



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Veterans, Military, & International Affairs, & Cultural and the Arts
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by
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Chair Takai; Vice Chair Ito, and Members of the Committee:

I am testifying on behalf of the University of Hawai'i and its 10 campuses.

HB 159 requires the University of Hawai'i to waive all tuition and fees for qualified students who are the spouse or child of United States Armed Services and National Guard members who are totally disabled or were killed in action.

The University appreciates the outstanding service that military veterans have provided and the sacrifices that their spouses and dependents have made for our state and country. The University supports the intent of this bill. However, we believe that the Department of Veterans Affairs that provides educational benefits for spouses and dependents of veterans who die or is permanently, and totally disabled is already meeting this need. For example the Post-9/11 GI Bill: Marine gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship provides for tuition and fees, monthly housing allowance, and book and supply stipend to dependents of US military who die in the line of duty. The federal government provides the Iraq / Afghanistan scholarship that provides scholarships to spouses and dependents who die or are disabled in the line of duty. Lastly, the Veterans Affairs offers the Dependents Educational Assistance program (DEA). The program provides education and training opportunities to eligible dependents and survivors of veterans.

Thank you for your support of the University and the opportunity to comment on this bill.