



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Education &
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations, and Military Affairs
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by
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HB 2639, HD2 – RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION

Chairs Tokuda and Espero, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i Community Colleges supports HB2639, HD2 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. An assessment or other criteria will be used to determine college-level learning gained during 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.”

This act can take effect on July 1, 2012; however, the assessment process and procedures must be developed and reviewed by colleges before implementation.