

# SB 630

**Measure Title:**

RELATING TO TUITION ASSISTANCE

**Report Title:**

National Guard; Tuition Assistance; Appropriation

**Description:**

Broadens the scope of the law that provides tuition assistance to Hawaii national guard members attending the University of Hawaii to include commissioned and general officers, and persons pursuing graduate degrees.



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs and  
Committee on Higher Education  
Tuesday, February 17, 2009  
2:30 PM  
Conference Room 229**

**RE: SENATE BILL NO. 630 RELATING TO TUITION ASSISTANCE**

Chairs Espero and Tokuda, Vice Chairs Bunda and Sakamoto, and members of the committees:

My name is Charles Ota and I am the Vice President for Military Affairs at The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii (The Chamber). I am here to state The Chamber's support of Senate Bill 630, Relating to Tuition Assistance.

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 bill proposes to broaden the scope of Hawaii law by authorizing tuition assistance to Hawaii National Guard members attending the University of Hawaii to include all commissioned and general officers. The current law limits officer eligibility to company grade officers.

This proposal clarifies officer eligibility to include all commissioned officers of the Hawaii National Guard. This is most appropriate as this will encourage the professional development of all national guard officers.

This will bring the national guard on a par with the professional development opportunities provided for officers in the active service.

For these reasons, the MAC recommends that SB 630 be approved.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify.