

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI‘I SYSTEM

LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY



SB 2759 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committees on Education and Intergovernmental and Military
Affairs

February 8, 2008 at 1:15 pm

by

Karen C. Lee
Interim Associate Vice President for Student Affairs
University of Hawaii System

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Chair Sakamoto, Chair Inouye, and Members of the Committees:

The purpose of SB 2759 is to grant resident tuition to active duty military personnel and their dependents at the University of Hawai'i. It also extends this tuition benefit to the student even if the active duty member is transferred to a permanent duty station outside of Hawai'i.

The University appreciates the intent of this bill to acknowledge the tremendous service that the military provides to our nation and state. However, we are opposed to this bill for the following three reasons:

First of all, the University already provides the privilege of paying resident tuition through an exemption of the non-resident tuition differential to all active duty military personnel and their dependents. This category of students had been in statute, but was recently repealed so that it could more appropriately be placed in UH Board of Regents statute. A copy of the pertinent section is attached.

Secondly, the University recently adopted a policy to allow dependents who are already enrolled in a campus of the University of Hawai'i to continue to pay in-state tuition if continuously enrolled in the same program/degree, even if their parent/active duty member is re-located elsewhere.

Thirdly, as already stated, we believe the appropriate place for a list of exemptions to non-resident tuition differentials to exist should be in UH Board of Regents policy instead of Hawai'i Revised Statutes.

For the reasons given above, the University opposes passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Attachment

UH Board of Regents Policy, Chapter 6 Excerpt

Section 6-11 Board Exemptions to Non-Resident Tuition

- a. The students affected by the following guidelines are classified as non-residents for admission and tuition purposes. In accordance with Board of Regents' policy, non-resident students are admitted on a space available basis with the understanding that priority for admission is given to qualified residents.
- b. The following categories of students will receive a waiver of the non-resident tuition differential:
 - (1) East-West Center student grantees pursuing baccalaureate or advanced degrees;
 - (2) United States military personnel stationed in Hawai'i on active duty, and their authorized dependents during the period that the personnel are stationed in Hawai'i;
 - (3) Members of the Hawai'i National Guard and the Hawai'i-based Reserves;
 - (4) Native Hawaiians whose domicile is outside of Hawai'i;
 - (5) Employees of the university, their spouses, and their dependents.
- c. Citizens from an eligible Pacific Island district, commonwealth, territory, or insular jurisdiction, state, or nation which provides no public higher education institution granting baccalaureate degrees are charged 150 percent of the resident tuition rate. The Office of the President updates and distributes the list of eligible Pacific Island jurisdictions.

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2759
A BILL RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

PRESENTATION TO THE

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
COMMITTEE ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

BY

MAJOR GENERAL ROBERT G. F. LEE
DIRECTOR OF CIVIL DEFENSE

February 8, 2008

Chair Sakamoto, Chair Inouye and Members of the Committees:

I am Major General Bob Lee, State Adjutant General, State Department of Defense. I am testifying on Senate Bill 2759.

We appreciate the intent behind this measure to acknowledge and support the outstanding service that our military provides to our State and nation. However, we feel that this bill is unnecessary. The University of Hawaii already allows all active duty military personnel and their dependents an exemption of the non-resident tuition. They are paying resident tuition fees.

Additionally, Act 188, Session Laws of Hawaii, 2006, allowed the UH Board of Regents to waive or reduce the nonresident tuition and fee differential for members of the Hawaii National Guard and federal reserve components, who attend drills with units in Hawaii, regardless of their actual state of residence.

For the reasons stated above, we oppose the passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. Are there any questions?