



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Veterans, Military, International Affairs & Culture & the Arts
Monday, February 02, 2015 at 9am, Conference Room 312
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HB 1004 – RELATING TO VETERANS

Chair Cachola, Vice Chair Ito, and Members of the Committee:

HB 1004 proposes to require the University of Hawai'i to waive the nonresident tuition & fee differential for veterans of the five major branches of the US Armed Forces (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard) so that those veteran students pay resident tuition at the University of Hawai'i campuses.

The University of Hawai'i appreciates the outstanding service that military veterans have provided to our country, and welcomes the different life experiences military veterans bring to the college classroom; thus, adding to the diversity of our campuses. We support the overall intent of this bill and are pleased to report that University of Hawai'i Board of Regents at its meeting dated October 16, 2014, adopted an amendment to its policies and extended the waiver of nonresident tuition and fee differential for veterans of the United States armed forces who enroll at a campus of the University within three years of their discharge under honorable conditions beginning this Spring 2015 semester. This action has effected HB 1004's outcome and may obviate the need for the statutory changes as proposed by the bill.

President Obama last Fall 2014 signed into law, HR 3230 stipulating that veterans be charged in-state tuition rates effective July 2015. HR 3230 became Public Law 113-146 commonly known as the Veterans Access, Choice & Accountability Act of 2014. As the U.S. Veterans Administration continues to interpret the law and develop implementing federal regulations to clarify provisions of Public Law 113-146, the University will propose additional amendments to the Board of Regents as necessary this Spring 2015 to further comply with federal requirements.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill. The University supports the intent of this bill's goal to encourage our veterans to improve themselves and the communities in which they reside through post-secondary education. However, with the Board of Regents action and implementation this Spring 2015 semester of changes to its tuition policies affecting student veterans, the goal and outcome of HB 1004 are being realized.