



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Veterans, Military & International Affairs, & Culture and the Arts
March 12, 2014 at 8:30am

By Dr. Jan Javinar
Interim Associate Vice President for Student Affairs

SB 2131 SD2 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Takai, Vice Chair Ito, and Members of the Committee:

SB 2131 SD2 proposes to require the University of Hawai'i to waive the nonresident tuition & fee differential for veterans of the five major branches of the U.S. Armed Forces (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard).

The University of Hawai'i appreciates the outstanding service that military veterans have provided to our country, and we welcome the different life experiences they bring to the college classroom, adding to the diversity of our campuses.

In recognition of the University's commitment to serving veterans, University of Hawai'i Interim President David Lassner, after meeting with U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric Shinseki last fall, established a task force to assess current institutional policies, programs, and practices, and to provide recommendations that improve veteran access to the University and that promote the success of student veterans matriculating at the University's ten campuses. The task force has been meeting regularly and we anticipate receiving its set of recommendations within the next couple of weeks, one of which will include some tuition benefit for veterans.

Another significant factor is the pending federal legislation. The US House passed legislation requiring colleges and universities to offer in-state tuition rates to veterans. The US Senate is considering an omnibus veterans bill similarly requiring in-state tuition for veterans. This legislative activity at the federal level may contain compliance requirements and provisions that supersede provisions in SB 2131 SD2.

Therefore, while we support the overall intent of this bill, we **request that this measure be deferred** while the University completes initiatives we already have underway. One of these initiatives involves defining the specific parameters and conditions of tuition support for veterans that will be considered for adoption by the Board of Regents as part of its statutory responsibility to grant or modify scholarships and financial assistance for students. One example of such parameters involves extending the support of Hawai'i taxpayers only to veterans who intend to make Hawai'i their home.

The University greatly appreciates your support for enabling our veterans to improve themselves and the communities in which they reside through post-secondary education. Deferring this measure will afford the Board of Regents the opportunity to exercise its statutory responsibility with prudence over this matter. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE, 2014**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

S.B. NO. 2131, S.D.2, RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII.

BEFORE THE:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS, MILITARY, & INTERNATIONAL
AFFAIRS, & CULTURE AND THE ARTS

DATE: Wednesday, March 12, 2014 **TIME:** 8:30 a.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 312

TESTIFIER(S): **WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY**
(For more information, contact Diane Erickson,
Deputy Attorney General, at (808) 586-0618)

Chair Takai and Members of the Committee:

Senate Bill No. 2131 amends section 304A-502, Hawaii Revised Statutes, by adding a new subsection (c) requiring the Board of Regents, beginning with the 2014-2015 academic year, to waive the nonresident tuition and fee differential for veterans of the United States Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, and Navy, and who were honorably discharged, regardless of their actual state of residence.

Article X, section 6, of the Hawaii State Constitution, gives the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents "exclusive jurisdiction over the internal structure, management, and operation of the university." Section 6 further provides that: "This section shall not limit the power of the legislature to enact laws of statewide concern. The legislature shall have the exclusive jurisdiction to identify laws of statewide concern."

The legislature should consider amending this bill to add a provision identifying the bill to be a law of statewide concern.

DoD State Liaison Office

**The Honorable K. Mark Takai, Chairman
House VMI Committee**

March 10, 2014

**Testimony of
Laurie Crehan, Ed.D.
Regional State Liaison
Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense, Military Community & Family Policy**

SB2131 – In-State Tuition for Veterans

Chairman Takai and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Department of Defense, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on SB 2131 (Kahele), a bill relating granting in-state tuition status for veterans who are not residents of Hawaii. My name is Laurie Crehan. I am with the Department 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. We strongly support the policy found in SB 2131.

The post 9/11 GI Bill only pays in-state rates and eligible fees. Veterans who settle in states other than their state of residence upon separating from the Service are initially charged “out-of-state” tuition, which means they must pay the difference between the resident and non-resident charges. Waiving the residency requirement allows them to attend a state school keeping costs within the allotted amount paid through the GI Bill.

By far the largest group of GI Bill recipients is veterans. State policies have adjusted in the last decade to allow active and reserve members to access in-state tuition rates, but separating service members (new veterans) must fulfill established residency time requirements to obtain the same. By removing the residency requirement for separating Service members, more veterans will be able to get settled where they want to live, attend school, and re-enter the workforce.

To date, twenty-eight states have recognized that waiving the time required to establish “residency” for tuition purposes benefits the state.

- States can attract veteran students based on suitability of degree requirements and not necessarily on affordability (GI Bill directly pays the IHL for in-state tuition rates). These veterans will become residents and may establish long term affiliations with a state IHLs.
- Veterans bring their GI Bill benefits with them. In addition to the in-state tuition fees, this includes housing allowance and money for textbooks. These dollars go into the local and state economies.

- States that do not offer such consideration may inadvertently incentivize veterans to take their tuition benefits, and potential long-term contributions, to a state that allows them to establish residency for tuition purposes.

