



MANPOWER AND  
RESERVE AFFAIRS

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

March 24, 2021

The Honorable Senator Clarence K. Nishihara  
Chair, Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

The Honorable Senator Rosalyn H. Baker  
Chair, Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

415 South Beretania St.  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**RE: SR 86 – Military Spouse; Licensing Standards; Report**

Dear Chair Nishihara, Chair Baker, and Members of the Committees:

On behalf of military families and the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD, The Department), I am writing to express support for the policy changes expressed within Senate Resolution (SR) 86, with one request for amendment. This resolution urges all licensing agencies listed within Senate Bill (SB) 1115 to examine other states' licensing credentials and determine which states have licensing standards that meet or exceed Hawaii's licensing standards.

Military spouses are disproportionately affected by varying state-specific licensure requirements that can cause considerable delays and gaps in employment. Over 34 percent of military spouses in the workforce are in licensed professions, while also experiencing frequent moves (every two to four years on average) due to their families' service to the nation – requiring them to seek re-licensure for each interstate move. State policies that enhance existing licensure provisions for military spouses relieve one of the many stressors for military families by enabling spouses to more quickly transfer their licenses in order to obtain employment in a new state.

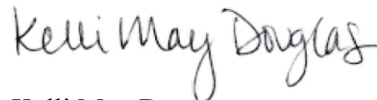
Hawaii Revised Statutes §436B-14.7 currently provides opportunities for military spouses to obtain expedited licensure by endorsement or temporary licensure, with application process requirements that military spouses have found to be barriers to licensure in Hawaii. As an amendment to SB 1115, SR 86 seeks to streamline the process of obtaining a temporary license or license by endorsement for military spouses by urging certain licensing boards to evaluate the requirements of other states' licenses. By doing so, military spouses in these occupations will not have to submit to individual evaluations of the requirements of licenses they hold from other jurisdictions found to have substantially equivalent requirements to those in Hawaii, speeding up the application process and allowing them to be licensed and employed more quickly.

The Department very much appreciates the intent of SR 86. **We would like to request that the following occupations be added to the list of occupations referenced: dental hygienist, cosmetologist/barber, massage therapist, physical therapist, emergency medical technician, and veterinarian.** Including these additional occupations would have a significant impact on our community

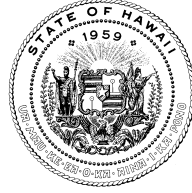
as we have determined that, *in addition to* many of the occupations already listed within SB 1115, the majority of licensed military spouses are employed within these occupations. These occupations are also included in current DoD and Department of the Air Force assessments of state licensure policies. Current DoD policy, as directed by the 2021 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA Sec. 2883), requires the Services to include these assessments in their future basing considerations.

In closing, the Department is appreciative of the ongoing efforts of Hawaii in supporting the military community. Thank you for providing us the opportunity to support the policy reflected within SR 86 and for considering our recommendation for amendment. 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)



DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN  
LT. GOVERNOR

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

335 MERCHANT STREET, ROOM 310  
P.O. BOX 541  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809  
Phone Number: 586-2850  
Fax Number: 586-2856  
cca.hawaii.gov

CATHERINE P. AWAKUNI COLÓN  
DIRECTOR

JO ANN M. UCHIDA TAKEUCHI  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs**

**Before the  
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, & Military Affairs  
and  
Senate Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection  
Thursday, March 25, 2021  
1:05 p.m.  
Via Videoconference**

**On the following measure:**

**S.R. 86, URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, AND ANY OTHER LICENSING AGENCY THAT OVERSEES A PROFESSION LISTED IN SENATE BILL NO. 1115 (2021), SECTION 3, TO EXAMINE OTHER STATES' LICENSING CREDENTIALS AND DETERMINE WHICH STATES HAVE LICENSING STANDARDS THAT MEET OR EXCEED HAWAII'S LICENSING STANDARDS**

Chair Nishihara, Chair Baker, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Ahlani Quiogue, Licensing Administrator of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs' (Department) Professional and Vocational Licensing Division. The Department appreciates the intent of and offers comments on this resolution.

The purposes of this resolution are to: (1) urge the Legislative Reference Bureau (LRB) to assist the Department, Department of Health, Department of Defense, or any other licensing agency to examine the licensing credentials of other states and determine which states have licensing standards that meet or exceed Hawaii's licensing standards for those professions listed in section 3 of S.B. 1115 (2021); and (2) submit a

report of its findings and recommendations, including proposed legislation, to the Legislature prior to the Regular Session of 2022.

The Department appreciates the Legislature's consideration of having the LRB, a neutral third party, assist it with examining the licensing credentials of other states to determine which states have licensing standards that meet or exceed Hawaii's licensing standards for those professions listed in section 3. However, the Department conducted a comparative analysis of other states during its collaboration with the Hawaii Department of Defense to prepare administration measures S.B. 1115 and H.B. 961, H.D.1<sup>1</sup>. As such, although the Department appreciates the method of review set forth in this resolution, an examination may not be necessary at this time.

In addition, the Department notes that H.B. 961, H.D. 1, Relating to Military Dependents, was heard before the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection on March 23, 2021, and the findings at that hearing may assist the Committee in considering S.C.R. 109.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this resolution.

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<sup>1</sup> H.B. 961, H.D. 1 differs from S.B. 1115 in that, at the request of the Department, mental health counselors have been added to the list of professions that meet national standards for purposes of temporary licensure of military spouses.



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and  
Military Affairs, and  
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Affairs  
Thursday, March 25, 2021 at 1:05 P.M.  
Written Testimony**

**RE: SCR 109 / SR 86, URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH WITH THE  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS, DEPARTMENT OF  
DEFENSE, AND ANY OTHER LICENSING AGENCY THAT OVERSEES A PROFESSION  
LISTED IN SENATE BILL NO. 1115 (2021), SECTION 3, TO EXAMINE OTHER STATES'  
LICENSING CREDENTIALS AND DETERMINE WHICH STATES HAVE LICENSING  
STANDARDS THAT MEET OR EXCEED HAWAII'S LICENSING STANDARDS.**

Chairs Nishihara and Baker, Vice-Chairs English and Chang, and Members of the  
Committees:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports** SCR 109 and SR 86.

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.

Efforts have been underway throughout all 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.

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 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, psychologists, and audiologists/speech-language pathologists. For example, the



# Chamber *of* Commerce HAWAII

*The Voice of Business*

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.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.