

SB612

Date of hearing: February 11, 2009  
Committee: Senate Education and Housing

Department: Education  
Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent  
Title of Bill: S.B. No. 612, Relating to Education  
Purpose of Bill: Appropriates an undetermined amount from Impact Aid Program funding for military impacted schools in the Department of Education (Department) to expand the transition programs for military impacted schools in the State and to hire necessary personnel to coordinate the transition programs.

Department's Position: The Department of Education supports S.B. No. 612. The Department appreciates the Legislature's initiative to support the adjustment of military children into Hawaii public schools, and agrees that the concept of transition programs in military impacted schools needs to be expanded.

Program Cost

The estimated total cost for this program is \$4.95 Million to support this program, or \$48,000 per school (based on establishing one educational program position and resources) for 103 schools, with 10 or more military connected students.

(Attachment A)

### Concerns

With Act 51, Session Laws of Hawaii 2004, the Reinventing Education Act of 2004, the intent of the Legislature was to provide full discretionary funding for school principals as they do their academic and financial planning, via the weighted student formula. The Legislature was concerned about past laws that placed “categorical” restrictions on funding for schools that had to be used only for specific purposes, thereby limiting the school principal’s discretionary decision-making authority. If this measure passes as it is currently drafted, the result would be another categorical program that dictates by law to schools that these monies must be spent, and can only be spent, on transition programs and hiring personnel to support the necessary services. Therefore, the Department recommends that the additional funding in this measure be placed in the weighted student formula, so that school principals will preserve full discretionary decision-making authority over the spending of these funds. School principals may in fact decide to pay for transition programs, personnel, and necessary services; however it would be their decision and the means to achieve the objectives stated in S.B. No. 612 should not be legislated.

### Impact Aid Program and Hawaii Public Schools

Through the U.S. Department of Education Impact Aid program, the Department receives federal funds to offset the educational costs of federally-connected students - students that reside on federal property, including low income housing and military housing and installations.

In Hawaii, it is the discretion of the Board of Education to allocate excess (above the Legislative appropriation) Impact Aid dollars for education budget items. Last year, the BOE allocated Impact Aid towards: teacher and substitute salaries; charter schools proportionate share; program and fiscal evaluation; and unfunded electricity costs.

In previous years, the BOE allocated up to \$118 per student in additional Impact Aid dollars to offset federally connected schools expenses incurred to identify and document federally connected children, and provide an incentive for schools to maximize the identification and documentation of connected children in the future. Schools had discretion over these funds, and could use funds at their discretion to support transition program and personnel costs, if they desired. However, the federally connected funds were not allocated for this fiscal year because

last years Impact Aid funds were \$370,000 less than the appropriation ceiling. The ceiling is over \$45 Million, however this fiscal year only \$3.2 Million has been received. As such, there may not be sufficient Impact Aid funds to appropriate for the expansion of transition programs.

#### Concluding comments

In summary, the Department of Education supports S.B. No. 612. The Department agrees that schools would benefit from \$4.95 million in additional funding to establish/expand transition programs and fund personnel for each school. However we ask that the Committee consider: 1) placing an appropriation into the weighted student formula, instead of designating Impact Aid Program reimbursement funds, to preserve the discretionary spending authority of school principals, 2) not replacing the BOE's current budget priorities, and include the appropriation provisions in the budget appropriations bill so that the funding can become part of the Department's base budget.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

**School Transition Program  
Projected Cost**

Attachment A

	<b>District</b>	<b>Complex</b>	<b>School</b>	<b># Military Students*</b>	<b>Total Students*</b>	<b>% Military Students</b>	<b>EA Personnel Cost (\$33,000/position)</b>	<b>Resources (\$15,000/school)</b>
1	Windward	Kalaheo	Mokapu ES (K-6)	799	805	99.3%	\$33,000	\$15,000
2	Central	Leilehua	Hale Kula ES (K-5)	461	478	96.4%	\$33,000	\$15,000
3	Central	Radford	Nimitz ES (K-6)	458	488	93.9%	\$33,000	\$15,000
4	Central	Leilehua	Solomon ES (K-5)	746	800	93.3%	\$33,000	\$15,000
5	Central	Radford	Hickam ES (K-6)	756	815	92.8%	\$33,000	\$15,000
6	Central	Radford	Mokulele ES (K-6)	446	486	91.8%	\$33,000	\$15,000
7	Central	Moanalua	Shafter ES (K-6)	192	218	88.1%	\$33,000	\$15,000
8	Central	Radford	Pearl Harbor Kai ES (K-6)	436	523	83.4%	\$33,000	\$15,000
9	Central	Leilehua	Wheeler ES (K-5)	555	671	82.7%	\$33,000	\$15,000
10	Central	Leilehua	Wheeler MS (6-8)	458	572	80.1%	\$33,000	\$15,000
11	Leeward	Pearl City	Lehua ES (K-6)	299	403	74.2%	\$33,000	\$15,000
12	Central	Moanalua	Red Hill ES (K-6)	212	349	60.7%	\$33,000	\$15,000
13	Central	Radford	Aliamanu ES (K-6)	413	706	58.5%	\$33,000	\$15,000
14	Central	Radford	Aliamanu IS (7-8)	480	825	58.2%	\$33,000	\$15,000
15	Leeward	Campbell	Iroquois Point ES (K-6)	327	653	50.1%	\$33,000	\$15,000
16	Central	Radford	Pearl Harbor ES (K-6)	289	629	45.9%	\$33,000	\$15,000
17	Central	Radford	Radford HS (9-12)	606	1333	45.5%	\$33,000	\$15,000
18	Central	Radford	Makalapa ES (K-6)	221	594	37.2%	\$33,000	\$15,000
19	Central	Leilehua	Helemano ES (K-5)	206	587	35.1%	\$33,000	\$15,000
20	Leeward	Campbell	Keone'ula ES (K-6)	138	431	32.0%	\$33,000	\$15,000
21	Windward	Kalaheo	Kainalu ES (K-6)	150	530	28.3%	\$33,000	\$15,000
22	Central	Moanalua	Moanalua MS (7-8)	236	863	27.3%	\$33,000	\$15,000
23	Leeward	Kapolei	Barber's Point ES (K-5)	128	493	26.0%	\$33,000	\$15,000
24	Windward	Kalaheo	Aikahi ES (K-6)	144	569	25.3%	\$33,000	\$15,000
25	Central	Leilehua	Leilehua HS (9-12)	434	1861	23.3%	\$33,000	\$15,000
26	Central	Aiea	Webling ES (K-6)	119	514	23.2%	\$33,000	\$15,000
27	Windward	Kalaheo	Kalaheo HS (9-12)	223	987	22.6%	\$33,000	\$15,000
28	Leeward	Pearl City	Pearl City ES (K-6)	109	491	22.2%	\$33,000	\$15,000
29	Windward	Kalaheo	Kailua IS (7-8)	158	734	21.5%	\$33,000	\$15,000
30	Central	Leilehua	Wahiawa ES (K-5)	80	444	18.0%	\$33,000	\$15,000
31	Leeward	Campbell	Holomua ES (K-6)	233	1534	15.2%	\$33,000	\$15,000
32	Central	Mililani	Mililani Uka ES (K-5)	104	718	14.5%	\$33,000	\$15,000
33	Central	Moanalua	Moanalua HS (9-12)	259	1958	13.2%	\$33,000	\$15,000
34	Central	Mililani	Mililani 'Ike ES (K-5)	133	1016	13.1%	\$33,000	\$15,000
35	Leeward	Kapolei	Kapolei ES (K-5)	141	1100	12.8%	\$33,000	\$15,000
36	Central	Moanalua	Moanalua ES (K-6)	88	703	12.5%	\$33,000	\$15,000
37	Leeward	Waipahu	Waikele ES (K-6)	87	705	12.3%	\$33,000	\$15,000
38	Leeward	Kapolei	Mauka Lani ES (K-5)	68	580	11.7%	\$33,000	\$15,000
39	Central	Mililani	Mililani Waena ES (K-5)	67	580	11.6%	\$33,000	\$15,000
40	Windward	Kalaheo	Kailua ES (K-6)	45	398	11.3%	\$33,000	\$15,000
41	Leeward	Kapolei	Kapolei MS (6-8)	179	1616	11.1%	\$33,000	\$15,000
42	Windward	Kailua	Ka'elepulu ES (K-6)	19	179	10.6%	\$33,000	\$15,000
43	Central	Mililani	Mililani Mauka ES (K-5)	70	709	9.9%	\$33,000	\$15,000
44	Leeward	Waipahu	Kalei'opu'u ES (K-6)	93	942	9.9%	\$33,000	\$15,000
45	Central	Mililani	Mililani MS (6-8)	174	1822	9.5%	\$33,000	\$15,000
46	Central	Aiea	Scott ES (K-6)	50	533	9.4%	\$33,000	\$15,000
47	Leeward	Campbell	Ilima IS (7-8)	111	1212	9.2%	\$33,000	\$15,000
48	Central	Mililani	Kipapa ES (K-5)	55	618	8.9%	\$33,000	\$15,000
49	Leeward	Pearl City	Palisades ES (K-6)	27	317	8.5%	\$33,000	\$15,000
50	Leeward	Kapolei	Kapolei HS (9-12)	197	2341	8.4%	\$33,000	\$15,000
51	Leeward	Pearl City	Kanoelani ES (K-6)	65	776	8.4%	\$33,000	\$15,000
52	Kauai	Waimea	Kekaha ES (K-6)	20	241	8.3%	\$33,000	\$15,000
53	Central	Mililani	Mililani HS (9-12)	190	2462	7.7%	\$33,000	\$15,000
54	Leeward	Campbell	Ewa Beach ES (K-6)	32	415	7.7%	\$33,000	\$15,000
55	Windward	Castle	Ahuimanu ES (K-6)	28	417	6.7%	\$33,000	\$15,000
56	Leeward	Pearl City	Highlands IS (7-8)	68	1028	6.6%	\$33,000	\$15,000

