

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 4  
A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO INTERSTATE COMPACT ON  
EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY FOR MILITARY CHILDREN

PRESENTATION TO THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

BY

MAJOR GENERAL DARRYLL D. M. WONG  
INTERIM ADJUTANT GENERAL  
February 2, 2011

Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Bellati, and Members of the Committee:

I am Major General Darryll D. M. Wong, Interim State Adjutant General. I am testifying on House Bill 4.

We support House Bill 4. This measure makes permanent the interstate compact on educational opportunities for military children which became law as Act 152 during the regular session of 2009. It also clarifies military representation on the state council on educational opportunity for military children within the Board of Education.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this written testimony.

**Representative Roy Takumi, Education Committee  
January 31, 2011**

**Testimony of  
Laurie Crehan, Ed.D.  
Quality of Life Regional Liaison  
Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense, Military Community & Family  
Policy  
DoD-State Liaison Office**

**Support of: HB 4 INTERSTATE COMPACT ON EDUCATIONAL  
OPPORTUNITY FOR MILITARY CHILDREN**

**The Department of Defense State Liaison Office** operates under the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, and the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Military Community and Family Policy. Our mission is to be a resource to state policymakers as they work to address quality of life issues of military families. In her position as state liaison, Dr. Crehan monitors quality of life issues for military families in HI, CA, AZ, and NV. Before coming to work in the State Liaison Office, she worked as an educator, spending over 20 years in the Department of Defense Dependents Schools as a teacher and administrator. In that capacity, she learned first hand of the educational challenges the children of our military members face as they encounter frequent school moves.

**Testimony**

Chair Takumi and Members of the House Education Committee, on behalf of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony today as Hawaii considers making the *Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children* permanent.

The Interstate Compact addresses challenges military children face as they move from state to state. These challenges are of utmost importance to military families, and are consistently listed as among their top family concerns as they work to serve our nation in the Armed Forces.

Thirty-five states have already adopted the Compact. Hawaii is one of those states and the Commissioner of the Hawaii State Council, Dr. Kathleen Berg, has taken a leadership role in the National Compact Commission, serving as the Commission Vice-Chair and providing materials for training school officials on the Compact. Representative Mark Takai serves as an ex-officio member of the Compact Commission representing the Military Legislators Association. The

Hawaii State Council has been very active and serves as a model for other states that are just forming their State Council. It would be a great benefit to the National Compact Commission for Hawaii to continue to serve as a strong resource by remaining a member.

On average, most military children will move at least twice during their high school years, and most will attend six to nine different school systems between kindergarten and 12<sup>th</sup> grade. These frequent moves result in some educational obstacles. Though many states, including Hawaii, have made progress in addressing these educational concerns, there is a lack of consistency *between* states that continues to create difficulties for our military families. Some of these recurring issues include kindergarten start age, participation in extracurricular activities, immunizations, timely transfer of records, placement in appropriate courses, missed or redundant entrance and exit testing, support for children of deployed service members, and on-time graduation. Though one state may do several things right, the next move to another state can create a new set of problems since the procedures are not the same. These issues are addressed in the *Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children*.

The Compact is an agreement among member states to a set of practices that will allow for the uniform treatment of military children transferring between school districts and between states. The Interstate Compact does not ask for special privileges for military children; only that states create a level playing field, and work cooperatively to make it happen. Military children often end up making sacrifices because their parent's are serving our country. The language and intent of the Compact will provide consistency for our military children as they move from state to state and alleviate some of the hardship they encounter.

I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony and look forward to Hawaii's leadership in adopting this vital compact supporting our military children by remaining a member of the Interstate Compact Commission. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any concerns or questions.

Dr. Laurie Crehan  
858-274-3314  
[lcrehan@juno.com](mailto:lcrehan@juno.com)

Personal Testimony

Presented Before the  
House of Representatives Committee on Education

February 2, 2011  
2:00 p.m. Conference Room 309

By

Kathleen F. Berg, Associate Director  
Curriculum Research & Development Group  
University of Hawaii at Manoa College of Education  
And  
Hawaii State Commissioner  
Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission

On

**HB 4**

**Relating to the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children**

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By

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University of Hawaii at Manoa College of Education  
And  
Hawaii State Commissioner  
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**HB4: Relating to the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children**

Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Belatti, and Members of the Committee

I am providing personal testimony today in support of HB 4 to make permanent Hawaii's membership in the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children.

The mobile military lifestyle creates special challenges for the children of military members, who attend on average 6 to 9 different school systems from kindergarten to twelfth grade. In addition, the children often endure the anxiety of being separated from a parent deployed and in harm's way. This Interstate Compact was designed to help overcome educational transition issues of children of military families and to help ease the strain on families due to deployment. Presently, 35 states including Hawaii are members of the compact.

Although Hawaii public schools have for many years prior to the development of this compact made the accommodations called for in the current compact rules, by Hawaii being a member state, our schools can expect full cooperation and assistance from the schools in other compact states who send students to and receive students from Hawaii. This eases the burden on our schools when resolving issues of graduation, enrollment, placement and attendance for military dependent students and ensures smoother transitions for military children.

Prior to the initial passage of the compact law in Hawaii in 2009, a series of meetings with various stakeholders revealed that nearly all of the compact rules were supported by policy statements and/or practice in our schools where military students attend. In addition, it was generally agreed that the accommodations were reasonable ones to be made for all transitioning students and did not generally create special privileges for military students. The directed accommodations are to be "reasonable" and at the discretion of school officials; they address transition issues and are not intended to impact curriculum or local standards. The compact does address special consideration

due to a parent's deployment to "a combat zone or combat support posting," a situation unique to military families.

During the last 18 months, the implementation of the compact in Hawaii has been, by all measures, very successful. A large percentage of the state's public school principals have received training; training has begun with school registrars; the state council has been formed with very active and inclusive military, government, and HIDOE representation; and the several council meetings held thus far have been very constructive forums for problem solving and sharing of situations and issue resolutions. The military services' school liaison officers have been actively engaged in these education efforts and have worked closely with the state council as well as the schools. The compact rules provide a common ground and guidelines for this work as well as consistency across schools and states for military children. During this same time, the national commission has established full-time organizational leadership and resources, and the executive director and staff are providing the necessary communication and coordination of the various state implementation efforts to ensure the success of the compact.

I urge your support for the continued participation by Hawaii in the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF HAWAII**

1132 Bishop Street, Suite 402

Honolulu, HI 96813

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations

Wednesday, March 24, 2010

9:35 AM

Conference Room 016

**RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 4, RELATING TO THE INTERSTATE COMPACT ON  
EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY FOR MILITARY CHILDREN**

Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Au Belatti, and members of the committee.

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 House Bill 4, Relating To The Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children.

The Chamber's Military Affairs Council (MAC) serves as the liaison for the state in matters relating to the US military and its civilian workforce and families, and has provided oversight for the state's multi-billion dollar defense industry since 1985.

The measure proposes to make permanent the interstate compact on educational opportunity for military children. It proposes to delete the definition of "test period" and provisions relating to furnishing of unofficial school records and the principal's determination of available space, and clarifies military representation on the state council on educational opportunity of military children within DOE.

This measure addresses one of the top quality of life priorities for military families, the schooling of their children. The differing policies adopted by public school in the US have caused some avoidable confusion and disadvantages for military children.

The interstate compact was established to streamline school policies on inter-school transfers and making the policies as seamless as possible. Hawaii is a charter member of the compact and should remain so.

We respectfully request that the proposed measure be approved for adoption.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Hawaii Chapter, MOAA  
P.O. Box 1185  
Kailua, Hawaii 96734-1185

**Testimony of**  
**Thomas Smyth, President**  
**Military Officers Association of America, Hawaii Chapter**  
**Before the Committee on Education**  
**Wednesday, February 2, 2011, 2:00 pm, Room 309**  
**HB 4 Relating to The Interstate Compact on Educational**  
**Opportunities For Military Children**  
**Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Au Belatti and Committee Members**

**Our chapter of 400 retired and currently serving officers of the Uniformed Services continues to strongly support the Interstate Compact and HB 4 which makes the Compact permanent by removing the sunset.**

