



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
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HB 52 HD1 – RELATING TO THE SELECTIVE SERVICE REGISTRATION AWARENESS AND COMPLIANCE ACT

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee:

HB 52 HD1 codifies the US Military Selective Service Act (50 USC App 451) into Hawaii Revised Statutes. By doing so, state law will subsequently require college applicants to comply with the provisions of the Military Selective Service Act in order to:

- (1) Be eligible for enrollment in a state-supported institution of higher education;
- (2) Qualify for state financial assistance for post-secondary education; and
- (3) Be eligible for state or county employment or service.

The intent of HB 52 HD1 is laudable; however, the University has concerns about its operational impacts and programmatic concerns related to enrollment and financial resources.

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 venture into higher education nor apply for federal financial aid, the yield to the US Military Selective Service may not be as high as anticipated. Perhaps, the yields would be greater if all age appropriate males would comply with the requirements *prior to graduating from high school*.

For college admissions purposes, the University does not currently require confirmation of compliance before admitting applicants. Doing so will require the University admissions offices to secure and retain a verification from the student applicant that he has registered with the Selective Service. This requirement will delay the individual's college selection decision-making and may deter an applicant from entering the University, encouraging him to seek admissions at non University of Hawaii institutions where the requirement to confirm registration prior to admission may be non-existent.

In gauging the practices across the country, the University was only able to confirm that the University of Texas System has a requirement for proof of Selective Service registration tied to receiving federal and state aid. There does not appear to be a similar requirement for admissions to one of the campuses of the University of Texas

System. This echoes the Hawai'i Attorney General's indication that only eight states have laws rendering males not in compliance with selective service registration to be ineligible for college attendance. The wisdom of conditioning enrollment in public post-secondary education upon registration with selective service is not universally shared across the nation's public institutions of higher education.

Should HB 52 HD1 pass, there will be major impacts on the workload of frontline operations, involving the altering of computerized and manual workflows to the University admissions and financial aid application processes. This will involve overtime and/or the need for additional human resources to comply. HB 52 has the potential of affecting student enrollments negatively which will have a consequential impact on the quality of student life as well as the financial resources available on the University's campuses. 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure. The University understands the intent of this bill, and is concerned about its impact on operations, workflow, and enrollment.