

HB 2344 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Rep. Boice

**House Committee On Emergency Management, General
Government, and Veterans**

Action Date: 04/08/25

Action: Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 7-0-0-0

Yeas: 7 - Boice, Evans, Grayber, Lewis, Skarlatos, Tran, Watanabe

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Beverly Anderson, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 4/1, 4/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure requires the Department of Veterans Affairs to keep the World War II Memorial on the Capital Mall up to date and to develop and maintain an educational tool as part of the memorial. It lists necessary modifications, including certain names to be added to the memorial and criteria for adding names to the memorial. Further, it defines killed in action and missing in action for purposes of the memorial.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Plans to upgrade the memorial, including structural updates, websites and educational tools
- Questions about names on the memorial and whether there are any civilians listed
- Questions on whether Wake Island civilians meet the criteria for inclusion on the memorial

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

The amendment requires the department develop and maintain an accessible educational tool on the war and the members that served, including civilians recognized by the Department of Defense for contributing to the defense of Wake Island in WWII.

BACKGROUND:

House Bill 3416 (2011) established the World War II (WWII) Memorial Task Force to solicit private funding for the construction of the project and to arrange for the development, design, and construction of the memorial in the Capital Mall. The memorial was dedicated on June 6, 2014, and it features a 33-foot-tall monument and granite walls with the names of the roughly 3800 Oregonians who died in combat during WWII.