**We recognize that there was some concern over cost and complexity in the implementation of this approach to helping children of military families transition to new duty stations across the country. Since its enactment nearly two years ago, however, these concerns appear to have been addressed. The program is in place and from all accounts we have heard from military families works as well as could be expected.**

**Hawaii has an advantage in having a single state-wide public school system so that whatever public school a military child attends the transition and course credit policies are the same under the Compact.**

**As the parent of three children who attended Hawaii public schools and received an excellent education while there, I can personally say that a program such as this would have made my children's education somewhat easier. Today military children face significant emotional challenges in dealing with frequent parental deployment, so anything that can ease the educational transition is needed more than ever.**

**Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important measure.**



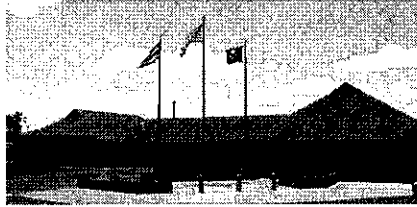
# THE OAHU VETERANS COUNCIL

## OAHU VETERANS COUNCIL

President - Fred Ballard  
1st V.P. - Cecil Meadows  
2nd V.P. - Jim Santos  
Secretary - John Harms  
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## OAHU VETERANS CENTER

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
Sandy Ballard



"a gathering place for veterans"  
OAHU VETERANS CENTER

## MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

5th Regimental Combat Team -  
45th Infantry Division Association.  
Air Force Assn. - Chapter 138  
Air Force Sergeants Association  
American Legion Aux. - Dept. of HI  
American Legion - Dept. of HI  
American Legion - Post 32  
American Veterans Empowerment &  
Support - Community Operations  
BPOE VAVS - Hawaii Dist.  
China-Burma-India Veterans  
Association.  
Chosin Few - Aloha Chapter  
Combat Infantrymen's Association.  
Combat Veterans Motorcycle Club  
Disabled American Veterans - Chapter 3  
Fleet Reserve Association - Branch  
and Unit 46  
Hawaii Multiple Schools Unit - Jr. ROTC  
Korean War Veterans Assn - Chapter 1  
Military Officers Assn. of America -  
Aloha Chapter  
Military Officers Assn. of America -  
Hawaii State Chapter  
Military Order of the Purple Heart  
Military Order of World Wars  
National Association. for Atomic  
Veterans  
National Association. of Uniformed  
Services  
National Sojourners - Hawaiian # 9  
National Sojourners - Honolulu # 11  
National Sojourners - Kamehameha #439  
Pearl Harbor Survivors Association  
Radiated Veterans  
Samoan Providers  
Society of Military Widows - Aloha  
Chapter  
Sons & Daughters of Pearl Harbor  
Survivors  
Special Forces Association. - Chapter  
VIII  
State Office of Veterans Services  
Veterans of Foreign Wars - Dept. of  
Hawaii  
Veterans of Foreign Wars - Post 970  
Vietnam Veterans of America - Chapter  
858  
Waves National - Unit 131  
Women Veterans of America #26

January 27, 2011

## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 4 RELATING TO THE INTERSTATE COMPACT ON EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY FOR MILITARY CHILDREN HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION HEARING ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2<sup>ND</sup> AT 2PM, IN ROOM 309

Aloha Chairman Takumi: Oahu Veterans Council member-organization delegates represent the common interests of over 80,000 veterans and their families.

This evening, our Legislative Committee reviewed numerous Bills of interest, introduced in 26<sup>th</sup> State Legislature, and expressed our full support for your efforts to permanently strengthen our State's relationship with parents of our military students.

The Oahu Veterans Council sincerely supports your efforts to:

- make permanent the interstate compact on educational opportunity for military children and deleting the definition of "test period".
- Delete provisions relating to the furnishing of unofficial education records and principal's determination of available space.
- Clarification of military representation on state council on educational opportunity for military children within BOE

Mahalo for allowing us to testify, regarding this extremely important proposal.

*Dennis Egge*

Dennis Egge; Chairman, Legislative Committee



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