



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
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by
John Morton
Vice President for Community Colleges, University of Hawai'i

HB 2639, HD1 RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i Community Colleges supports HB2639, HD1 which amends the University of Hawai'i college-credit equivalency program to include service in the United States armed forces. This bill provides another path for adults to get college credits for work or other experiences that align skills with college course learning outcomes. For military personnel, we could award equivalent college credits for their professional experience gained through service in the United States armed forces.

The community colleges' college-credit equivalency program is updating its approach by aligning itself with the latest national best practices on awarding credit for skills acquired outside the traditional classroom. According to the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL),

“When people receive college credit for what they know from life and work experiences, they earn their degrees and credentials faster, saving money on tuition. They also learn the value of their experience, which gives them confidence to complete their degrees.”