

HB4

HD2



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY, PACIFIC
FORT SHAFTER, HAWAII 96858-5100

March 17, 2011

Office of the Commanding General

Senator Jill Tokuda
24th Senatorial District
Chair, Senate Committee on Education and Housing
State Capitol, Room 218
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-2403

Re: IN SUPPORT OF HB4, HD2 "Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children"
Hearing: Wednesday, March 23, 2011, 1:15 PM

Dear Chairwoman Tokuda and Committee Members:

The United States Army, Pacific (USARPAC) would like to inform you of our support for the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children (ICEOMC) and Hawaii's continued membership in the Compact. When considering the number of school-age military children impacting each state, Hawaii ranks 9th in the Nation with approximately 24,000 school-age military children. As these children move from state to state, many of them encounter considerable challenges when dealing with enrollment, eligibility, placement, extra-curricular activities, and graduation requirements. Often, military children lose course credits due to multiple school transfers and are often improperly placed in courses due to the varying school requirements. 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.

USARPAC appreciates all that Hawaii's public schools have done on behalf of our military children regarding transition and deployment issues. The ICEOMC will only serve to compliment and augment what is already taking place. Additionally, this bill will continue to partner Hawaii with 35 other states in an effort to streamline the school transition process and create uniformity between states.

For these reasons, USARPAC supports Hawaii remaining as a member of the Interstate Compact. If you need additional information, please contact my Well-Being/Education Program Manager, Nancy Rice, at 438-4177 or E-mail nancy.rice1@us.army.mil.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Benjamin R. Mixon".

Benjamin R. Mixon
Lieutenant General, US Army
Commanding General



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

COMMANDER, U.S. MARINE CORPS FORCES, PACIFIC
CAMP H. M. SMITH, HI 96861-5001

22 MAR 2011

The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda
Hawaii State Senate
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator Tokuda,

Marine Force Pacific formally offers its continued support for Hawaii's membership in the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children. The compact provides much needed assistance to military families as they face challenges inherent in military careers. The passage of SB813 and HB4 will demonstrate Hawaii's continued willingness to remove barriers and assist military families when their children are required to change schools as they move to new duty locations.

In addition to regular tour rotation, many of my Marines frequently deploy to on-going conflicts in the Middle East, as well as other security related and humanitarian operations throughout the world. Stability is crucial to service members and their families' overall well-being. Their children's education is often a major consideration when reenlisting and relocating.

Our service members place importance on this legislation as it provides a venue for states to work together to remove barriers to educational success. Thus, I urge you and the Committee on Education to align Hawaii's compact with the national compact, which does not restrict military representation on the state council to a uniformed service member. Lifting this restriction allows military services the flexibility to determine the most qualified representative to the commission.

The State of Hawaii has shown continued support to the many issues which affect our military families in Hawaii, and I thank you for the support you have provided in the past. I ask that you and the Committee on Education support Hawaii remaining a member of the Interstate Compact, as it will favorably impact military families rotating in and out of Hawaii. A similar letter has been sent to Chairman Espero.

Sincerely,

DUANE D. THIESSEN
Lieutenant General, U.S. Marine Corps

Copy to:
The Honorable Sam Slom
Ranking Minority Member

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 4 HD2
A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO INTERSTATE COMPACT ON
EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY FOR MILITARY CHILDREN

PRESENTATION TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
AND
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS,
AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

BY

MAJOR GENERAL DARRYLL D. M. WONG
ADJUTANT GENERAL
March 23, 2011

Chair Tokuda, Chair Espero, and Members of the Committee:

I am Major General Darryll D. M. Wong, State Adjutant General. I am testifying on House Bill 4 HD2.

We support House Bill 4 HD2. 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.

