



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM

TESTIMONY

S.B 2363 RELATING TO UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Education and Committee on Transportation,
Military Affairs and Government Operations

February 13, 2004

By

Dr. Doris Ching
Vice President for Student Affairs
University of Hawaii

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SB 2363 Relating to the University of Hawaii

Chair Sakamoto, Kawamoto, and Members of the committees:

While the University appreciates the intent of SB 2363, established University policies and practices make such legislation unnecessary. The University already works closely with National Guard or Military Reserve students who are called to active duty to best meet their individual needs. These needs can vary depending on the length of active duty, type of course enrolled in, and time of semester when the call-up occurs. Depending on these and other variables, the University will refund tuition and cancel enrollment, offer an "I" (Incomplete) grade for work to be completed at a later date, provide coursework that could be appropriately fulfilled during their active service, or other accommodation that best meets the needs of the student. These accommodations have been provided in response to 9/11, Bosnia, Hurricane Iniki, Operation Desert Storm and more recent activations.

Having legislation which will require refunds and disenrollment for students called to active duty for more than sixty days will limit the range of accommodations the University can offer that are responsive to the varying needs of the students.

The University does not support passage of SB 2363. We are already in the process of developing a general policy that will provide a range of accommodations for students.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our concerns on SB 2363. We share the Legislature's interest and support for our students.