

SB 2584

RELATING TO TUITION ASSISTANCE

Description:

Broadens the scope of the tuition assistance to Hawaii National Guard members attending the University of Hawaii and appropriates funds for that purpose. Effective July 1, 2012.

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

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

PRESENTATION TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS,
AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

BY

MAJOR GENERAL DARRYLL D. M. WONG
ADJUTANT GENERAL
February 2, 2012

Chair Espero, Chair Tokuda and Committee Members:

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

We strongly support Senate Bill 2584, 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 a 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?



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM
Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Government Operating and Military Affairs
and

Senate Committee on Education
February 2, 2012 at 2:45 pm

by

Rockne Freitas

Vice President for Student Affairs and University Relations
University of Hawai'i System

SB 2584 - RELATING TO TUITION ASSISTANCE

Chairs Espero and Tokuda, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committees:

The purpose of SB 2584 is to broaden the scope of the Hawai'i National Guard tuition assistance program to include graduate students and appropriate the necessary funds for that purpose.

The University appreciates the outstanding service that the Hawai'i National Guard has provided to our state and country. The University is proud to have more than 300 Hawai'i National Guard students enrolled at our campuses with a third of them receiving an exemption to non-resident tuition.

The University is supportive of providing our service members the opportunity to improve themselves and their community. Therefore, the University is in support of this bill to provide tuition assistance to undergraduate and graduate students attending the University of Hawai'i who are members of the Hawai'i National Guard.

Thank you for your support of the University and the opportunity to comment on this bill.