army Nurse Corps in 1901; and

WHEREAS, in 1917, about 12,000 women enlisted in the United States Navy and served in non-combat and non-commissioned officer roles as draftsmen, radio operators, interpreters, couriers, and translators; and

WHEREAS, during World War II, all branches of the military enlisted nearly 350,000 women in their ranks, and by the end of the war, approximately 280,000 women remained in the Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, in 1948, the Women's Armed Services Integration Act officially allowed women to serve as permanent, regular members of all branches in the United States Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, an amendment to the Women's Armed Services Integration Act in 1967 lifted the maximum limit on number of women allowed in the military, opened senior officer ranks to women, and allowed women to command units that included men; and

WHEREAS, in the late 1970s and early 1980s, several laws were passed that recognized the many contributions made by women in World War II and formally granted veteran status along with benefits from the federal and state governments and the Department of Veterans Affairs to women veterans; and

WHEREAS, more than 40,000 female service members were deployed to combat zones in the Gulf War from 1990–1991, and in 2013, women were allowed to serve in direct ground combat roles; and

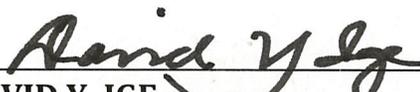
WHEREAS, in the United States, there are currently over 2 million women veterans of which nearly 17,000 make Hawai'i their home;

THEREFORE I, DAVID Y. IGE, Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim June 12, 2021 as

“WOMEN VETERANS DAY”

in Hawai'i and ask the people of the Aloha State to join me in paying tribute and honoring all women veterans who have served and continue to serve our nation and our state.

Done at the State Capitol in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this ninth day of June 2021.


DAVID Y. IGE
Governor, State of Hawai'i