Personal Testimony

Presented Before the Senate
Committee on Education
and
Committee on Public safety, Government Operations, and Military Affairs

March 23, 2011
1:15 p.m. Conference Room 225

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

HB 4, HD2: Relating to the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children

Chairs Tokuda and Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am providing personal testimony today in support of HB 4, HD2 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 HDOE representation; and the several council meetings held thus far have been very constructive forums for problem solving and sharing of situations and issue resolutions. We have established a state council structure that is working very well for Hawaii’s unique situation. The military services’ school liaison officers (SLOs) have been actively engaged in the education efforts and have worked closely with the state council as well as the schools, in large part because the Military Family Education Liaison of the state council is one of the service SLOs.

We would like to ensure that the state council continues to have the kind of visibility and effectiveness it has had thus far, so as the state commissioner I support the following three actions in concert with the legislation to make Hawaii’s membership in the interstate compact permanent.

- First, as the state commissioner I support the inclusion of the amendments recommended by Rick Masters, the legal counsel for the national commission, in his testimony for the bill, so that Hawaii’s rules conform to the wording of the nationally approved rules.
- Second, I support maintenance of the word “uniformed” in the portion of the state law (page 46) that describes the military representation on the state council such that it reads, “One uniformed military representative from a military installation of each branch of service” Because Hawaii’s statewide school district is the 9th largest school district nationwide, Hawaii’s state council includes very high ranking members of the Hawaii Department of Education as well as key state legislators and DoD representatives from each of the services. In order that the DoD representatives to the council carry comparable rank and authority, as they have in this very effective first year of the council, and to ensure that they visibly represent the military community in Hawaii, which holds education as one of its most important concerns, we want to ensure that uniformed members of the military will continue to serve as the DoD representatives to the council.
- And finally, I support continued discussion and work with the national commission to frame our resulting state legislation in such a way as to allow the continued participation of a representative of the local military services’ school liaison officers in the role of the Military Family Education Liaison to the state council. In the DoD’s own training materials, the SLOs are identified as the “key” to the successful implementation of the compact. In our own state council activities this past year, we have coordinated all training with our local SLOs through the Military Family Education Liaison, who is a SLO. This structure of the state council organization is so effective for Hawaii that we want to ensure it can be maintained even as

the DoD begins to redefine the roles of its representatives to state councils through an MOU with the national commission.

As the Hawaii State Commissioner to the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission, 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.

Senator Jill Tokuda, Senate Education Committee
Senator Will Espero, Senate Public Safety, Government Operations and
Military Affairs Committee

March 23, 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 Tokuda and Chair Espero and Members of the Senate EDU Committee and Senate PGM 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 12th 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 would also like to suggest one change in language to SB 813. In ARTICLE XIII, when outlining membership on the State Council, the current Compact statute states there will be a representative from PACOM and from an installation for each Service. The new proposed language adds uniformed to the description of the representative. Since most of the people in the military who work closely with the education of military children are civilian employees, the Compact, as drafted, and as adopted by the other 34 member-states, does not restrict military-related representation on the State Councils to only uniformed military members. This is because such a requirement could result in exclusion of a person, though civilian, who may be the most qualified individual to serve.

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/cell 858-361-1731
lcrehan@juno.com

WRITTEN COMMENTS

Date of Hearing: March 23, 2011, 1:15pm

Committee: Senate Education
Senate Public Safety,
Government Operations and
Military Affairs

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent

Title: H.B. No. 4, H.D. 2 Relating to Interstate Compact on
Educational Opportunity for Military Children

Purpose: Makes permanent the interstate compact on educational
opportunity for military children.

Department's Position: The Department of Education (Department) fully supports H.B.
4, H.D. 2.

The Department and has a long history in working with the military to address the transition of military children in and out of Hawaii Public Schools. Through the Joint Venture Education Forum (JVEF), a partnership between the military services and the Department, and the Military Impacted Principals Council comprised of the 57 impacted schools – the partnership has flourished and provided a venue to discuss issues important to both the military and educators. The compact's state council,

which includes education and military leaders, provides another opportunity to partner and support students.

