HB 426 HD1 – RELATING TO TUITION WAIVERS

Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Clark, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 426 HD1 which requires tuition waivers to dependent children of disabled veterans or active or reserve members of the armed forces who were killed in action.

The University of Hawai‘i (UH) appreciates the intent of this measure as it honors the service of those who serve(d) in our armed forces. The UH does not believe this measure is necessary as the UH is in compliance with Public Law No: 116-315 which went into effect on January 5, 2021.

Section 1002 of this Public Law expands eligibility for the Fry Scholarship to a child or spouse of a person who dies on or after September 11, 2001, in the line of duty while serving on duty other than active duty as a member of the Armed Forces, and a child or spouse of a member of the Selected Reserve who dies on or after September 11, 2001, from a service-connected disability while a member of the Selected Reserve. The UH has implemented this as of August 1, 2021.

Section 1011. Expansion of Transfer of Entitlement for Dependents under the Post-9/11 GI Bill® Expands the eligibility for dependents to whom Post-9/11 GI Bill® benefits can be transferred. Eligibility now includes certain unmarried children placed in the legal custody of the service member for at least 12 months as a result of a court order. The UH has implemented this as of January 5, 2021.

For these reasons, the UH does not feel there is a need for this bill and respectfully requests that HB 426 HD1 be deferred.