



COMMANDER, U.S. INDO-PACIFIC COMMAND  
(USINDOPACOM) CAMP H M SMITH, HAWAII 968614028

February 24, 2021

Chair and Committee Members

Thank you for the opportunity to share with you information which may be helpful in your decisionmaking regarding HB961 — Relating to military dependents.

This bill addresses two issues, military dependent residency requirements for state employment (Section 2) and occupational licensure requirements for military spouses (Section 3). The U.S. IndoPacific Command supports the intent of this bill and would like to suggest the following amendments in Section 3.

There are currently three pieces of legislation before the House of Representatives related to HRS §436B-14.7 geared toward streamlining the process of licensure for military spouses holding licenses from other jurisdictions. While we support the intent of these bills, we respectfully recommend that HB 961 be amended to incorporate sections (b) (c) and (e) of HB 1076 and section (a) of HB 782. We believe that these changes would fulfill the intent of the measure in streamlining the licensure process for military spouses while preserving public safety by allowing professionals holding licenses from other jurisdictions for the identified occupations to obtain prompt licensure through endorsement and providing those in other professions the option to more easily obtain temporary licensure while meeting state specific requirements for Hawaii.

The ability for military spouses to transfer their licenses in order to obtain employment upon a new military assignment is very important to their career sustainability and their families' financial stability which in turn helps maintain Military member retention and readiness. Enhancing licensure policy in Hawaii is of special emphasis for the Indo-pacific Command as Hawaii hosts the highest ratio of military spouses to the local population of all 50 States.

The U.S. Indo-Pacific Command appreciates the ongoing efforts of Hawaii in supporting the military community and for providing the opportunity to support the policy reflected within HB 961, if amended.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Suzanne P. Vares-Lum", is positioned above the typed name.

SUZANNE P. VARES-LUM

Major General, U.S. Army

Mobilization Assistant to the Commander

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 961  
RELATING TO MILITARY DEPENDENTS

PRESENTATION TO:  
THE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

BY

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

February 24, 2021

Aloha Chairperson Johanson, Vice Chairperson Kitagawa, and members of the Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce.

I am Major General Kenneth Hara, Adjutant General, Director of the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency and Homeland Security Advisor.

The Department of Defense (DOD) provides written testimony in **SUPPORT** of HB 961.

This bill supports military spouses and their families with employment opportunities in the State of Hawaii by expediting the licensing processing for active duty military spouses to obtain specific licenses identified in the bill, and by exempting military dependents from the current state residency requirement for employment. This bill will significantly help military families with their transition to the state, and we believe will concurrently benefit the state by increasing the competitive pool of qualified and experienced candidates for state employment, particularly in chronically understaffed professions.

Expediting the process for military spouses to obtain a temporary license in the state by removing the equivalency requirement for 30 professional licenses will be a significant improvement in the current process. This will reduce the time it takes to process and secure a license, and subsequently will allow military spouses to qualify for higher paying jobs and 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.

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. Their 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 and it often takes 3-4 months to obtain licensure for a spouse who holds a license to practice their profession in another jurisdiction. This bill will substantially help military families financially, and we believe will concurrently benefit the state by increasing the competitive pool of qualified and experienced candidates for state employment, particularly in chronically understaffed professions.

This bill also eliminates the residency requirement for state and county 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 each time they PCS. Because of the frequency in moving around the county and the world they 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 and still remain eligible to work for the State of Hawaii.

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 implementation of this measure.

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

MG Kenneth S. Hara: [kenneth.s.hara@hawaii.gov](mailto:kenneth.s.hara@hawaii.gov); 808-672-1211

BG Neal S. Mitsuyoshi: [neal.s.mitsuyoshi@hawaii.gov](mailto:neal.s.mitsuyoshi@hawaii.gov); 808-369-3562

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 961  
RELATING TO MILITARY DEPENDENTS

PRESENTATION TO:  
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MAJOR GENERAL KENNETH S. HARA  
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February 24, 2021

Aloha Chairperson Johanson, Vice Chairperson Kitagawa, and members of the Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce.

I am Major General Kenneth Hara, Adjutant General, Director of the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency and Homeland Security Advisor.

