



OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
1500 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-1500

MANPOWER AND
RESERVE AFFAIRS

February 18, 2020

The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke
Chair, House Committee on Finance
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 1606 HD1 – Relating to Professional And Vocational Licensure.

Chair Luke and Members of the Committee:

I am the Southwest and Pacific Regional Liaison for the Defense-State Liaison Office, operating under the direction of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, and the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Military Community and Family Policy. Our mission is to be a resource to state policymakers as they work to address quality of life issues of service members and their families.

On behalf of military families and the U.S. Department of Defense, I am writing to express support, if amended, for the policy changes expressed within HB 1606 HD1. This bill clarifies requirements for a military spouse licensed in the same area and at the same level of practice in another state to receive a Hawaii license by endorsement and provides a temporary license while full licensure by endorsement requirements are being evaluated by an occupational board and met by the applicant. We do not believe this bill will create additional costs not already incurred by the boards in implementation of HRS §436B-14.7, but may possibly stimulate additional revenue for the state if more military spouses apply for licensure by endorsement and/or temporary licensure under this provision and subsequently renew their licenses in Hawaii.

Licensure issues affecting career portability for spouses of military service members have been a priority for the Department for several years. As our military members and their families move from state to state, transferring their licenses in order to obtain employment at their new military assignment is very important to their career sustainability and family financial stability. Policies to enhance existing licensure provisions for military spouses serve to relieve one of the many stressors of frequent military moves. Currently, 10 states have incorporated language and 18 states have introduced bills this year with policy language to provide a license (permanent or temporary) to military spouses within 30 days upon simple application, allowing them to work as soon as possible. We are grateful that Hawaii is considering this helpful policy language change, as well.

The percentage of military spouses in Hawaii is the highest of all 50 States. 34% of military spouses in the workforce are in licensed occupations. Correspondingly, military spouses represent a significant portion of the licensed workforce in Hawaii. Current Hawaii statute provides opportunities for military spouses to obtain expedited licensure by endorsement, with an option to practice on a temporary license. However, there is no stipulated limit on the time taken by boards to adjudicate temporary applications and there are additional requirements placed on the temporary license such as an evaluation of substantial equivalency and the necessity to practice under supervision. We believe that the key opportunity that provision of the temporary license presents is to allow a military spouse, already having met and maintained supervisory, education and examination requirements for licensure in the same area and at the same level of practice in another state, to begin working as soon as possible while allowing the board time to evaluate the requirements of their license and, if needed, for the military spouse to meet state-specific requirements for receiving a full Hawaii license by endorsement. For this reason, we respectfully request that the bill include an amendment reestablishing a time limit for boards to adjudicate applications for licensure by endorsement, ideally issuing the temporary license within 30 days to eligible applicants.

In closing, we are extremely grateful for the tremendous efforts that Hawaii has historically made to support our military members and their families. We appreciate the opportunity to support, if amended, the policy reflected within HB 1606 HD1, and are especially grateful to Representative Takumi for introducing this important piece of legislation. Thank you for taking the time to consider this issue. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

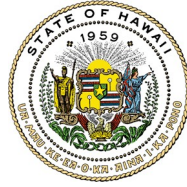
Sincerely,



Kelli May Douglas
Southwest Regional Liaison (CA, HI, AZ, NV, UT)
Defense-State Liaison Office
Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense
(Military Community and Family Policy)

CC: Representative Roy Takumi

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



KENNETH S. HARA
MAJOR GENERAL
ADJUTANT GENERAL

STEPHEN F. LOGAN
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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
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TESTIMONY ON
HOUSE BILL 1606, RELATING TO

PRESENTATION TO:
THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

By

BRIGADIER GENERAL MOSES KAOIWI JR.
DIRECTOR OF JOINT STAFF, HAWAII NATIONAL GUARD
LAND COMPONENT COMMANDER, HAWAII ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

February 20, 2020

Good afternoon Chairperson Sylvia Luke, Vice Chair Ty J.K. Cullen, and members of the Committee on Finance.

I am Brigadier General Moses Kaiwi. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony of HB 1606.

The Hawaii National Guard supports the intent expressed in this measure provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget.

The proposal of HB 1606 streamlines the processing of an active duty military spouse application to practice his or her profession or vocation in the State. Streamlining the process to reduce the time it takes to process a license will quickly allow critical professions to contribute to the State of Hawaii in their profession or vocation.

The Hawaii National Guard recommends the Committee consider the contents of H.B. 2334, which also provides a streamlined approach to address an expedited process for military spouses. H.B. 2334 separates those professions with uniform national standards and removes the equivalency requirement for these professions. In addition, H.B. 2334 effectuates a more expeditious process for these professions with uniform national standards, yet still ensures consumer safety by ascertaining that the applicant: is not subject to discipline in other jurisdictions; does not have an unresolved pending investigation; and does not have any disqualifying criminal history as determined by the licensing authority. H.B. 2334 also provides the 52 licensing areas ample time to vet the military spouse applicant.

HING defers to the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs for their input on the impacts to the current process and risks associated with streamlining the current system of processing licensure requests.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony to support the intent of HB 1606 with comments.

BG Moses Kaiwi Jr.: moses.kaiwi.mil@mail.mil; 808-844-6005

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



SCOTT T. MURAKAMI
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**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS**

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February 20, 2020

To: The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair,
The Honorable Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair, and
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Date: Thursday, February 20, 2020
Time: 12:00 p.m.
Place: Conference Room 308, State Capitol

From: Scott T. Murakami, Director
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR)

**Re: H.B. No. 1606 H.D.1 RELATING TO PROFESSIONAL
AND VOCATIONAL LICENSURE**

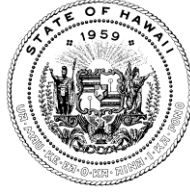
I. OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

The measure proposes to amend Section 436B-14.7, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), by specifying the documents needed for a military spouse to obtain a vocational license, requiring that the licensing authority expedite the consideration of the military spouse's license application, and requiring each licensing board to adopt rules to administer the new requirements.

The DLIR supports the intent and defers to the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs on implementation of the measure.

II. COMMENTS ON THE HOUSE BILL

The Department recognizes the sacrifices that military spouses make to support military members. Streamlining the licensing process will enable military spouses to enter the workforce more quickly and pursue meaningful employment during their time in our state.



DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR
JOSH GREEN
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

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CATHERINE P. AWAKUNI COLÓN
DIRECTOR
JO ANN M. UCHIDA TAKEUCHI
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

**Before the
House Committee on Finance
Thursday, February 20, 2020
12:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 308**

**On the following measure:
H.B. 1606, H.D. 1, RELATING TO
PROFESSIONAL AND VOCATIONAL LICENSURE**

Chair Luke and Members of the Committee:

My name is Charlene Tamanaha, and I am the Licensing Administrator of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs' (Department) Professional and Vocational Licensing Division (PVL). The Department appreciates the intent of and offer comments on this bill.

The purposes of this bill are to: (1) specify the documentation needed for a military spouse to receive a temporary license by endorsement; (2) require issuance of a license within an unspecified number of days of receipt of the application and supporting documentation; (3) exclude construction contracting services from issuance of any temporary or license for military spouses; (4) remove supervision requirements for military spouses; (5) remove the requirement that the applicant hold a license that is substantially equivalent to or that exceeds the licensing requirements of this state; and

(6) require each licensing board to adopt rules necessary to administer the section by August 1, 2020.

The Department appreciates the bill's intent to streamline the process and accelerate the timeline for a military spouse to receive a temporary license by endorsement. However, by requiring the PVL to issue a temporary license to a military spouse within an unspecified number of days of receiving the application, based on an attestation by the applicant that supporting documentation will be provided in 90 days, this bill severely compromises the Department's ability to effectively evaluate the qualifications of the applicant and protect this state's consumers. The bill also provides no mechanism to address the situation where the applicant fails to submit supporting documentation timely, or where the supporting documentation reveals a license history that would render the applicant ineligible for licensure by endorsement in this state. Specifically, the bill does not provide sufficient time to determine, among other things, that the applicant has not been disciplined or has not committed an act in any jurisdiction that would have constituted grounds for the limitation, suspension, or revocation of a license.¹

The Department also has concerns about the bill's deletion of the requirement that the temporary license provide for supervision by a professional licensed by this state, if appropriate. Many license types are designed to work under the supervision of a licensed professional, such as physician assistants, veterinary technicians, and dental hygienists. Removing this requirement for military spouses appears unnecessary, since this requirement applies uniformly to all similarly situated licensees.

The Department notes that subsection (e) on page 5, lines 3 to 5 exempts licensees of the construction industry; however, it is not clear which license types to which this exemption applies. Further, subsection (f) on page 5, lines 6 to 8 requires all licensing areas to adopt rules to administer HRS section 436B-14.7 and to publish these rules on its website and in its application materials by August 1, 2020. The licensing areas attached to PVL will be hard-pressed to meet this statutory mandate.

