

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2584 SD1
A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO TUITION ASSISTANCE

PRESENTATION TO THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

BY

MAJOR GENERAL DARRYLL D. M. WONG
ADJUTANT GENERAL
March 14, 2012

Chair Aquino, Vice-Chair Cullen and Committee Members:

I am Major General Darryll D. M. Wong, State Adjutant General. I am testifying on Senate Bill 2584 SD1.

We strongly support Senate Bill 2584 SD1, since this measure broadens the scope of the tuition assistance to members of the Hawaii National Guard by including all commissioned officers rather than officers in the grade of 01 (Second Lieutenant) to 03 (Captain). Also, this measure includes all students working toward any degree on any campus of the University of Hawaii. However, this bill gives priority to members of the Hawaii National Guard that are working on toward an undergraduate degree.

However, we recommend that this bill be amended by deleting Section 3 which provides a general fund appropriation. A general fund appropriation has been provided for our tuition assistance program in the Executive Supplemental budget for fiscal year 2012-2013.

Passage of this bill without the appropriation section will provide the Hawaii National Guard with a very valuable incentive for recruiting and retaining our highly trained soldiers and airmen capable of performing their federal and State missions.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony. Are there any questions?

13 March 2012

Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs
House of Representatives
Hawaii State Legislature
State Capitol
415 Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii

Ramon Maui Quizon
Senior Master Sergeant, Hawaii Air National Guard
Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii 96853

Re: S.B. 2584 SD1: Hearing Date/Time/Location: Wednesday, March 14, 2012, 10:30 a.m.,
Conference Room 309, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street, Honolulu, Hawaii

Mr. Chairman and distinguished members of the House Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs, I appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of S.B. 2584, SD1 - RELATING TO TUITION ASSISTANCE. "Broadens the scope of the tuition assistance to Hawaii National Guard members attending the University of Hawaii and appropriates funds for that purpose."

I'm Senior Master Sergeant Ramon Maui Quizon, a member in good standing with the Hawaii Air National Guard, and current Vice President-Air, Hawaii National Guard Enlisted Association, representing over 4,000 enlisted men and women of the Hawaii Army and Air National Guard.

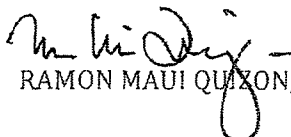
The Hawaii National Guard Enlisted Association (HNGEA) was originally organized in July 1964. Its objective is to promote and advance the status, welfare and professionalism of the enlisted members of the Hawaii National Guard, to promote and maintain adequate national security, and to further the interests of the Hawaii National Guard. We strongly support S.B. 2584, SD1, relating to Tuition Assistance, which would broaden the scope of the tuition assistance to Hawaii National Guard members attending the University of Hawaii and appropriate funds for that purpose.

The Hawaii National Guard, Army and Air, continue to deploy thousands of soldiers and airmen to Iraq, Afghanistan, and other contingencies throughout the world.

As our guardsman (continue to) return from active duty deployment and transition back to their families and civilian life, I strongly believe we should (continue to) honor and take care of our men and women, ensuring the State of Hawaii is and will remain prepared and ready to deal with any emergency that could harm us.

I urge you to support passage S.B. 2584, SD1, relating to Tuition Assistance, which would broaden the scope of the tuition assistance to Hawaii National Guard members attending the University of Hawaii and appropriate funds for that purpose.

Mr. Chairman and distinguished members of the House Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs, thank you for your time, commitment and dedication to the well-being of our State of Hawaii and the Guardsmen who defend it.


RAMON MAUI QUIZON, SMSgt, HIANG