Over the past 18 months, the Department has successfully worked with Hawaii State Council members, State Commissioner (Brig Gen Kathleen Berg , HIANG, ret) and our Military Family Education Liaison (Mr Darren Dean) to understand and discuss the compact rules, train school administrators and personnel, and develop a cohesive communication plan regarding the Hawaii compact. We fully support our participation in the compact and are committed to continue working with our military partners in easing the transition and providing a quality education for military students.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Testimony of Rick Masters, General Counsel for Interstate Commission on Educational Opportunity for Military Children

IN RE: HB 4 HD 1

March 23, 2011

Honorable Chair and Members of the Committee, I am Rick Masters, and I currently hold the position of General Counsel for the Interstate Commission on Educational Opportunity for Military Children which is the authorized governing body for the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children of which Hawaii and thirty-four (34) other states are members. I received my Juris Doctorate from the Brandeis School of Law of the University of Louisville and I am licensed to practice law in the Commonwealth of Kentucky as well as both of its U.S. District Courts, I am also admitted to practice before the U.S. Courts of Appeals for the 4th 6th and 10th Circuits as well as the District of Columbia Circuit and the United States Supreme Court. I was formerly an Assistant Attorney General for the Commonwealth of Kentucky and also served as General Counsel for the Council of State Governments where I have continued to act as Special Counsel for Interstate Compacts for the last ten (10) years.

I am also the primary drafter of a number of national compacts including the Interstate Compact for Adult Offender Supervision, which has been adopted by all 50 states, D.C., Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands and the Interstate Compact for Juveniles, the Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children and the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children which is the basis for the reauthorization of this Hawaii statute contained in SB 813.

I have provided legal advice to a number of existing compact commissions and have litigated court cases concerning disputes in which interstate compact provisions have been at issue in a number of U.S. District Courts and U.S. Courts of Appeals and in state courts. In addition I am a co-author of a book on the subject of interstate compacts published by the American Bar Association in 2007 containing the largest compilation of legal authorities and case citations ever printed on the subject.

This purpose of the compact is to address problems encountered by children in grades K-12 who must transfer from one state public school district to another because one or both parents are active duty members of the U.S. military including members of the guard and reserves who are activated or deployed.

To give input into the drafting process **stakeholders involved in public school education in this country served as an advisory group which directed the work of the drafting team.** *These groups included The National School Boards Association, The National Association of State Boards of Education, the National Education Association, The National Association of Elementary School Principals, The National PTA, The Military Impacted Schools Association, and the Education Commission of the States.*

In order to provide the desired uniformity to facilitate the transfer of these students from one state to another a compact mechanism is employed which became effective upon the enactment of the compact by ten (10) states in 2008 and since that time twenty-five (25) additional states have joined the compact, including Hawaii, for a total of thirty-five (35) states. Since January of this year the compact legislation has also been introduced in North Dakota, Montana, and West Virginia, with proposed legislation pending in New York and Pennsylvania and a number of the other non-member jurisdictions expected to introduce the legislation this year.

Interstate compacts are a time tested and court tested means of resolving interstate problems which are authorized under Article I, Section 10, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution. In our country's 235 year history some 200 compacts have been adopted of which Hawaii is a member of approximately 15 interstate compacts including three (3) compacts pertaining to education.

Interstate compacts have been used for three primary purposes: 1) boundary disputes between states; 2) management of environmental resources; 3) regulatory compacts which apply to a wide variety of multi-state problems including transportation, insurance regulation, taxation, interstate placement of foster and adopted children, criminal justice and corrections matters such as the transfer of adult offenders across state lines and education.

Compacts allow the states to exercise collective control over matters which are traditionally regulated by the states without surrendering state control to the federal government. Interstate compacts allow the states to avoid the problem of 'fifty (50) different sets of rules' with which to solve interstate problems through a uniform approach while still subject to joint state authority.

This Compact seeks to facilitate equal educational opportunity for the children of military members in four (4) major areas: 1) Enrollment; 2) Eligibility; 3) Placement; and 4) Graduation. For example:

Enrollment

To facilitate the enrollment of a transferred child the Compact provides that the receiving state school will accept a copy of the educational record from the parent if no “certified record” is available and gives the sending state ten (10) days after receipt of the request from the receiving state school to transfer the “official” record.