The Department of Defense (DOD) provides written testimony in **SUPPORT** of HB 961.

This bill seeks to support 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. This bill will significantly help military families financially, and concurrently benefit the state by increasing the competitive pool of qualified and experienced candidates for state employment, particularly in chronically understaffed professions.

This bill proposes a streamlined approach to expedite the process for military spouses to obtain a license in the state by removing the equivalency requirement for 30 specific professions. Doing so will reduce the time it takes to process and secure a license, and subsequently will allow military spouses to qualify for higher paying jobs and help supplement their military servicemember's pay, increase their competitiveness in the job market, and increase their potential to find employment faster.

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. Their 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, and it often takes 3-4 months to obtain licensure for a spouse who holds a license to practice their profession in another jurisdiction. This bill will substantially help military families financially, and we believe will concurrently benefit the state by increasing the competitive pool of qualified and experienced candidates for state employment, particularly in chronically understaffed professions.

Additionally, this bill also eliminates 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 each time they PCS. Because of the frequency in moving around the county and the world, they 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.

The DOD differs 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 implementation of this measure.

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

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MANPOWER AND  
RESERVE AFFAIRS

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

February 25, 2021

The Honorable Representative Aaron Ling Johanson  
Chair, House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce  
415 South Beretania St.  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**RE: HB 961 – Relating to military dependents.**

Chair Johanson, Vice Chair Kitagawa and Members of the Committee:

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 961. This bill addresses two issues, military dependent residency requirements for state employment (Section 2) and occupational licensure requirements for military spouses (Section 3). The Department applauds all efforts of states to provide flexibility for military dependents to become more easily employed, however our support of HB 961 is not dependent on section 2 of the bill. The following written testimony is in reference only to Section 3.

Licensure issues affecting career portability for the spouses of military service members have been a priority for the Department for several years. The ability for military spouses to transfer their licenses in order to obtain employment upon a new military assignment is very important to their career sustainability and their families' financial stability. Enhancing licensure policy in Hawaii is of special emphasis for the Department as Hawaii hosts the highest ratio of military spouses to the local population of all 50 States.

HRS §436B-14.7 currently provides opportunities for military spouses to obtain expedited licensure by endorsement, with an option to practice on a temporary license, with requirements that military spouses have found to be barriers to licensure in Hawaii. There are currently four pieces of legislation, related to HRS §436B-14.7, geared toward streamlining the process of licensure for military spouses holding licenses from other jurisdictions. Although similar, there are key differences among the measures:

- HB 961/SB 1115 (companion bills) eliminates the current provision for license by endorsement and focuses solely on temporary licensure for out-of-state licensed military spouses in 30 occupations and others holding licenses from jurisdictions with substantially equivalent requirements of those in Hawaii. This bill does not currently include a time limit for adjudication of application processing, and retains the current burdensome supervision and substantial equivalency requirements for the temporary license.
- HB 782 provides licensure by endorsement for the same 30 occupations as HB 961/SB 1115 and an option for other professionals needing time to complete state-specific requirements to receive temporary licenses. As with HB 961/SB 1115, this bill does not currently include a time limit for adjudication of application processing, and retains the current burdensome supervision and substantial equivalency requirements for the temporary license.

- HB 1076 retains the licensure by endorsement option and streamlines the temporary licensure process by eliminating burdensome supervisory and substantial equivalency requirements, adding a time limit for adjudication of application processing, and requiring boards to publish rules related to the statute on their websites.

**We respectfully recommend that HB 961 be amended to incorporate sections (b) (c) and (e) of HB 1076 and section (a) of HB 782. We believe that these changes would fulfill the intent of the measure in streamlining the licensure process for military spouses while preserving public safety by allowing professionals holding licenses from other jurisdictions for the identified occupations to obtain prompt licensure through endorsement and providing those in other professions the option to more easily obtain temporary licensure while meeting state specific requirements for Hawaii.**

The Department appreciates the ongoing efforts of Hawaii in supporting the military community and for providing the opportunity to support the policy reflected within HB 961, if amended. We extend our deepest gratitude to Governor Ige and Speaker Saiki for bringing forth this critical issue. Thank you for taking the time to consider our recommendations. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,



Kelli May Douglas  
Pacific Southwest Regional Liaison  
Defense-State Liaison Office  
Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense  
(Military Community and Family Policy)  
[kelli.m.douglas.civ@mail.mil](mailto:kelli.m.douglas.civ@mail.mil)

cc:  
The Honorable Speaker of the House, Representative Scott Saiki

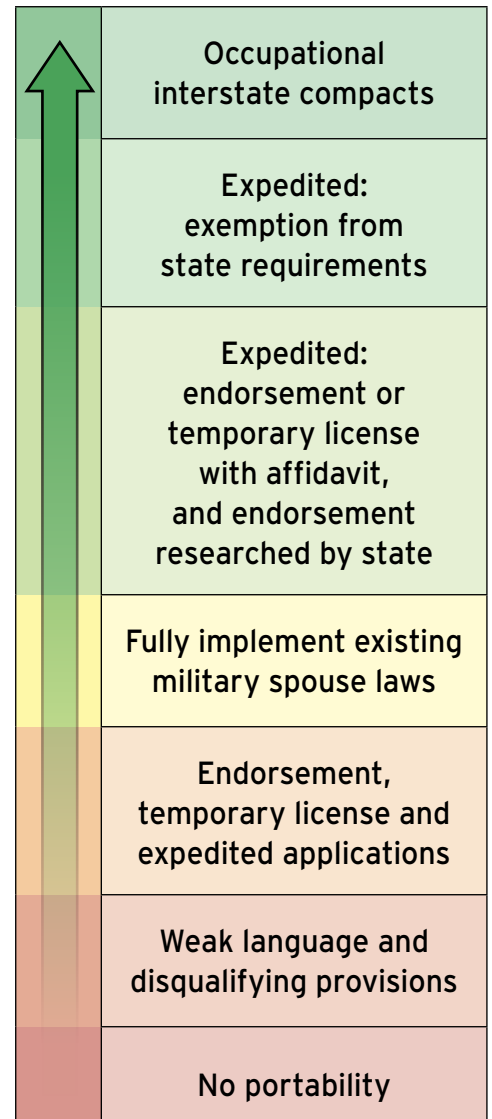


# Discussion Points: Enhanced Military Spouse License Portability

**State-specific laws are important to reducing the burden associated with the occupational relicensing of military spouses.**

## Discussion Points:

- From 2011-16, states passed laws to revise work-related licensing for military spouses. But often these laws did not reduce the burden of relicensing for spouses moving to a new state. Many provisions include evaluations that require military spouses to request transcripts, test scores, practicum hours, previous licenses and work experience be sent to verify their application.
- States are continuing to make it easier to use a license in good standing from another state to get a new license. Specific ways states can ease the burden associated with relicensing can include:
  - Exempting the military spouse from state-specific requirements
  - Providing a temporary or permanent license based on an application and an affidavit and requiring the verifying documents be submitted by a specific date
  - Requiring the board to research and adjudicate a licensing request based simply on the application
- The desired outcome is to provide the military spouse with a license (temporary or permanent) within 30 days of application, based on an application and initial submission of minimal documentation.
- The Department of Defense encourages states to approve compacts, but also understands that compacts take time to achieve coverage for each occupation.



*\*As baseline: license in 30 days with submission of minimal documentation*

*This chart shows the relative degree of reciprocity, from full reciprocity through compacts between states (in dark green) to no portability (in red).*

**The annual percent of the military spouse population that moves across state lines is 14.5% – compared to 1.1% for civilian spouses. As much as 34% of military spouses in the labor force are required to be fully licensed; and of those spouses, 19% experience challenges maintaining their licenses.**



DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



ANNE E. PERREIRA-EUSTAQUIO  
DIRECTOR

JOANN A. VIDINHAR  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS**

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February 25, 2021

To: The Honorable Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair,  
The Honorable Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair, and  
Members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

Date: Thursday, February 25, 2021

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Place: Conference Room 329, State Capitol

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

**Re: H.B. No. 961 RELATING TO MILITARY DEPENDENTS**

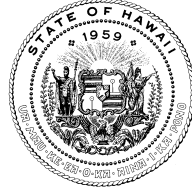
**I. OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION**

HB961 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**

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

JOSH GREEN  
LT. GOVERNOR

**STATE OF HAWAII  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

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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 Consumer Protection & Commerce  
Thursday, February 25, 2021  
2:00 p.m.  
Via Videoconference**

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

Chair Johanson 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 and requests an amendment.

The purposes of this bill are to: (1) allow a person who is a spouse of an active duty service member in the military; accompanies the service member to 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 of Hawaii; and (2) exempt dependents of military servicemembers from state residency requirement for employment with state or county government if the military servicemember is in Hawaii on bona fide military orders.

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.

Lastly, the Department respectfully requests adding "a mental health counselor" to section 3, paragraph (2)(A), as that was inadvertently omitted.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

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  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

For Hearing on Thursday, February 25, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 329 (Via Video Conference)

BY

RYKER WADA  
DIRECTOR

**House Bill No. 961**  
**Relating to Military Dependents**

CHAIR JOHANSON, VICE CHAIR KITAGAWA 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, the HB 961 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.

I would respectfully like to submit testimony in support of and to suggest amended language to HB961, Relating to Military Dependents, regarding the licensure recognition of military members and their spouses.

I represent the Work for Warriors Hawaii program, which provides employment and career services to Hawaii National Guard and their family members, as well as Reserve Component members and veterans, focused on local employment in Hawaii. As with active-duty spouses, when National Guard and Reserve Component members move to the State and transfer their military service to a Hawaii component, their licensure from another state is not recognized. However, differently from the active-duty component and their family members, these service members are not on active duty orders, and most will need to secure stable civilian employment in Hawaii. Their ability to have their licensure recognized, as this bill proposes for active-duty military spouses, will enhance their ability to secure employment in the community in a timely manner, which will also assist with securing housing and provide a more seamless transition into the local workforce and economy. Unlike the active duty components, National Guard and Reserve members do not receive moving expenses, assistance with housing, or other related active-duty benefits. The inability to quickly secure civilian employment can mean financial hardships for them and their families.

I respectfully ask that the language of the bill be amended from the following in red:

HB961 Proposed amendments

**Report Title:**

Military Dependents, **National Guard and Reserve Component Members**

**Description:**

Allows a person who is a spouse of an active duty service member in the military; accompanies the service member a permanent change of station to Hawaii; **or is a transferring member of the National Guard or a military reserve component to a Hawaii-based unit;** and holds a current, unencumbered license in another jurisdiction in specific professions to apply for licensure on an expedited basis in the State of Hawaii, and exempts dependents of military servicemembers from state residency requirement for employment with state or county government if the military servicemember is in Hawaii on bona fide military orders.

SECTION 1. The purpose of this Act is amend section 436B-14.7, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to provide a streamlined pathway for temporary professional licensure of an **active-duty** military spouse, **National Guard, or**

Reserve member provided that the spouse individual holds a current unencumbered license in one of the listed professions that have relatively uniform standards for licensure or the licensure requirements of the spouse individual's home jurisdiction are equivalent to or exceed those of the State, and to amend section 78-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to exempt dependents of military servicemembers, National Guard and Reserve members from the residency requirement for government employment when the active-duty military servicemember's dependent is in Hawaii accompanying the military servicemember on valid military orders, or when the National Guard or Reserve member has relocated to Hawaii and will be performing drill duty with a Hawaii-based unit.

SECTION 2. Section 78-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by amending subsection (c) to read as follows:

"(c) All persons seeking employment with the government of the State or in the service of any county shall be citizens, nationals, or permanent resident aliens of the United States, or eligible under federal law for unrestricted employment in the United States, and shall become residents of the State within thirty days after beginning their employment as a condition of eligibility for continued employment[-], except that bona fide active-duty military servicemembers' dependents are exempt from the requirement to become residents if they

are in the State by virtue of the military  
servicemembers' orders.

"Resident" means a person who is physically present in the State at the time the person claims to have established the person's domicile in the State and shows the person's intent is to make Hawaii the person's primary residence.

Thank you,

Deborah Nakashima  
Program Manager, Work for Warriors Hawaii Employment Program  
Mobile contact: (808) 630-0128  
Email: [deb@workforwarriorshi.org](mailto:deb@workforwarriorshi.org)





**Testimony to the House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce  
Thursday, February 25, 2021 at 2:00 P.M.  
Via Videoconference**

**RE: HB 961, RELATING TO MILITARY DEPENDENTS**

Chair Johanson, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **strongly supports** HB 961 which allows a person who is a spouse of an active duty service member in the military; 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 of Hawaii, and exempts dependents of military servicemembers from state residency requirement for employment with state or county government if the military servicemember is in Hawaii on bona fide military orders.

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 782, 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 report<sup>1</sup> 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,

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

HB 961 is very similar to HB 782, HD 1. HB 961 provides further relief by amending Hawaii Revised Statutes, Section 78-1 to exempt servicemembers' dependents from residency requirements as a prerequisite to working in state or county governments or agencies. For this reason, we prefer the language contained in HB 961.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

February 23, 2021

The Honorable Representative Johanson  
Chair, House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

Aloha Chair Johanson and Committee Members,

I am writing to submit my testimony in support of **HB961**. I fully support the effort to expedite and make it easier for military spouses to become licensed in the State of Hawai'i for the purpose of employment as well as exempting dependents of military service members from state residency requirement for employment.

This is my second tour in Hawaii and both times my spouse had to apply for two professional licenses, a registered nurse license and advanced practice nursing license, in 2009 and 2018. In both instances it took an average of 3 months to obtain licenses. Without these licenses she was unable to even apply for a job. Additionally, my spouse was required to become credentialed at the hospital with took another 2 months. Moving to Hawai'i resulted in my spouse being unemployed for over 5 months as a result of license processing.

The process proved to be lengthy and required excessive effort to include numerous phone calls, long hold times, many emails and misplaced paperwork to secure a registered nursing license and advance practice nursing license.

Moving is one of the most stressful things for our military families and finding employment for spouses and dependents in a new location only adds to that stress and in some cases creates financial hardship. As the former U.S. Army Garrison Commander here in Hawaii, I am very familiar with the challenges our families face when they move to Hawai'i. Things like HB961 go a long way to help to reduce that stress and provide more opportunities for our military dependents and families in the community.

Additionally, I believe this bill helps to further the connection between our military families and Hawai'i. This summer my family and I will have lived in Hawaii for over 7 years and we are honored call Hawai'i our home and be a part of the community here.

Mahalo for your consideration of my comments and support for this bill.

Colonel Tom Barrett

February 23, 2021

The Honorable Representative Johanson  
Chair, House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

Aloha Chair Johanson and Committee Members,

As a military spouse in Hawaii, I support **HB 961**. This bill would make it easier for me to continue my profession without large gaps in employment between moves. In my profession I cannot even apply for jobs in the State of Hawai'i without an active Hawai'i registered nursing license and advance practice nursing license. An absence of work in excess of three months requires justification as to my whereabouts and reasons to my new employer. This creates an additional burden on my profession as well as lost wages during the time I am going through the licensing process in the State of Hawai'i.

In my most recent move to Hawai'i 2018, I sent an application for my licenses in February of 2018, in April I spoke with someone who stated my application had been received on 2 March and was being processed. Between April and 17 May of 2018, I was making multiple phone calls per day from the east coast to Hawai'i with a six-hour time difference. There are times I waited on hold for over one hour after 10-20 attempts to get into the cue and secure a place in line on the phone. After getting in touch with a person, I was routinely passed from to multiple individuals until I finally was connected to a supervisor's boss. Through persistence and perseverance, I was finally able to get my licenses in May of 2018. My family moved to Hawai'i in June 2018 and I was able to start working in August of 2018 after applying for a job, being offered a position and finally being credentialed by the hospital.

I fully support and encourage the passing of HB961 for myself, all other spouses and dependents. This bill will make relocating to Hawai'i and finding employment easier. I don't want others to have the same experience I had coming here in 2018.

Mahalo for your consideration of my testimony.

Jill Barrett  
Military Spouse