**School Transition Program  
Projected Cost**

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	<b>District</b>	<b>Complex</b>	<b>School</b>	<b># Military Students*</b>	<b>Total Students*</b>	<b>% Military Students</b>	<b>EA Personnel Cost (\$33,000/position)</b>	<b>Resources (\$15,000/school)</b>
57	Windward	Kailua	Enchanted Lake ES (K-6)	22	339	6.5%	\$33,000	\$15,000
58	Central	Aiea	Pearl Ridge ES (K-6)	37	574	6.4%	\$33,000	\$15,000
59	Leeward	Pearl City	Waiiau ES (K-6)	34	571	6.0%	\$33,000	\$15,000
60	Leeward	Campbell	Ewa ES (K-6)	55	925	5.9%	\$33,000	\$15,000
61	Leeward	Campbell	Pohakea ES (K-6)	30	526	5.7%	\$33,000	\$15,000
62	Central	Leilehua	Wahiawa MS (6-8)	49	896	5.5%	\$33,000	\$15,000
63	Leeward	Campbell	Campbell HS (9-12)	129	2370	5.4%	\$33,000	\$15,000
64	Leeward	Pearl City	Pearl City HS (9-12)	97	1872	5.2%	\$33,000	\$15,000
65	Honolulu	Kaiser	Kamiloiko ES (K-5)	16	342	4.7%	\$33,000	\$15,000
66	Windward	Castle	Heeia ES (K-6)	24	520	4.6%	\$33,000	\$15,000
67	Central	Aiea	Waimalu ES (K-6)	25	549	4.6%	\$33,000	\$15,000
68	Central	Aiea	Aiea IS (7-8)	30	665	4.5%	\$33,000	\$15,000
69	Central	Aiea	Aiea HS (9-12)	57	1288	4.4%	\$33,000	\$15,000
70	Central	Leilehua	Iliahi ES (K-5)	18	432	4.2%	\$33,000	\$15,000
71	Leeward	Pearl City	Pearl City Highlands ES (K-6)	13	327	4.0%	\$33,000	\$15,000
72	Leeward	Kapolei	Makakilo ES (K-6)	20	505	4.0%	\$33,000	\$15,000
73	Leeward	Waianae	Ma'ili ES (K-6)	29	786	3.7%	\$33,000	\$15,000
74	Honolulu	Kaiser	Haha'ione ES (K-5)	14	380	3.7%	\$33,000	\$15,000
74	Honolulu	Kaiser	Aina Haina ES (K-5)	16	441	3.6%	\$33,000	\$15,000
76	Windward	Castle	Kane'ohe ES (K-6)	21	605	3.5%	\$33,000	\$15,000
77	Honolulu	Kalani	Waikiki ES (K-6)	12	371	3.2%	\$33,000	\$15,000
78	Central	Aiea	Aiea ES (K-6)	12	372	3.2%	\$33,000	\$15,000
79	Windward	Kahuku	Sunset Beach ES (K-6)	12	375	3.2%	\$33,000	\$15,000
80	Windward	Kailua	Maunawili ES (K-6)	12	403	3.0%	\$33,000	\$15,000
81	Central	Moanalua	Salt Lake ES (K-6)	22	750	2.9%	\$33,000	\$15,000
82	Leeward	Waianae	Leihoku ES (K-6)	21	743	2.8%	\$33,000	\$15,000
83	Central	Waialua	Waialua ES (K-6)	14	522	2.7%	\$33,000	\$15,000
84	Leeward	Waianae	Makaha ES (K-6)	15	568	2.6%	\$33,000	\$15,000
85	Central	Leilehua	Ka'ala ES (K-5)	11	425	2.6%	\$33,000	\$15,000
86	Leeward	Pearl City	Momilani ES (K-6)	10	408	2.5%	\$33,000	\$15,000
87	Honolulu	Kaiser	Niu Valley MS (6-8)	17	702	2.4%	\$33,000	\$15,000
88	Kauai	Waimea	Waimea Canyon ES/IS (K-8)	11	460	2.4%	\$33,000	\$15,000
89	Windward	Castle	King IS (7-8)	17	733	2.3%	\$33,000	\$15,000
90	Windward	Castle	Castle HS (9-12)	35	1652	2.1%	\$33,000	\$15,000
91	Kauai	Waimea	Waimea HS (9-12)	16	805	2.0%	\$33,000	\$15,000
92	Leeward	Waipahu	Waipahu IS (7-8)	25	1267	2.0%	\$33,000	\$15,000
93	Honolulu	Kaiser	Kaiser HS (9-12)	19	990	1.9%	\$33,000	\$15,000
94	Leeward	Waipahu	Ahrens ES (K-6)	24	1272	1.9%	\$33,000	\$15,000
95	Windward	Kailua	Waimanalo ES/IS (K-8)	10	542	1.8%	\$33,000	\$15,000
96	Windward	Castle	Kapunahala ES (K-6)	10	574	1.7%	\$33,000	\$15,000
97	Leeward	Waipahu	Honowai ES (K-6)	14	819	1.7%	\$33,000	\$15,000
98	Honolulu	Roosevelt	Ma'ema'e ES (K-6)	12	739	1.6%	\$33,000	\$15,000
99	Leeward	Waipahu	Waipahu HS (9-12)	39	2576	1.5%	\$33,000	\$15,000
100	Windward	Kailua	Kailua HS (9-12)	14	940	1.5%	\$33,000	\$15,000
101	Windward	Kahuku	Kahuku IS/HS (7-12)	21	1793	1.2%	\$33,000	\$15,000
102	Leeward	Waianae	Wai'anae IS (7-8)	12	1056	1.1%	\$33,000	\$15,000
103	Leeward	Waianae	Wai'anae HS (9-12)	21	2218	0.9%	\$33,000	\$15,000
				<b>14,076</b>	<b>83,760</b>	<b>16.8%</b>	<b>\$3,399,000</b>	<b>\$1,545,000</b>