Clearly, military veterans face huge challenges today transitioning back into civilian society. The proposed policy consideration in SB2131 will help level the playing field for our veterans so they can meet their family's financial needs while continuing the educational opportunities so needed for a successful transition.

In closing, let me say that we are grateful for the tremendous effort that Hawaii has historically given in supporting our Service members and their families. We appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Dr. Laurie Crehan
Regional State Liaison
DoD State Liaison Office
703-380-6538
laura.j.crehan.civ@mail.mil

**Testimony to the House Committees on Veterans, Military &
International Affairs and Culture & The Arts
Wednesday, March 12, 2014
8:30 AM
Conference Room 312**

RE: SENATE BILL 2131, SD2, RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Takai, Vice Chair Ito, 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 Senate Bill 2131, SD2, Relating to The University of Hawaii.

The measure proposes to require the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii to waive the nonresident tuition and fee differential for veterans of the Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, and Navy who were honorably discharged, beginning with the 2014-2015 academic year.

The proposed measure will provide comparable waivers previously granted members of the Hawaii National Guard and members of the reserve components of the above listed branches of the U.S. military. These veterans served the nation in good standing and were honorably discharged.

We enjoin committee members to note that the post 9/11 GI Bill pays the highest in-state tuition and fees. However, many veterans are unable to establish in-state residency due to military obligations and this ultimately becomes a financial burden that leaves veterans seeking financial aid due to out-of-state residency requirements or unable to continue their education. At the UH, an out-of-state veteran would have to pay nearly \$17,000 until they are able to meet residency requirements.

The provisions of this bill would enable deserving veterans who were assigned to Hawaii under military orders to complete post-secondary education

without having to wait a year to establish residency or having to incur a student loan debt.

In light of the above, we recommend approval of this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Roxanne Kamalu

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 09, 2014 3:15 AM
To: vmitestimony
Cc: dne39@isp.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2131 on Mar 12, 2014 08:30AM

SB2131

Submitted on: 3/9/2014

Testimony for VMI on Mar 12, 2014 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dennis Egge	NAUS Hawaii Chapter	Support	No

Comments: We all remember how this honorable tradition of helping our returning warriors reintegrate into society was established after WW2. We sincerely thank you for perpetuating it, in this way At your service, Dennis Egge; NAUS Hawaii Chapter President

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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Roxanne Kamalu

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 10, 2014 9:31 AM
To: vmitestimony
Cc: mathewbking@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2131 on Mar 12, 2014 08:30AM*

SB2131

Submitted on: 3/10/2014

Testimony for VMI on Mar 12, 2014 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mathew Bellhouse-King	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Roxanne Kamalu

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To: vmitestimony
Cc: hillvan@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2131 on Mar 12, 2014 08:30AM

SB2131

Submitted on: 3/10/2014

Testimony for VMI on Mar 12, 2014 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Van Hill	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am a student veteran of the University of Hawaii system and fully support SB2131. This bill not only eases financial issues for veterans who have decided to attend college in Hawaii, but also will begin to remove a stigma that the UH system is not very Veteran friendly. While the UH system does have a good veteran support system, I have found that the current inability to grant veterans who have lived here for years in-state tuition is pushing them to other private universities. Passing this bill is not only beneficial to veterans, but also to the UH system.

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Roxanne Kamalu

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Cc: greenlee@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2131 on Mar 12, 2014 08:30AM*

SB2131

Submitted on: 3/10/2014

Testimony for VMI on Mar 12, 2014 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ann Greenlee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Roxanne Kamalu

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 10, 2014 10:21 AM
To: vmitestimony
Cc: k.ikaika.m@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2131 on Mar 12, 2014 08:30AM

SB2131

Submitted on: 3/10/2014

Testimony for VMI on Mar 12, 2014 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kaiser Mattos	Individual	Support	No

Comments: My name is Kaiser Mattos, I am from Hilo, but currently reside in Makiki. I am also a senior at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, graduating this semester in May. I support this measure as a private individual who feels deeply that the veterans of our military deserve to be treated with dignity and those who have served and spent time in Hawaii definitely deserve to receive in-state tuition. They should be able to petition for their time spent here. Many people move here from other places and jump through the various hoops to get in-state tuition but these people live here for a lot longer and are part of our local economy and families and deserve the in-state amount.

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Roxanne Kamalu

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2014 9:01 AM
To: vmitestimony
Cc: santy2506@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2131 on Mar 12, 2014 08:30AM

SB2131

Submitted on: 3/11/2014

Testimony for VMI on Mar 12, 2014 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carlos	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I support SB2131 provided it does not create an impact to the tuition rate of the general student population. If waiving non-resident status for veterans creates a financial impact to the non-veteran students, I would not support the bill. As veterans, we served our nation under selfless conditions. We should not ask for benefits at the expense of others.

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LATE

Roxanne Kamalu

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2014 2:27 PM
To: vmitestimony
Cc: koryrosette@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2131 on Mar 12, 2014 08:30AM*

SB2131

Submitted on: 3/11/2014

Testimony for VMI on Mar 12, 2014 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kory Rosette	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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