Eligibility

The compact recognizes that children of deployed military members should be provided with a reasonable opportunity to be included in extracurricular activities in the event of a missed tryout or induction process if the student is otherwise qualified.

Placement

Under the Compact there is a presumption that the sending state’s placement was correct and the transferred student will be continued in that placement if the receiving state offers equivalent courses. However the receiving state may subsequently conduct its own testing of the student and reevaluate & change such placement on that basis after the student has transferred to the new school district. The Compact also recognizes the special education services already required under federal law through IDEA, ICP and ADA. The compact allows some flexibility for deployment related absences.

Graduation

The Compact provides that the states will make reasonable efforts to accommodate the transfer of equivalent courses to facilitate on time graduation including consideration of alternative exit exam requirement being met if the student has successfully completed another national norm-referenced achievement test for those students approaching graduation. If the foregoing steps are not reasonably possible, as an alternative the receiving state will cooperate with the sending state in order to facilitate graduation in the sending state.

In summary, the compact attempts to establish a ‘common denominator’ among the member states which will remove existing barriers to timely completion of the public education process for these students who by virtue of the decision and commitment of their parent to serve our country are, in many cases, being unfairly penalized.

After reviewing the proposed bill contained in S.B. 813, I recommend that on page 12: line 2: Add the phrase "**, but is not limited to,**" set off by commas, between "includes" and "honors" in the sentence that now reads "Course placement includes honors, international baccalaureate, advance placement, vocational, technical, and career pathways courses."

Also, on the same page 12: line 21: Add the phrase "**, but are not limited to,**" set off by commas, between "include" and "gifted" in the sentence that now reads "The programs include gifted and talented programs and English as a second language programs."

The reason for this recommendation is that the current language in the proposed bill is much more specific and directive than the original language in the 'model draft' and apparently resulted from a misunderstanding regarding this section of the bill.

I have also reviewed the provision at page 46 of the proposed legislation naming a military representative from a military installation of each branch of service which I understand is a recommendation of the Hawaii State Council on Educational Opportunity for Military Children.

In my opinion and based upon my training and experience in the field of compact law and my specific knowledge of and involvement in the drafting of this specific compact, the above proposed amendments do not substantially deviate from the material provisions of the interstate compact statutes enacted by the current member states which are signatories to this compact.

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee about this important public policy matter and I will be happy to respond to any questions.



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
Senate Committee on Education
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations, and Military Affairs
Wednesday, March 23, 2011, 1:15 pm, Room 225
HB 4 HD 1 Relating to The Interstate Compact on Educational
Opportunities For Military Children

Chairs Tokuda and Espero, Vice Chair Kidani and Committee Members

Our chapter of 400 retired and currently serving officers of the Uniformed Services strongly supports HB 4 HD 1, as amended, which makes the Compact permanent by removing the sunset date.

We know there were cost and complexity concerns in this approach to helping children of military families make the transition to new duty stations across the country. Since enactment two years ago, these concerns seem to be addressed. The program is in place and from all accounts we have heard from military families does work. Hawaii has an advantage with a single state-wide public school system so 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, I can say that a program like this would have made my children's education a little easier. Today military children face significant emotional challenges in dealing with frequent parental deployment, so anything that eases the transition is needed more than ever. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important measure.

Military Impacted Principals Council
State of Hawaii
Department of Education
Queen Liliuokalani Building
1390 Miller Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

March 21, 2011

Testimony in Support of HB4 HD2 Relating to Interstate Compact

To: Senator Jill Tokuda, Chairperson, Education Committee
Senator Will Espero, Chairperson, Public Safety, Government Operations and Military Affairs
From: Fred Murphy, Co-Chairperson, Military Impacted Principals Council
Jan Iwase, Co-Chairperson, Military Impacted Principals Council

The Military Impacted Principals Council is comprised of fifty-six schools in the State of Hawaii which service military students in significant numbers. We are cognizant of the challenges a military student may face, and prior to the State's participation in the Interstate Compact, schools were already addressing some of the components of the Interstate Compact on a school-by-school basis.