¹ See, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) sections 436B-14.7(a)(1) through 436B-14.7(5).

HRS section 436B-14.7 currently provides a streamlined pathway for professional licensure of military spouses, provided the licensure requirements of the spouse's home jurisdiction are equivalent to or exceed those of the State. This determination has been challenging for many of the 52 licensing areas under the PVL and that lack relatively uniform national standards.

To ensure the safety of the residents of the State and to address the difficulties that a change in duty station poses for Hawaii's military families, the Department recommends the Committee consider the contents of H.B. 2334, which also provides a streamlined approach to address an expedited process for military spouses. H.B. 2334 separates those professions with uniform national standards and removes the equivalency requirement for these professions. In addition, H.B. 2334 effectuates a more expeditious process for these professions with uniform national standards, yet still ensures consumer safety by ascertaining that the applicant: is not subject to discipline in other jurisdictions; does not have an unresolved pending investigation; and does not have any disqualifying criminal history as determined by the licensing authority. H.B. 2334 also provides the 52 licensing areas ample time to vet the military spouse applicant. Further, for those professions that lack national standards or national licensing requirements, these professions will be subject to the licensing authority's determination that the licensure requirements of the other jurisdiction are equivalent to or exceed those established by the licensing authority of this state.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



HAWAII REGIONAL COUNCIL OF CARPENTERS

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
The Honorable Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

Thursday, February 20, 2020
12:00 PM, State Capitol Room 308

Statement of the Hawaii Regional Council of Carpenters – Supporting the Intent of HB1606, HD1

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members:

The Hawaii Regional Council of Carpenters supports the intent of HB1606, HD1, Relating to Professional and Vocational Licensure, which would specify the documentation needed for a military spouse to receive a temporary licensure by endorsement. The HD1 version of the bill specifically excludes construction contracting services from the performance of services permitted under any license or temporary license issued to a military spouse.

We support the intent of the bill, which appears to deal with a longstanding issue that military spouses face when relocating to Hawaii. We are appreciative of the Committee on Labor's amendment which specifically excludes construction contracting services from the performance of services permitted under any license or temporary license issued to a military spouse.

The licensing requirements to become a general or specialty construction contractor in Hawaii are rigorous for a reason. As we have seen in numerous high-profile instances over the past several years, unlicensed contractors who are unfamiliar with or disregard standard Hawaii practices – such as safety, building codes, or insurance requirements – have caused significant problems for the local industry.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments in support of the intent of HB1606, HD1.

STATE HEADQUARTERS & BUSINESS OFFICES

OAHU: 1311 Houghtailing Street, Honolulu Hawaii 96817-2712 • Ph. (808) 847-5761 Fax (808) 440-9188

HILO OFFICE: 525 Kilauea Avenue, Room 205, Hilo, Hawaii 96720-3050 • Ph. (808) 935-8575 Fax (808) 935-8576

KONA OFFICE: 75-126 Lunapule Road, Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96740-2106 • Ph. (808) 329-7355 Fax (808) 326-9376

MAUI OFFICE: 330 Hookahi Street, Wailuku, Maui 96793-1449 • Ph. (808) 242-6891 Fax (808) 242-5961

KAUAI OFFICE: Kuhio Medical Ctr Bldg., 3-3295 Kuhio Hwy, Suite 201, Lihue, Kauai 96766-1040 • Ph. (808) 245-8511 Fax (808) 245-8911



Chamber of Commerce HAWAII

The Voice of Business

**Testimony to the House Committee on Finance
Thursday, February 20, 2020 at 12:00 P.M.
Conference Room 308, State Capitol**

RE: HB 1606 HD1, RELATING TO PROFESSIONAL AND VOCATIONAL LICENSURE

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports** HB 1606 HD1, which specifies the documentation needed for a military spouse to receive a temporary licensure by endorsement and requires issuance of the license within an unspecified number of days of the application and supporting documentation, and excludes construction contracting services from the performance of services permitted under any license or temporary license issues to a military spouse.

The Chamber is Hawaii's leading statewide business advocacy organization, representing 2,000+ businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

Additionally, the Hawaii Military Affairs Council (MAC) was established in 1985 as part of the Chamber, and advocates on behalf of Hawaii's military, and is comprised of business leaders and retired U.S. flag and general officers. The MAC works to support Hawaii's location as a strategic U.S. headquarters in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region. Every May, the MAC holds events for Military Appreciation Month here in Hawaii, including an annual lunch to honor the military spouses who are here on Oahu and thank them for their service to their country and families.

However, many of these spouses who hold vocational licenses struggle to advance their own careers because of frequent reassignment. Data shows that military spouses often struggle to find and maintain employment due to frequent moves, and it's estimated that military spouses experience an underemployment rate of nearly 33 percent, with many being particularly vulnerable to licensing requirements that often vary from state to state. Military spouses must also bear the cost of obtaining a new license, or even must take additional education courses or gain additional experience before meeting requirements in a new state. This bill would be beneficial to our community. It would allow military spouses who are licensed in occupations such as teachers, nurses, and allied health professionals in other states, to be able to pursue meaningful employment during their time in Hawaii and are willing and able to help fill a host of open positions currently in our local workforce.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Testimony of
Pacific Resource Partnership

House Committee on Finance
The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
The Honorable Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

HB 1606 HD1

Thursday, February 20, 2020
12:00 P.M.
Conference Room 308

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee:

Pacific Research Partnership (PRP) appreciates an amendment made to HB 1606 in the HD1 by the House Committee on Labor and Public Employment at a public hearing on February 13, 2020, which excludes construction contracting services from the performance of services permitted under any license or temporary license issued to a military spouse.

This amendment preserves State licensing requirements which are specifically designed to ensure that the general public is protected against dishonest, fraudulent, unskilled and unqualified construction contractors. We have seen numerous examples over the past several years where unlicensed contractors are unfamiliar with or disregard standard Hawaii practices, such as safety, building codes, labor laws or insurance requirements, and have jeopardized the health and safety of the general public.

Given the above, PRP respectfully requests that this Committee support this amendment. Thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony.



HB-1606-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 12:21:55 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rebekah	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I completed my Masters Degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling through Spring Arbor University in Lansing, MI August 2014 - May 2017. In June 2017, my husband and I moved to Pensacola, FL for flight training. During this time, I obtained a certified clinical supervisor and began working a full-time entry level position. I was able to complete over 3,000 hours working as a case manager, school counselor, and wrap-around therapist. I was supervised for over 150 hours and completed the NCMHCE boards. I also completed an additional graduate class through Capella University, two additional state certified courses on law/ethics and HIV/AIDS along with paid the required fee. In August 2019, I became fully licensed as an LMHC in the State of Florida. In September 2019, my husband and I PCS'd to Jacksonville, NC for a 6-month aviation training.

Due to limited time constraint based on my husband's training schedule, I was unable to gain NC licensure and focused my time attempting to prepare myself for employment opportunities in Hawaii. I began the application for Hawaii LMHC licensure in October 2019 hoping to become certified prior to our next PCS move May 2020. I have been working with Dorene Eddy the Program Specialist through the Professional and Vocational Licensing Division in Hawaii. I was informed that I needed to provide hard copies of all syllabi from my Masters Degree courses starting in 2014. I mailed over 300 pages of syllabi, coursework form, transcripts, and paid the application fee. I then began working on the practicum supervisor and clinical supervisor forms. I filled out my portion of these forms and mailed them to my supervisors residing in California and Florida. Coordinating, communicating, and having my former supervisors fill out this paperwork has been extremely difficult due to timezone differences, miscommunication through text and email, supervisors personal/business hours, and access to a notary.

As of right now, the Hawaii licensing department is currently reviewing all information including each syllabus, college transcripts, coursework form, practicum/supervisor forms, locating/verifying practicum and clinical supervisor credentials, and reviewing required supervised hours. If each of these categories are approved by the licensing board they will contact NBCC for registration access. I will then have to wait 4-8 weeks to sign up for the boards and then 4-6 weeks to take the exam.

The application process has been time-consuming, costly, and difficult due to many PCS moves, financial cost, completing forms/documentation while residing in a different

state, and waiting for application to be reviewed in order to be approved to take the NCE boards. Passing HB1606 would help to expedite the process, make gaining licensure in the state of Hawaii appealing, and alleviate stress for incoming spouses. It would allow myself and other individuals the opportunity to apply/accept positions while completing all of the requirements needed for full-licensure. In addition, I feel that more spouses would be willing to gain licensure and use their skills in Hawaii versus solely relying on gaining a remote position. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to speak on behalf of the talented group of licensed mental health military spouses.