

Military and Veterans Affairs Committee Update

February 5, 2021

Military and Veterans Affairs Committee (MVAC)

The Military and Veterans Affairs Committee met on October 28, 2020. The Ship Repair Association of Hawaii reported that the outlook for shipyard and ship repair work on the Navy base is strong and close to \$1 billion over the next five years. The Navy is transitioning to a fixed price structure with multiple companies acting as prime contractors. As a result, this may help the industry grow in Hawaii as they increase capacity and hire locally. In addition, it was also reported that Pacific Shipyards has been growing rapidly in personnel capacity, with an average of five new hires a week over the past five weeks.

MVAC Military Spouse Subcommittee

The MVAC Military Spouse Subcommittee met on October 23, 2020. Discussion centered around internships available for military spouses, transfer of job licenses and credentials from other States, military spouse preference to state agencies, and partnership opportunities with other organizations.

In 2021, the subcommittee will be focusing on House Bill 961, which was recently introduced in the Hawaii State Legislature. HB 961 Relating To Military Dependents allows a spouse of a military servicemember stationed in the State of Hawaii who holds a current, unencumbered license in another jurisdiction in specific professions, or who license requirements are determined by the State to meet or exceed those of that profession in the State, to expedite the licensing process to work in the State of Hawaii, and to exempt dependents of military servicemembers from the residency requirements in State hiring.