For the past two years, Hawaii has become an important member of the Interstate Compact, and the agreements in the Compact have been routinely established at our MIPC schools. At our January 2011 MIPC meeting, our members voted to support continued membership by the State of Hawaii in the Interstate Compact.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Fred Murphy, Interim Principal, Wheeler Elementary School
622-6400, fred_murphy@notes.k12.hi.us

Jan Iwase, Principal, Hale Kula Elementary School
622-6380, jan_iwase@notes.k2.hi.us

THE OAHU VETERANS COUNCIL

OAHU VETERANS COUNCIL

President - Fred Ballard
1st V.P. - Cecil Meadows
2nd V.P. - Jim Santos
Secretary - John Harms
Treasurer - Eugenia Woodward
Chaplain - Frank Lamson

OAHU VETERANS CENTER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Sandy Ballard

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 VAWS - 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



"a gathering place for veterans"
OAHU VETERANS CENTER

March 16, 2011

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 4 HOUSE DRAFT 2 RELATING TO THE INTERSTATE COMPACT ON EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY FOR MILITARY CHILDREN

COMMITTEES ON EDUCATION AND PUBLIC SAFETY GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

HEARING ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23RD, AT 1:15PM, IN
ROOM 225

Aloha Chair Espero and Tokuda: The Oahu Veterans Council's member organization's identified in the left margin represent the interests of over 80,000 veterans and their families. This education compact renewal issue was brought to the full council's attention, in Saturday January 22nd. On Thursday, January 27th, our legislative committee decided to testify, in support of House Bill 4, as follows, if requested to do so:

All Oahu Veterans Council delegates performed creditable military service under the flag of the United States of America. We firmly believe renewing this compact with the federal government is a win-win proposition for Hawaii's K-12 Public Education program that our children and grandchildren participate in.

We thoughtfully and respectfully urge your committees to encourage those who may have issues with this policy commitment to set their concerns aside and join us in supporting this funding opportunity.

Mahalo for allowing us to testify this very important Bill.

Fred Ballard

Fred Ballard; President



1298 Kukila Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96818

Email: sballard@oahuveternascenter.com; Phone: 808-422-4000; Fax: 808-422-4001

www.oahuveternascenter.com

THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF HAWAII

1132 Bishop Street, Suite 402

Honolulu, HI 96813

Testimony to the Senate Committees on Education and Public Safety,
Government Operations and Military Affairs

Wednesday, March 23, 2011

1:15 PM

Conference Room 225

RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 4, HD2, RELATING TO THE INTERSTATE COMPACT ON
EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY FOR MILITARY CHILDREN

Chair Tokuda, Chair Espero, and Vice Chair Kidani, 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, HD2, 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 makes permanent the interstate compact on educational opportunity for military children, and proposes procedural changes.

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 schools 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 transfers as seamless as possible. This would greatly benefit military children who face frequent transfers throughout their school years.

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.



Testimony to the Senate Committee on Education and Senate Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations, and Military Affairs

Wednesday, March 23, 2011

1:15 p.m.

Conference Room 225

RE: House Bill 4 HD2 - Relating to the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children

Chairs Tokuda and Espero, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Gary Kai and I am the Executive Director of the Hawaii Business Roundtable. The Hawaii Business Roundtable fully supports legislation making permanent, the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children.

The members of the Hawaii Business Roundtable have had a long history of support for public education and for the military members of our community. The purpose of the Interstate Compact, to help address the problems that the children of our mobile military families, is one the Roundtable strongly supports.

The children of our military families make great sacrifices as they move from one community to another while their family members serve our country. The Compact has been very helpful in reducing the challenges facing these children. And as our members and their employees all truly understand the importance of our children and their education; we know that our military families share the same vision.

Since the passage of the Compact Law in Hawaii in 2009, we believe that the implementation has been a success and that it should be made permanent.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify and we look forward to joining your efforts to improve the lives of military members of our community.