



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs
And
Senate Committee on Higher Education
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SB 419 – RELATING TO SELECTIVE SERVICE

Chairs Nishihara and Kahele, Vice Chairs Wakai and Kidani, and members of the committees:

SB 419 requires compliance with the Military Selective Service Act to qualify for state financial assistance, which would include loans, grants, scholarships and tuition waivers or other financial assistance for post-secondary education that is provided by the state.

The purpose of increasing compliance with the federal Military Selective Service Act is well-intentioned, however the University of Hawai'i (UH) has significant concerns about SB 419.

All individuals who apply for federal financial aid through the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) are data matched through the Selective Service confirmation process and males are afforded the option to automatically register for Selective Service. This FAFSA information is downloaded to the University's student information system. Since not all high school graduates apply to UH, and among those who do apply, not all apply for federal financial aid, the yield to the US Military Selective Service may not be as high as anticipated by the intervention proposed in SB 419.

Second, at UH, complying with SB 419 would require altering computerized workflows as well as adding manual checking, because not all students apply for federal financial aid. The UH computer systems can easily screen for selective service registration of financial aid filers, but the bigger issue is admissions offices needing to screen for financial aid filing before admitting a male applicant. The UH student information computer system is not set up to do this screening outside of the FAFSA financial aid process so implementing this at the admissions state would have major impact on the workload of frontline operations in the University financial aid application processes, and require significant additional resources to comply.

Moreover, requiring male students between 18 and 26 to register for selective service as proposed by SB 419 may negatively impact enrollment at a time when enrollments

have been declining in recent years at UH campuses. This is a particular concern among males who have lower college going rates in our current economic environment. Finally, the bill's applicability to continuing students (i.e. those already enrolled) will require ample planning, foresight, and anticipation to minimize disruption in their continued enrollment and persistence.

The University of Hawai'i respectfully submits these comments on SB 419. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.