

**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Education and Committee on Public  
Safety, Government Operations and Military Affairs  
Thursday, March 15, 2012  
2:46 PM  
Conference Room 224**

**RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 2639, HD 2, RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION**

**Chairs Tokuda and Espero, 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 No. 2639, HD1, Relating to Higher Education.

The measure proposes to amend the University of Hawaii college-credit equivalency program to include service in the United States armed forces, and requires the program to develop a learning assessment to determine eligibility.

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 12.2 billion dollar defense industry.

The measure proposes to require the award college credits for professional military experiences gained by members of the armed forces of the United States that are equivalent to courses offered for credit in the university system.

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