



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committees on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs  
and Higher Education

February 8, 2018 at 2:00 p.m.

By

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### SB 2622 – RELATING TO SELECTIVE SERVICE

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

SB 2622 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 2622, including a potential for decreasing access to public higher education in Hawai'i for men between the ages of 18 and 26.

First, UH enrollment contingent on Selective Service registration may have a dampening effect on college attendance for young men. This is a concern. Males currently have lower college going rates than females in Hawai'i; 47% of males vs. 62% of females enroll in college directly out of public high schools. SB 2622 would subject young men between 18 and 26 years of age to additional screening before being eligible to enroll at the state's public university. This is not applied to other populations, for example, women, non-US citizens, those who attend private or out of state institutions, and others.

Second, an additional screening requirement would disadvantage the very students who take the initiative to apply and seek to enroll at our public higher education system after high school in Hawai'i. Data shows that of more than 13,500 graduates from public and private high schools in Hawai'i in 2017, approximately 5,500 students enrolled at UH campuses systemwide as first-time freshmen in the fall of 2017. Of these, fewer than half (47%) were male, and it is this smaller population subset, rather than those who do not apply to UH in the first place, that would be required to undergo additional screening before eligibility to enroll at UH.

Any student applying for federal financial aid via the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is required by federal law to register for the Selective Service, and this federal aid information is downloaded to the University's student information

system. To implement the eligibility screening for state financial aid as well as university enrollment, however, would require an additional step to check applicants who have not applied for federal financial aid before admitting a male applicant. This requires additional administrative resources and is complicated because the Selective Service database uses social security numbers as identifiers and the University does not collect social security numbers at the admissions stage, nor do we collect it for non-FAFSA filers. After reviewing the data, applying selective service registration as an additional 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 2622.

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. Hawai'i does not have a state grant program similar to other states. UH is unique in its responsibility as the sole provider of public higher education in a state that is located at great geographic distance from other institutions and other options for students in Hawai'i.

For these reasons, the University of Hawai'i has serious concerns, and respectfully requests that SB 2622 be deferred.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.