



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

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-4000

DoD-State Liaison Office

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

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

HB 2639 Relating to Higher Education; College-Credit Equivalency Program

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 Dept 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. A top priority issue this year is facilitating Service members receiving academic credit for Military Education, Training, and Experience. The policy in HB 2639 will certainly help our transitioning Service members in obtaining academic credit in order to more quickly enter the workforce.

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 academic credit towards degree requirements. 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 higher education institutions to qualify them for academic credit. Reported unemployment rates of separating Service members that are higher than national averages have brought attention to supporting issues such as academic credit for service 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 pursue higher education and training in Hawaii, using their tuition assistance benefits.

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.

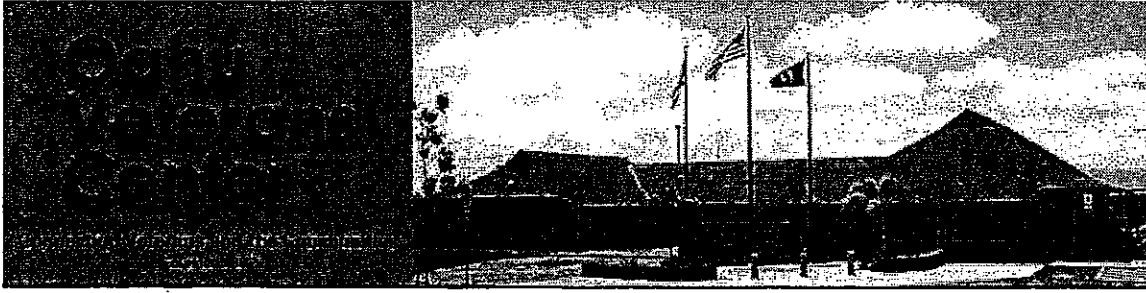
- DoD and the Military Services provide each Service member a transcript of their experience and training which can be used by civilian institutions to assess for possible academic credit:
 - The DoD Verification of Military Experience and Training (VMET);
 - Army/American Council On Education Registry 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 policy, as proposed in HB 2639, will establish a more uniformed approach toward awarding academic credit and save time and money for the Service members trying to complete their education.

Another consideration is that the more credit given to a veteran towards a degree or certification, the more classroom space that can be made available to other students, especially in this time of cutbacks.

We look forward to Hawaii's leadership in adopting these requirements to assist our Veterans and thank the members of the committee for your consideration. We appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony. I am prepared to answer any questions you might have.

Dr. Laurie Crehan
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January 31, 2012

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 2639
RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION**

**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 2639.

We are extremely grateful for your efforts to amend the University of Hawaii college-credit equivalency program to include service in the United States armed forces, and require the program to develop a learning assessment to determine eligibility.

With the nation's largest per-capita, military community to be proud of, Hawaii is doing the right thing for those who serve so selflessly and ask only for the same recognition and respect we would expect for ourselves.

The Oahu Veterans Council respectfully urges your committee to consider passing House Bill 2639 as written; mahalo for allowing us to testify, regarding this extremely important issue.

Dennis Egge

Dennis Egge; Chairman, Legislative Committee



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