

HB2257 HD1

Measure Title: RELATING TO PROFESSIONAL AND VOCATIONAL LICENSING.

Report Title: Licensing; Military Spouses

Description: Allows licensing boards to: (1) allow applicants to demonstrate competency in lieu of work experience requirements; and (2) establish procedures to expedite the issuance of licenses, certifications, or permits to military spouses. Effective July 1, 2030. (HB2257 HD1)

Companion:

Package: None

Current Referral: CPN

Introducer(s): AQUINO, CULLEN, HAR, ICHIYAMA, ITO, LUKE, MANAHAN, SAY, SOUKI, YAMANE, YAMASHITA, Fontaine, Johanson, M. Lee

<u>Sort by Date</u>		Status Text
1/20/2012	H	Pending introduction.
1/23/2012	H	Introduced and Pass First Reading.
1/23/2012	H	Referred to PBM, CPC, FIN, referral sheet 6
1/30/2012	H	Bill scheduled to be heard by PBM on Thursday, 02-02-12 9:00AM in House conference room 309.
2/2/2012	H	The committees on PBM recommend that the measure be PASSED, WITH AMENDMENTS. The votes were as follows: 11 Ayes: Representative(s) Aquino, Cullen, Ichiyama, M. Lee, Saiki, Souki, Takai, Takumi, Yamashita, Fontaine, Johanson; Ayes with reservations: none; Noes: none; and 1 Excused: Representative(s) Luke.
2/8/2012	H	Reported from PBM (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 177-12) as amended in HD 1, recommending passage on Second Reading and referral to CPC.
2/8/2012	H	Passed Second Reading as amended in HD 1 and referred to the committee(s) on CPC with none voting aye with reservations; none voting no (0) and C. Lee excused (1).
2/9/2012	H	Bill scheduled to be heard by CPC on Monday, 02-13-12 2:15PM in

		House conference room 325.
2/13/2012	H	The committees on CPC recommend that the measure be PASSED, UNAMENDED. The votes were as follows: 10 Ayes: Representative(s) Herkes, Yamane, Brower, Keith-Agaran, Luke, McKelvey, Tsuji, Ching, Thielen; Ayes with reservations: Representative(s) Marumoto; 0 Noes: none; and 5 Excused: Representative(s) Cabanilla, Carroll, Coffman, Ito, Souki.
2/16/2012	H	Reported from CPC (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 519-12), recommending referral to FIN.
2/16/2012	H	Report adopted; referred to the committee(s) on FIN with none voting aye with reservations; none voting no (0) and M. Lee, Souki excused (2).
3/1/2012	H	Bill scheduled to be heard by FIN on Thursday, 03-01-12 2:30PM in House conference room 308.
3/1/2012	H	The committees on FIN recommend that the measure be PASSED, UNAMENDED. The votes were as follows: 17 Ayes: Representative(s) Oshiro, M. Lee, Choy, Cullen, Giugni, Har, Hashem, Ichiyama, Jordan, Kawakami, C. Lee, Morikawa, Tokioka, Yamashita, Marumoto, Riviere, Ward; Ayes with reservations: none; Noes: none; and Excused: none.
3/2/2012	H	Reported from FIN (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 926-12), recommending passage on Third Reading.
3/6/2012	H	Passed Third Reading with none voting aye with reservations; none voting no (0) and none excused (0). Transmitted to Senate.
3/8/2012	S	Received from House (Hse. Com. No. 160).
3/8/2012	S	Passed First Reading.
3/8/2012	S	Referred to CPN.
3/14/2012	S	The committee(s) on CPN has scheduled a public hearing on 03-29-12 9:00AM in conference room 229.



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**PRESENTATION OF THE
PROFESSIONAL AND VOCATIONAL LICENSING DIVISION**

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2012

Thursday, March 29, 2012
9:00 a.m.

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2257, H.D. 1, RELATING TO PROFESSIONAL
AND VOCATIONAL LICENSING.**

TO THE HONORABLE ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Celia Suzuki, Licensing Administrator for the Professional and Vocational Licensing Division ("Division"), Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs ("Department"). The Department appreciates the opportunity to offer comments on House Bill No. 2257, H.D. 1, Relating to Professional and Vocational Licensing. The companion bill, Senate Bill No. 2395, was heard by your Committee and passed with amendments.

