



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM

TESTIMONY

S.B 2624 RELATING TO TUITION WAIVERS

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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Chair Sakamoto, Chun Oakland and Members of the committees:

Although the University of Hawaii supports the intent of SB 2624 providing for tuition waivers for veterans of the Vietnam conflict, the University has concerns on funding and the veterans to be covered.

Act 161 approved in 1995 terminated various tuition waivers (including tuition waivers of the Vietnam conflict) and gave authority over tuition waivers to the Board of Regents. Act 161 also requires the legislature to provide funds for tuition waivers mandated by the legislature. We support SB 2624 if an appropriation is included in the bill and provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in the Executive Budget.

SB 2624 provides tuition waivers only for veterans of the Vietnam conflict. There are veterans of other wars who have exhausted their federal benefits who are equally deserving of recognition and support. The University is not able to estimate the number of Hawaii residents who would be eligible for these waivers.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this bill and to express our concerns. The University appreciates the Legislature's continuing support for students