



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Higher Education  
February 13, 2018 at 2:10 p.m.

By

Donald O. Straney, Vice President for Academic Planning and Policy  
University of Hawai'i System

HB 2089 HD1 – RELATING TO TUITION ASSISTANCE

Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Hashem, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 2089 HD1 that permits the Adjutant General to extend the University of Hawai'i tuition assistance awards to qualified retired Hawai'i National Guard enlisted persons, warrant officers, and company grade officers.

The University of Hawai'i has no position on this bill but welcomes working with the Adjutant General in educating their retired Hawai'i National Guard enlisted persons, warrant officers, and company grade officers. UH defers to the Adjutant General on whether sufficient funding is available to implement the amendments addressed in the bill.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide comments on HB 2089 HD1.

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2089  
RELATING TO TUITION ASSISTANCE

PRESENTATION TO  
THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

BY  
MAJOR GENERAL ARTHUR J. LOGAN  
ADJUTANT GENERAL  
08 February 2018

Chair McKelvey, Vice-Chair Hashem and Members of the Committee.

I am Major General Arthur J. Logan, State Adjutant General and the Director of the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency. I am testifying in **SUPPORT** of the intent of HB2089.

This measure extends tuition assistance to retired members of the Hawaii National Guard. We support the intent of the measure as long as it does not impact priorities set in the executive budget.

The State Department of Defense uses tuition assistance as a recruiting tool for high school and young adult aged men and women to join the Hawaii National Guard. For the past 3 years we were funded just enough to assist these new guard members. Our retirees have served for a minimum of 20 years and have likely earned an annuity and perhaps some form of G.I. Bill benefits.

Thank you for allowing me to testify on HB2089.



# ASUH

Associated Students of the University of Hawai'i  
**YOUR STUDENT GOVERNMENT**



To: House Committee on Higher Education  
Rep. Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair  
Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair

Date: Tuesday, February 13, 2018

Time: 2:10 PM

Place: Conference Room 309

**Re: SUPPORTING HB 2089 – RELATING TO TUITION ASSISTANCE**

My name is Jannah Lyn Dela Cruz, and I am the President of the Associated Students of the University of Hawaii, the undergraduate student government at UH Manoa. We represent the voices of over 10,000 full-time classified undergraduate students on the UHM campus. Our constituents **strongly support** the passage of House Bill 2089 - Relating to Tuition Assistance.

The ASUH represents students from a variety of different backgrounds, all of whom contribute to UH Manoa's diverse student body. The ASUH has historically taken a particular interests in UH Manoa students with military backgrounds. In 2014, ASUH passed a resolution in support of in-state tuition rates for military veterans, and in 2017, ASUH passed a new resolution broadly affirming our commitment to student veterans, and urging the UH administration to do the same. Through these two resolutions, the ASUH recognizes the unique value military personnel adds to our student population. Tuition assistance is one way the University can recognize the service these students render unto our country and encourage these students to study within the UH system.

Currently, Section 121-45 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes permits tuition assistance for qualified members of the Hawaii National Guard. However, it does not permit tuition assistance for retired members of the Hawaii National Guard. The ASUH finds this current language to be inconsistent with the intent of these tuition waivers. Because these waivers are granted in recognition of students' military service, and to encourage students to study within the UH system, distinguishing between active and retired Hawaii national guard personnel is unnecessary. The ASUH believes that both groups of students equally contribute to student body diversity, should be equally commended for their service, and therefore, are equally entitled to these tuition waivers.

It is for these reasons that the 10,000 full-time classified, undergraduate students on the UH Manoa campus strongly urge you to pass House Bill 2089 - Relating to Tuition Assistance.

Thank you very much for your time.

Jannah Lyn Dela Cruz  
President

Associated Students of the University of Hawaii at Manoa

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**HB-2089-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 4:48:15 PM

Testimony for HED on 2/13/2018 2:10:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Randall Francisco	County of Kauai	Support	No

Comments: