



**COMMANDER, U.S. INDO-PACIFIC COMMAND
(USINDOPACOM)
CAMP H M SMITH, HAWAII 96861-4028**

April 1, 2021

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the Ways and Means Committee,

I am Major General Suzanne Vares-Lum, Mobilization Assistant to the Commander of US Indo-Pacific Command. I am providing testimony in support of HB 961 HD1.

Indo-Pacific Command supports any legislation that creates opportunities for military families. Accordingly, and in this case, we support any effort to ease the licensing requirements on military spouses who hold active professional licenses in other states. Such legislation would add to the existing pool of local talent and expertise while simultaneously creating opportunities for military families.

Streamlining the licensing processing for active duty military spouses and exempting military dependents from the current state residency requirement can make a positive impact for not only the DoD, but the State of Hawaii. There are many military spouses who hold licenses from multiple states and have in-depth experience in areas where there is need in our state. When I have spoken to professional spouses who have had to traverse the licensure process, it has been challenging due to the length of time it takes, and their tour is usually two to three years.

Consequently, many of these professionally licensed spouses do not seek licensure here because Service members and their spouses move, on average, every three years; and obtaining a license in every jurisdiction represents a significant burden.

Moreover, we know that the inability of professionally licensed military spouses to find meaningful work can negatively affect the retention of the Service member.

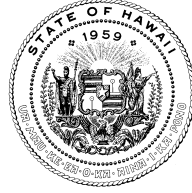
I would also like to address the Senate committee's decision to omit several occupations from the legislation. We all want Hawaii to gain a competitive edge and to do that we need a pool of qualified and experienced candidates especially in chronically understaffed professions. There is a shortage of Engineers, for example, in Hawaii and the State and Counties are compensating by offering shortage differential in pay. Adding those occupations back into the bill would significantly help military families and concurrently benefit the State of Hawaii.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

MG Suzanne Vares-Lum: Suzanne.vares-lum@pacom.mil, (808)487-7820

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Suzanne P. Vares-Lum".

SUZANNE P. VARES-LUM
Major General, U.S. Army
Mobilization Assistant to the Commander



DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN
LT. GOVERNOR

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Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

**Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Tuesday, April 6, 2021
9:30 a.m.
Via Videoconference**

**On the following measure:
H.B. 961, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, RELATING TO MILITARY DEPENDENTS**

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

My name is Ahlani Quiogue, and I am the Licensing Administrator of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs' (DCCA or Department) Professional and Vocational Licensing Division (PVL). The Department supports this bill.

The purposes of this bill are to: (1) exempt dependents of military servicemembers from state residency requirement for government employment if the military servicemember is in Hawaii on bona fide military orders; and (2) allow a spouse of an active duty service member in the military who accompanies the service member a permanent change of station to Hawaii and holds a current, unencumbered license in another jurisdiction in specific professions to apply for licensure on an expedited basis in the State.

The Department supports this bill to streamline the process and accelerate the timeline for a military spouse to receive a license by endorsement. This bill allows the

PVL appropriate time to issue both a temporary license and a permanent license to a military spouse, without severely compromising the Department's ability to effectively evaluate the applicant's qualifications and protect Hawaii's consumers. The bill also provides the Department a mechanism to issue licenses by endorsement to professions that have national standards, versus professions and trades with varying standards of licensure. The Department notes this bill results from the joint efforts of the Department of Defense and the DCCA to assist military dependents to obtain proper employment and contribute to our local economy.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN
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April 6, 2021

To: The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair,
The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair, and
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Date: Tuesday, April 6, 2021
Time: 9:30 a.m.
Place: Conference Room 211, State Capitol

From: Anne E. Perreira-Eustaquio, Director
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR)

Re: H.B. No. 961 HD1 SD1 RELATING TO MILITARY DEPENDENTS

I. OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

HB961 HD1 SD1 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.

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 DLIR recognizes the sacrifices that military spouses make to support military member. 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



RYKER WADA
DIRECTOR

ANDREW T. GARRETT
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT
235 S. BERETANIA STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-2437

TESTIMONY TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

For Hearing on Tuesday, April 6, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 211 & Via Video Conference)

BY

RYKER WADA
DIRECTOR

House Bill No. 961 HD1 SD1
Relating to Military Dependents

CHAIR DELA CRUZ, VICE CHAIR KEITH-AGARAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

The Department of Human Resources Development (DHRD) **strongly supports** this administration measure, which allows for the spouse of an active-duty service member in the military who holds a license in another jurisdiction in specific professions to apply for licensure in Hawaii on an expedited basis. In addition, HB961 HD1 SD1 exempts dependents of military servicemembers from the state residency requirement for employment with state or county government if the military servicemember is in Hawaii on bona fide military orders.

As part of DHRD's commitment to recruiting and retaining highly-qualified applicants and reducing the number of vacancies in the executive branch, servicemembers' dependents represent an untapped pool of potential applicants for hard-to-fill, licensed positions across state government. Furthermore, this bill would be in line with the Military Spouses Residency Relief Act which allows military spouses to declare the same state of legal residency as their spouse.

As current law stands, state employees must sign a declaration within 30 days of the start of employment that they are a resident of the State of Hawaii. With the nature of military service (where servicemembers may transfer every few years), it may be in the interest of civilian dependents of military servicemembers to maintain their residency in their “home” state for a multitude of reasons. We have anecdotally heard from executive branch departments that employment offers extended to civilian dependents of military servicemembers have been turned down due to our residency requirement.

We believe permitting this limited exemption may allow the state to tap into an otherwise qualified pool of applicants to reduce the number of vacancies in state government. We respectfully defer to the expertise of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs on the mechanism for applying for expedited licensure as outlined in this bill.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 961 HD1 SD1
RELATING TO MILITARY DEPENDENTS

PRESENTATION TO
THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

BY

MAJOR GENERAL KENNETH S. HARA
ADJUTANT GENERAL
DIRECTOR OF THE HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
AND HOMELAND SECURITY ADVISOR

APRIL 1, 2021

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the Committee,

I am Major General Kenneth Hara, Adjutant General, Director of the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency and Homeland Security Advisor for the Department of Defense (DOD).

The DOD provides written testimony in **SUPPORT** of HB 961 HD1.

This bill supports military families with employment opportunities in the State of Hawaii by streamlining the licensing processing for active duty military spouses and exempting military dependents from the current state residency requirement for employment. Doing so will significantly help military families financially, and concurrently benefit the state by increasing the competitive pool of qualified and experienced candidates for state employment, especially in chronically understaffed professions. It will additionally allow military spouses to qualify for higher paying jobs to help supplement their military servicemember's pay, increase their competitiveness in the job market, maintain currency in their profession, and increase their potential to find employment faster as they relocate the state.

Military spouses who accompany their armed servicemember on a permanent change of station (PCS) experience many challenges with moving and adjusting, particularly when they have families. A reduced ability to find competitive jobs compounds that challenge and often results in months of nonemployment. Currently, military spouses accompanying their servicemember on a PCS must apply for licensure through a license reciprocity process that mandates license equivalency. This is problematic for applicants depending upon their home jurisdiction. A typical PCS tour last 2-3 years; however, it often takes 3-4 months to obtain licensure for a spouse who holds a license to practice their profession in another jurisdiction causing nonemployment for a significant amount of time.

This bill will also eliminate the residency requirement for state employment for military dependents. The current law makes it difficult for military dependents to work for the State because military members and their dependents do not typically change their residency with each PCS. Because of the frequency in moving around the county and the world, servicemembers typically claim one state of residency throughout their military career for continuity. If passed, this bill would help military families maintain residency in their designated home state while being eligible to work for the State of Hawaii.

There would also be no loss of potential income tax revenue due to this bill. For state income tax purposes, the servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA) governs the determination of residence or domicile for servicemembers and their spouses. The SCRA provides that a servicemember will not lose a residence or domicile by being present in a tax jurisdiction in the United States due to compliance with military or naval orders, and would preclude the State of Hawaii from collecting income taxes on wages, salaries, tips, commissions and other compensation. The Military Spouses Residency Relief Act (MSRRA) amended the SCRA to add similar provisions for military spouses. The Tax Information Release No. 2020-01 dated May 3, 2010, provides additional detailed information and guidance on this subject.

A recommended revision is to include engineer licenses to the list. Military Spouses would supplement the state, where the state currently has a licensed engineer shortage and must currently offering a shortage differential in pay.

The DOD defers to DCCA for their input on the impacts to the current process and risks associated with streamlining the current system of processing licensure requests or other matters relating to the implementation of this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 961 HD1.

MG Kenneth S. Hara: kenneth.s.hara@hawaii.gov; 808-672-1211

BG Neal S. Mitsuyoshi: neal.s.mitsuyoshi@hawaii.gov; 808-369-3562



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Tuesday, April 6, 2021 at 9:30 A.M.
Written Testimony**

RE: HB 961, HD 1, SD 1, RELATING TO MILITARY DEPENDENTS

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **strongly supports** HB 961, HD 1, SD 1 which seeks to exempt dependents of military servicemembers from state residency requirement for government employment if the military servicemember is in Hawaii on bona fide military orders and allows a spouse of an active duty service member in the military who accompanies the service member a permanent change of station to Hawaii and holds a current, unencumbered license in another jurisdiction in specific professions to apply for licensure on an expedited basis in the State.

The Chamber's Military Affairs Council (MAC) was established in 1985 to specifically advocate on behalf of Hawaii's military as it is the second economic driver for the State of Hawaii, comprised of business leaders, state and local officials, non-profit organizations, community leaders and retired U.S. flag and general officers to advocate and liaison with the military commands.

The MAC stands in strong support of HB 961, HD 1 which is part of an effort throughout the 50 states to support military spouses with professional licenses who are able and interested in working while stationed in our community. We have shortages for some of these positions in Hawaii - teachers, nurses, and a variety of health-related fields especially now during the COVID-19 pandemic. This is not about taking a job away but instead adding and welcoming capabilities in areas which we are in need of qualified professionals.

While many states have enacted some form of relief in the area of occupational license reciprocity for spouses married to an active duty member of the armed forces, a Department of Defense report¹ illustrates that improvements can be made and has developed best practices to modernize and balance the reciprocity of occupational license professions and the protection of consumers.

The report, which has been delivered to members of Congress and state Governors, lays out some immediate, near-term and long-term solutions. There are currently occupation-specific compacts for physicians, nurses, physical therapists, emergency medical technicians,

¹ Military Spouse Licensure Reports

<https://www.militaryonesource.mil/data-research-and-statistics/reports/military-spouse-licensure-reports>



Chamber *of* Commerce HAWAII

The Voice of Business

psychologists, and audiologists/speech-language pathologists. For example, the nurse licensure compact has been approved by 34 states and is being considered by 10 more states in 2020 with others being considered in 2021.

For the forgoing reasons, we respectfully request the committee's passage of this measure.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means

Victoria Murphy

Monday, March 29, 2021

Support for H.B. No. 961, Relating to Military Dependents

My name is Victoria Murphy, a social work student at UH Mānoa. I am writing to express my support for H.B. No 961, Relating to Military Dependents.

As a military spouse and aspiring Licensed Clinical Social Worker, a common concern I have is the ability to transfer my license and ultimately, my career, with my husband's Permanent Change of Stations. It is distressing that military spouses are often punished for pursuing a licensed professional career due to the differing state requirements. It is important to note that national reciprocity is a Federal concern; however, there are steps the State of Hawai'i can take to make the transfer easier for military spouses. With the passage of this proposed bill, inbound military spouses will be able to continue progressing in their career fields and provide for their families without disruption, thereby, making the transition effectively easier while boosting the State's workforce.

The COVID-19 pandemic has amplified the fact that the State of Hawai'i is in a licensed professional deficit. For example, in August of 2020, the Healthcare Association of Hawaii, the Hawaii State Center for Nursing, and the Hawaii Healthcare Emergency Management Coalition started a recruiting campaign to hire nurses, whether experienced or recent graduates. If H.B. No 961 was enacted into law in August of 2020, the gap may have been filled with well-qualified military spouses already on Oahu unable to work due to State requirements. The passage of H.B. No 961 will strengthen the workforce by introducing a set of skilled and qualified individuals eligible for employment with varied experience and unique backgrounds.

I urge the committee to pass H.B. No 961, Relating to Military Dependents so that military spouses may continue their careers, strengthen the State's workforce, and provide for their families. I sincerely appreciate the committee's time and opportunity to testify.

HB-961-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2021 9:16:50 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mike Golojuch, Sr.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support HB961. Please pass this bill. Thank you.

Mike Golojuch, Sr., Member, Veterans Caucus, Democratic Party of Hawai'i

HB-961-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2021 10:04:16 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
cheryl B.	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

Comments

Please add to this bill. These military dependents can be allowed this privilege as long as it does not keep another person who is of these islands from obtaining the position. Understanding that there are shortages in certain fields, like education, which might benefit from additional personnel.

This should not be a license to hire military dependents at will. We already have issues with military being given priority for positions on these islands. We have soooo many retired military taking positions from others on this island due to their military service. The military already has sooooooooooooo many advantages on these islands because many think that they deserve extra due to their service. Maybe in the old days of drafted military or war times, now for most it's a job for which we pay them with our taxes and their daily abuse of our lands, like at Pohakuloa, Red Hill, Makua etc.