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

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2012

Thursday, February 2, 2012
9:00 a.m.

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2258, RELATING TO PROFESSIONAL AND
VOCATIONAL LICENSING.**

TO THE HONORABLE HENRY J. C. AQUINO, 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 testify in strong opposition to House Bill No. 2258, Relating to Professional and Vocational Licensing.

The purpose of House Bill No. 2258 is to require professional and vocational licensing authorities to accept military education, training, and service towards the qualification of a license. It also requires the licensing authorities to adopt rules to implement the new section.

The Division currently oversees the regulation of forty-seven (47) boards, commissions, and programs. Every licensing authority has its own statutes and rules, and specific requirements for licensure. To impose a requirement that all licensing authorities accept military education, training, or service is overly broad and ambiguous, and does not appear to offer the licensing authorities any discretion. The bill also requires the licensing authorities to accept military education, training, or service, without regard to whether the education, training, or service has any relevance to the specific licensing area. This is clearly unacceptable.

Some of the licensing authorities have the ability to consider various types of experience and training to qualify for licensure, and may already accept education and experience obtained during military service. Therefore, we question the need for this measure. Furthermore, it is unreasonable to mandate that the licensing authorities which require applicants to acquire specific academic degrees from accredited institutions will have to accept "military education, training, or service." To require the licensing authorities to accept such an undefined qualification renders their education requirement meaningless.

With so many diverse professions and vocations under our jurisdiction, we feel imposing this requirement on all of our licensing authorities is clearly unwarranted. It is our duty to set the standards for entry into all of the professions and vocations that we regulate and protect the interests of consumers throughout the State. Requiring all licensing authorities to accept a broad and ambiguous qualification such as "military

education, training, or service" directly contradicts the Division's mission of protecting the public.

If this measure passes, House Bill No. 2258 would impose an unreasonable and irresponsible mandate on the Division. Requiring us to accept such a blanket proposal across all licensed professions and vocations does not conform to our duty of protecting the citizens of our State.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to House Bill No. 2258.



OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
(MILITARY COMMUNITY AND FAMILY POLICY)

4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-4000

DoD-State Liaison Office

Representative Henry J.C. Aquino, PBM Committee
February 1, 2012

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

**HB 2258 Relating to Professional and Vocational Licensing;
Military Training, Education, and Service**

The Department of Defense State Liaison Office operates under the direction of 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.

Testimony

Chair Aquino and members of the House Public Safety and Military Affairs Committee, on behalf of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony today on HB 2258, a bill relating Professional and Vocational Licensing; Military Training, Education, and Service. My name is Laurie Crehan. I am with the Department of Defense State Liaison Office which operates under the direction of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, and the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Military Community and Family Policy. Our top priority issue this year is facilitating Service members receiving licensure for Military Education, Training, and Experience when applying for a state license. The policy in HB 2258 will certainly help our transitioning Service members in obtaining state licenses and quickly finding work.

Separating Service members are frequently delayed getting post-Service employment even though they have applicable military education, training and experience which can qualify them for licenses. Transitioning Service members leave the military with documented training and experience that can prepare them for civilian employment; however, this documentation is not always used by state entities to qualify them for licenses required for their occupation. Reported unemployment rates of separating Service members that are higher than national averages have brought attention to supporting issues such as expedited licensure to alleviate this problem.

As of June 2011, one million Veterans were unemployed and the jobless rate for post-9/11 veterans was 13.3 %, with young male Veterans (ages 18 to 24) experiencing an

unemployment rate of 21.9%. This number appears to be rising as so many of our troops are returning home from combat. In 2010, according to Defense Manpower Data Center, 2,239 Service members separated or retired back to Hawaii, calling Hawaii home. Many will continue to choose Hawaii when transitioning into civilian careers.

The Military Services provide Service members opportunities to obtain certifications while on active duty to prepare themselves when they transition to civilian occupations. They also provide the Service members transcripts upon separation that document their training and education.

