

# **HCR 35**

EXPRESSING THE SUPPORT OF THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF  
HAWAII FOR THE TROOP TALENT ACT OF 2013.

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 35  
EXPRESSING THE SUPPORT OF THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII  
FOR THE TROOP TALENT ACT OF 2013

PRESENTATION TO THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY,  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

BY

MAJOR GENERAL DARRYLL D. M. WONG  
ADJUTANT GENERAL AND DIRECTOR OF STATE CIVIL DEFENSE  
April 10, 2014

Chair Espero, Vice Chair Baker, and Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs.

I am Major General Darryll D. M. Wong, Adjutant General and Director of State Civil Defense. I am testifying in **SUPPORT** of House Concurrent Resolution 35.

Representative Tammy Duckworth, representative for Illinois's 8<sup>th</sup> Congressional District introduced H.R. 1796, Troop Talent Act of 2013. The bill's stated purpose is to ensure that the education and training provided members of the Armed Forces and veterans better assists members and veterans in obtaining civilian certifications and licenses, and for other purposes.

The bill directs the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to reestablish the Professional Certification and Licensure Advisory Committee. The committee ended service on December 31, 2006. When reestablished, the committee will assume previous functions and take on development of

- Guidance for audits of licensure and certification programs in order to ensure high-quality education to members of the Armed Services and veterans
- A plan to improve outreach to members of the Armed Services and veterans on the importance of licensing and certification and the availability of educational benefits

The Professional Certification and Licensure Advisory Committee's work can only benefit Hawaii's veterans as they enter the workforce after serving America in the armed forces. These men and women attended military schools and used the training during their military service. Most of those skills are transferable to civilian occupations but a licensing and certification process must be in place to facilitate the transition. It is critical that the Department of Veterans Affairs reestablish the Professional Certification and Licensure Advisory Committee to start this licensing and certification process.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in **SUPPORT** of House Concurrent Resolution 35.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 03, 2014 9:07 PM  
**To:** PSMTestimony  
**Cc:** dne39@isp.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HCR35 on Apr 10, 2014 14:45PM

**HCR35**

Submitted on: 4/3/2014

Testimony for PSM on Apr 10, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dennis Egge	NAUS Hawaii Chapter	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Chair Espero and Vice Chair Baker: The 500+ members of the National Association for Uniformed Services (NAUS) Hawaii Chapter sincerely thank you for endorsing HR 1796. We fully support the noble intent and purpose of HCR 35, and respectfully urge you to consider passing it as written.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Public Safety,  
Intergovernmental and Military Affairs**

**Thursday, April 10, 2014**

**2:45 PM**

**Conference Room 224**

**RE: HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 35, EXPRESSING THE  
SUPPORT OF THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII FOR THE  
TROOP TALENT ACT OF 2013**

Chair 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 Concurrent Resolution No. 35, expressing the support of the legislature of the state of Hawaii for the Troop Talent Act of 2013.

HR 1796, the Troop Talent Act, was created in recognition of a need to properly recognize the value of education and training received by military members during their service in the armed services. This is intended to translate the applicability of military occupational specialties in obtaining civilian certifications and licenses, as well as other purposes, to assist veterans in qualifying for civilian jobs.

The Act directs the Secretaries of the military departments to take whatever means practicable to evaluate the extent to which such training correlates with the skills and training required for various civilian certifications and licenses, and determine its suitability in pursuing certifications and licenses required to compete for civilian jobs.

Compliance with the provisions of the Troop Talent Act would offer an essential means by which the valuable training and education received by service members would be properly recognized in qualifying veterans for jobs in the civilian market.

Due to mandates of the Budget Control Act of 2011, the U.S. military is programmed to reduce its force structure by upwards of one million service members over the next five years. The veteran population currently suffers the highest unemployment rate in the U.S., and the provisions of the Troop Talent Act would level the playing field for highly qualified and capable veterans.

The provisions of HCR 35 would send a message to the United States House of Representatives, and Hawaii's congressional delegation, that the Hawaii State Legislature recognizes the plight faced by America's veterans and is in support of the Troop Talent Act of 2013.

In light of the above, we strongly recommend approval.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 05, 2014 7:46 AM  
**To:** PSMTestimony  
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**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HCR35 on Apr 10, 2014 14:45PM  
**Attachments:** HSCR35 HSCR677-14 Troop Talent Act of 2013.gif

**HCR35**

Submitted on: 4/5/2014

Testimony for PSM on Apr 10, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Arvid Tadao Youngquist	The Mestizo Association	Support	No

Comments: Chair, Sen. Will Espero, Senate PSM Committee V. Chair, Sen. Rosalyn H. Baker, PSM Right Honorable PSM Committee Members We support HCR35 which expresses support for the Troop Talent Act of 2013. The Act was to promote and engage the Veterans in their transition to civilian life after deployment/discharge. We believe it is a gesture to ask the various agencies to expend time and funds to keep this worthy legislation from falling by the wayside during peace time, and or the lean times. Thank you for hearing this measure, and we ask that the PSM Committee support this to the full Senate. Mahalo nui loa. Arvid Tadao Youngquist Spokesman, Founder, & Administrator (since 1982) \*Note: Registered voter, CD1, U.S. House of Representatives (Kalihi Valley resident)

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