

SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

Facilities

- There should be a form of Veteran's Resource Center or Office for each UH campus that can serve as a focal point for supporting student veterans in managing their admission, advisement, benefit eligibility and certification, and other access to campus and system supports.

People

- There should be an ongoing UH Serving Veterans Committee representing veterans' issues and supports to carry forward the recommendations of this Task Force and to oversee and coordinate the efforts of each UH campus and the system in providing high quality service to the student veteran population.
- There should be a point person for veteran support services on each UH campus with responsibility to act as liaison with the UH Serving Veterans Committee, and to coordinate each campus' involvement with system efforts.
- There should be veteran-specific student support services available at each campus and through the UH system.
- There should be a system-level office or designee assigned to coordinate, promote and share information about student veterans programming and needs. This person should help coordinate the work of the UH Serving Veterans Committee and act as system representative to that group. He or she might also oversee an online portal for UH services for student veterans.
- There should be faculty/staff training and professional development experiences regularly available to campus personnel to gain and enhance understanding of the unique issues and needs of military and veteran students and their families.

Academic Policies & Procedures

- There should be uniform policies and practices developed and implemented to encourage the recognition of prior learning associated with military training and skills (including ACE, PLA and other methods to give credit where appropriate toward certificate or degree completion) along with a guarantee that such credits counted at one UH institution count at all UH institutions.
- There should be approval secured by each campus for VA benefit eligibility for non-credit coursework appropriate to preparing veteran students for careers that may not require a traditional college degree.

- There should be campus-specific planning for course schedules that allow student veterans to maximize their eligibility for certification for benefits and that promotes continuity of student veteran status and reduction/elimination of gaps in benefit eligibility.
- There should be consideration given to creating Learning Community approaches and/or other cohort opportunities for student veterans in instructional pedagogies.

Student Affairs Policies & Procedures

- There should be system-wide provision made to allow the charging of tuition for VA benefit-eligible persons to occur at the equivalent of the resident rate for at least a period of time during which residency could be established.
- There should be uniform system policies in place to protect student veterans and military members who may be called to active duty during the course of a semester to hold such deployed students harmless for the potential loss of benefit for that semester as well as for loss of credit or placement in competitive programs.
- There should be priority registration preference for student veterans receiving VA education benefits, since those benefits are limited in duration.
- There should be a priority placed on hiring student veterans for work-study opportunities, particularly as those may relate to supporting the needs of other student veterans on campuses or within the UH system.
- There should be peer support opportunities available at each campus and through the system so that successful student veterans can assist new student veterans with adjustment to college life.
- There should be enhanced recruitment and enrollment strategies in place to attract military and veteran students to the UH and its campuses, given the considerable and long-standing U.S. military presence across the state of Hawaii. Attracting such individuals to achieve their educational goals through the public university in Hawaii promotes long-term benefits to those individuals and to the state.

Technology

- There should be improvements made to the technical capacity to track veteran and VA benefit status of applicants as well as student veterans once enrolled. Separate reporting structures should be designed to help monitor student veteran success, retention, persistence and completion.
- There should be a robust online presence to current information about programs and services available to student veterans from UH regardless of home campus. The system person recommended above might oversee this online portal for UH services for student veterans.