- Army Credentialing Opportunities On-Line (COOL), Navy COOL, and the Community College of the Air Force (CCAF) inform Service members of the credentials associated with military occupational specialties and help them assess how their training and experience matches to the requirements for those credentials.
- DoD and the Military Services provide each Service member a transcript of their experience and training which can be used by civilian institutions to assess for possible academic credit and by licensing boards to assess for license requirements:
 - The DoD Verification of Military Experience and Training (VMET);
 - Army/American Council On Education Registry Transcript System (AARTS);
 - Sailor and Marine Council On Education Registry Transcript System (SMART); and
 - The Community College of the Air Force Transcript.
- The American Council on Education (ACE) has established college credit recommendations for the learning experiences, which are published in the *ACE Guide to the Evaluation of Educational Experiences in the Armed Services*. Institutions can consider ACE comparability and applicability of the credit in relation to the student's selected program of study.
- The Department of Defense is also, *right now*, working feverishly with the US Department of Labor to link service transcripts of military occupations with civilian to private sector licensure requirements, while also asking state regulatory authorities in pilot states Washington, Illinois, and Maryland, to review select military occupations to determine whether the training and experience are sufficient to be useful in rendering licensing credit in a given occupation.

Through statute and regulation, states can establish requirements for licensure boards to accept military education, training and experience to fulfill requirements that are substantially the same. We are asking legislative leaders like you to establish policies that ensure separating Service members do not have to repeat requirements completed during their military career to obtain an occupational license.

Last year, four states enacted new laws to help grant our veterans credit towards licensing and/or academic credit. So far for the 2012 session, there are 27 bills in 15 more states resembling the one before you today.

It is important to us that you know we are not asking for direct licensure if it is not equivalent. In cases where the regulatory agency or board determines partial credit, the Service

member will still save time and expense and be able to enter the workforce more quickly. We only seek credit where credit is due.

Another point to consider: You and I have *already* paid for this veteran's training within the DoD schools and with years of experience while serving our Nation with our *federal* tax dollars.

In closing, let me say that we are grateful for the tremendous effort that Hawaii has historically given in supporting our service members and their families. We appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony. I am prepared to answer any questions you might have.

Dr. Laurie Crehan
State Liaison
DoD State Liaison Office
858-361-1731

**Testimony to the House Committee on Public Safety
and Military Affairs**

Thursday, February 2, 2012

9:00 AM

Conference Room 309

**RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 2258, RELATING TO PROFESSIONAL AND
VOCATIONAL LICENSING**

Chair Aquino, Vice Chair Cullen, 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 strong support of House Bill No. 2258, Relating to Professional and Vocational Licensing.

The measure proposes to require professional and vocational licensing boards to accept military education, training, service towards the qualifications of a license, and requires boards to adopt rules.

The Chamber's Military Affairs Council has served as the state liaison in matters relating to the military since 1985.

The employment of US veterans is one of the top issues cited by President Obama and the US Secretaries of Defense and Veterans Affairs, The Honorable Leon Panetta and the Honorable Eric Shinseki, respectively.

The measure proposes to give due recognition for qualifications earned by military members during their active service, and facilitate their employment upon separation from active service.

A large percentage of Hawaii's 101,500 veterans are highly qualified to fill critical jobs in government and the private sector. This is especially true today with our young veterans as the military downsizes to meet budget constraints.

In light of the above, we recommend the proposal be approved.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



January 31, 2012

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 2258
RELATING TO PROFESSIONAL AND VOCATIONAL LICENSING
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
HEARING ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2ND, AT 9:00AM, IN CONFERENCE
ROOM 309**

Aloha Chair Aquino: The Oahu Veterans Council's delegates, are honored to represent the interests of our veterans and their families. Our Legislative Committee voted unanimously to support House Bill 2258.

We are extremely grateful for your efforts to require our professional and vocational licensing boards to accept military education, training, and service towards the qualifications of a professional license.

Hawaii is proud of its largest per-capita military personnel community in the nation. They serve so selflessly and ask only for that level of recognition we would expect for ourselves.

The Oahu Veterans Council respectfully urges your committee to consider passing House Bill 2258 as written; mahalo, for allowing us to testify, regarding this extremely important issue.

Dennis Egge

Dennis Egge; Chairman, Legislative Committee



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