The purpose of House Bill No. 2257, H.D. 1, is to allow professional and vocational licensing authorities the ability to: 1) allow applicants to demonstrate

competency in lieu of work experience requirements; and 2) establish procedures to expedite the issuance of licenses, certifications, or permits to military spouses.

The Division currently oversees the regulation of forty-seven (47) boards, commissions and programs. Each licensing area has **specific** requirements for licensure and its own statutes and rules.

Regarding the first proposed section of the bill, the House version "allows" for licensure by endorsement by allowing applicants to demonstrate competency in a specific occupation or profession in lieu of any experience requirement. The Senate version permits for licensure by endorsement or licensure by reciprocity in certain situations for a nonresident military spouse. It also requires the licensing authority to expedite consideration of an application and issuance of the license by endorsement or by reciprocity to a nonresident military spouse who meets the requirements of this section.

The second proposed section of the bill "allows" each licensing authority to establish rules and procedures to expedite a license, certificate, or permit to an out-of-state licensee whose spouse is a member of the armed forces, and who left employment to accompany the spouse to Hawaii. The procedure may include issuing the individual a license, certificate, or permit if the other state's license requirement is at least equivalent to our own, or issue the individual a temporary permit until our license requirements are met. The Senate version, however, deleted the language that would have required the licensing authorities to establish, by rule, procedures to expedite the

issuance of a license, certification, or permit to a military spouse, and a method to issue temporary permits.

Another comparison is the House version proposes for the Act to take effect on July 1, 2050; whereas the Senate version proposes for the Act to take effect on July 1, 2030.

We do not have a preference for either version of the measure. Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments on House Bill No. 2257, H.D. 1.

**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Commerce
and Consumer Protection**

Thursday, March 29, 2012

9:00 AM

Conference Room 229

**RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 2257, HD 1, RELATING TO PROFESSIONAL AND
VOCATIONAL LICENSING**

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Taniguchi, 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 No. 2257, HD1, Relating to Professional and Vocational Licensing.

The measure proposes to authorize licensing boards to allow applicants to demonstrate competency in lieu of work experience required, and to establish procedures to expedite the issuance of licenses, certifications, or permits to military spouses.

The Chamber's Military Affairs Council has served as the liaison for the state in matters relating to the military since 1985. The adoption of measures that facilitate the employment of military spouses is one of the priority quality of life issues cited by the US Secretary of Defense.

This measure proposes to facilitate the employment of qualified military spouses. This is consistent with ongoing efforts by the US Department of Defense and the First Lady, Mrs. Michelle Obama, encouraging states and employers to provide gainful employment opportunities for military spouses, many of whom are highly qualified to fill vacancies in the local workforce.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this important measure.



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DoD-State Liaison Office

Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair, Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
March 28, 2012

HB 2257 Relating to Professional and Vocational Licensing for Military Spouses

Chair Baker and members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, on behalf of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, Military Community and Family Policy, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB 2257, a bill relating Professional and Vocational Licensing for Military Spouses.

HB 2257 was amended in the House changing “shall” to “may”. We believe that saying the boards *may* make this kind of change would **not** be an adequate mandate to see that meaningful change occurs. Without a mandate that directs the DCCA and the boards to consider accommodations for military spouses, we suspect that they, for the reasons they innumerate in their earlier testimony, will not take the necessary action. We believe that only through legislation can meaningful change be made, and we believe this change needs to be designed by the DCCA and the licensing authorities to ensure whatever is developed will meet their oversight responsibilities while still fulfilling the desired objective of this legislation.

The companion bill, SB 2395, was also amended in an earlier hearing of the Senate CPN Committee. The Department of Defense believes that the policy in SB 2395 SD1, while not covering all professions for which military spouses might need licenses, addresses the issue of spouse licensure in a manner that would best begin to help many military spouses moving to Hawaii. We would like to see this language inserted into HB 2257.

Our military spouses support the safety and well-being of our country, often making significant personal sacrifices of themselves and their families. We can demonstrate our appreciation of those sacrifices by adopting practices that lessen the barriers caused by frequent interstate moves on the careers of military spouses.

Thank you for your consideration.

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