



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committees on Public Safety, Intergovernmental & Military Affairs, and on  
Higher Education & the Arts  
Tuesday, February 17, 2015 at 1:00pm  
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### SB 468 – RELATING TO THE SELECTIVE SERVICE REGISTRATION AWARENESS AND COMPLIANCE ACT

Chairs Espero & Taniguchi, Vice Chairs Baker & Inouye, and Members of the  
Committees:

SB 468 codifies the US Military Selective Service Act (50 USC App 451) into Hawai'i Revised Statutes. By doing so, state law will subsequently require college applicants to comply with the provisions of the Military Selective Service Act in order to:

- (1) Be eligible for enrollment in a state-supported institution of higher education;
- (2) Qualify for state financial assistance for post-secondary education; and
- (3) Be eligible for state or county employment or service.

The intent of SB 468 is laudable; however, the University has concerns about its "implement ability."

All individuals who apply for federal financial aid through the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) are data matched through the Selective Service confirmation process and males are afforded the option to automatically register for Selective Service. This FAFSA information is downloaded to the University's student information system. Since not all high school graduates venture into higher education nor apply for federal financial aid, the yield to the US Military Selective Service may not be as optimal as anticipated. If the goal is to maximize compliance with the federal selective service law, then perhaps, the yields would be greater if requiring all age appropriate males to comply with the requirements *prior to graduating from high school*.

For college admissions purposes, the University does not currently require confirmation of compliance before admitting applicants. Doing so will require the University admissions offices to secure and retain a verification from the student applicant that he has registered with the Selective Service. This requirement will delay the individual's college selection decision-making and may deter an applicant from entering the University, encouraging him to seek admissions at non University of Hawai'i institutions where the requirement to confirm registration prior to admission may be non-existent.

In gauging the practices across the country, the University was only able to confirm that the University of Texas System has a requirement for proof of Selective Service

registration tied to receiving federal and state aid. There does not appear to be a similar requirement for admissions to one of the campuses of the University of Texas System.

Should SB 468 pass, there will be major impacts on the workload of frontline operations, involving the altering of computerized and manual workflows to the University admissions and financial aid application processes. This will involve overtime and/or the need for additional human resources to comply. SB 468 has the potential of negatively affecting student enrollments which will have a consequential impact on the quality of student life as well as the financial resources available on the University's campuses.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure. The University understands the intent of this bill, and is concerned about the impact of it on operations, workflow, and enrollment.