EA Personnel (103)	\$3,399,000
Resources	\$1,545,000
<b>TOTAL COST</b>	<b>\$4,944,000</b>

\* based on SY2006-07 federal survey card data



**Testimony to Senate Committee on Education and Housing  
Wednesday, February 11, 2009  
2:30 PM  
Conference Room 225**

**RE: SENATE BILL NO. 612 RELATING TO EDUCATION**

**Chair Sakamoto, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the committee.**

My name is Charles Ota and I am the Vice President for the Military Affairs Committee of The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii (The Chamber). I am here to state The Chamber's **support of Senate Bill No. 612, Relating to Education.**

The Chamber's Military Affairs Council (MAC) serves as the liaison for the state in matters relating to the U.S. military and provides oversight for the State's multi-billion dollar defense industry.

The measure proposes to appropriate funds to expand transition programs for military-impacted schools in the state and to hire necessary personnel to coordinate the transition programs.

I would specifically like to address Section 1 of this bill.

The quality of schooling provided to military children is the top quality of life concern faced by military families moving to Hawaii. This concern has existed for many years, and persistent efforts by the Hawaii Department of Education (DOE) and the military community have resulted in establishing the highly successful student transition program at Radford High School. The successful efforts were steered by the Joint Venture Education Forum (JVEF), which is a chartered partnership between Hawaii's U.S. military commands and families and the Hawaii Department of Education and its military impacted schools.

Tied to the work of the JVEF is an annual appropriation of congressional defense funding channeled through the U.S. Department of Defense to the U.S. Pacific Command at Camp Smith. These funds helped to establish student transition centers at qualifying schools, such as the center at Radford High School. However, JVEF funds may not be used to pay for salaries and wages.

The bill proposes to authorize the use of federal impact aid funds received annually by the DOE through the U.S. Department of Education. These funds flow directly to the DOE for use in helping to defray the cost of schooling the children of U.S. military and other federal employees in Hawaii's public schools.

Annual federal impact aid funding to the DOE amounts to about \$48 million.

The success of a transition center at schools with high enrollments of children from military and other federal employee families largely depends on the schools being able to have a trained staff to



implement the program. This would be especially important at many schools such as Radford where the enrollment of students from federally employed families is high.

General DOE funding from the state does not provide for staffing a transition center. Schools already struggle to fund the cost of classroom operations, other student services, and school administration.

The transition of military students and other federal employees into U.S. public schools is considered a priority issue, so much so that the Council of State Governments has acted to establish an Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children. A separate bill has been introduced this session to recommend that Hawaii join this compact. We support this legislation.

We should also like to mention that transition centers could also be available to service all students, including those of residents and other non-federally connected families. We believe that all students, regardless of whether their parents are employed by the federal government, face similar challenges that could be eased by a transition center.

For these reasons, the MAC strongly recommends approval of SB 612.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify.