



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Veterans, Military, and International Affairs,
and Culture and the Arts
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By
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SB 419 SD2 – RELATING TO SELECTIVE SERVICE

Chair Ito, Vice Chair Tokioka, and members of the committee:

SB 419 SD2 requires compliance with the Military Selective Service Act to be eligible for enrollment in a state-supported post-secondary institution, qualify for post-secondary education state financial aid, or be eligible for state or county employment or service.

The University of Hawai'i (UH) appreciates the goals of the Hawai'i Selective Service Commission, however has significant concerns about unintended consequences of SB 419 SD2, including a potential for decreasing access to public higher education in Hawai'i for men between the ages of 18 and 26.

Of more than 13,000 graduates from public and private high schools in Hawai'i in 2015, approximately 4,000 students enrolled at UH campuses systemwide as first-time freshmen in the fall of 2015. Of these, fewer than half are male. And, any student applying for federal financial aid would be required to register for the Selective Service. UH enrollment contingent on Selective Service registration may have a dampening effect on college attendance for young men. This is a concern because males currently have lower college going rates. This requirement in particular, disadvantages the very students who take the initiative to seek access to higher education after high school. This group would be subject to additional screening not applied to other populations, for example, women, non-US citizens, and those high school graduates who do not apply to UH in the first place. After reviewing the data, applying selective service registration as a filter to allow or prohibit enrollment at UH or as eligibility for state aid may not produce as high a yield as anticipated by the intervention proposed in SB 419 SD2.

According to the official website of the Selective Service System, only 8 out of 50 states require Selective Service registration for higher education admissions/attendance. UH has a responsibility to provide higher education for residents of the state of Hawai'i, and unlike many other states we are unique in being the sole institution of public higher education and located geographically distant from other institutions.

The University of Hawai'i respectfully requests that SB 419 SD2 be deferred. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.