

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR



KEITH T. HAYASHI  
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO  
P.O. BOX 2360  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

**Date:** 03/11/2025

**Time:** 02:00 PM

**Location:** 309 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

**Committee:** House Education

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

**Bill Title:** SB 0422 RELATING TO EDUCATION.

**Purpose of Bill:** Authorizes the Department of Education to award a high school diploma to qualified persons who did not receive a high school diploma as a result of compulsory or voluntary induction into the armed services of the United States or whose high school education was interrupted due to wartime practices during World War II, the Korean War, or the Vietnam War.

**Department's Position:**

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports SB 422, which authorizes the Department to award high school diplomas to individuals who did not receive a diploma due to military service and individuals whose high school education was interrupted due to wartime practices during World War II, the Korean War, or the Vietnam War.

Act 101, Session Laws of Hawaii 2007, which previously authorized the Department to issue the Kuponu diploma to World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War veterans, as well as individuals whose schooling was interrupted due to military service or internment, sunset in 2020. The Department would appreciate authorization to resume awarding high school diplomas to the individuals outlined in this bill in recognition of their sacrifices during wartime.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 422

**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Housing  
Senator Stanley Chang, Chair  
Senator Troy N. Hashimoto, Vice Chair**

**Tuesday, March 11, at 1:10PM  
Conference Room 225 & Videoconference**

**RE: HB740 HD2 Relating to Housing**

Aloha e Chair Chang, Vice Chair Hashimoto, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Sherry Menor, President and CEO of the Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber"). The Chamber supports House Bill 740 House Draft 2 (HB740 HD2), which Establishes the Accessory Dwelling Unit Financing and Deed Restriction Program to allocate funds to the counties to provide grants to eligible homeowners or homebuyers to finance construction costs, development costs, and non-reoccurring closing costs associated with the construction of an accessory dwelling unit and purchase deed restrictions on such property.

HB740 HD2 aligns with our 2030 Blueprint for Hawaii: An Economic Action Plan, specifically under the policy pillar for Business Services. This bill promotes policies that drive economic growth, enhance workforce opportunities, and improve the quality of life for Hawaii's residents.

There is an urgent need to expand affordable housing while ensuring that local workers in Hawaii have secure homes. To address this, the measure establishes an accessory dwelling unit financing and deed restriction program under the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation. The program offers grants to eligible homeowners or homebuyers to finance the construction and associated development costs of accessory dwelling units, while also enabling counties to purchase deed restrictions that ensure these properties remain affordable and occupied by local residents.

The measure also amends existing statutes to enhance county powers in facilitating affordable housing through loan programs, revolving funds, and tax exemptions, while setting strict compliance and reporting obligations for properties with deed restrictions. By integrating financial assistance with regulatory oversight, it ensures that funds are used effectively to promote sustainable housing development and protect local occupancy standards. The Chamber supports this initiative because it will significantly boost affordable housing opportunities, preserve community integrity, and secure homes for Hawaii's hardworking residents.

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii is the state's leading business advocacy organization, dedicated to improving Hawaii's economy and securing Hawaii's future for growth and opportunity. Our mission is to foster a vibrant economic climate. As such, we support initiatives and policies that align with the 2030 Blueprint for Hawaii that create opportunities to strengthen overall competitiveness, improve the quantity and skills of available workforce, diversify the economy, and build greater local wealth.

We respectfully ask to pass House Bill 740 House Draft 2. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



**SUPPORT OF SB 422  
RELATING TO EDUCATION**

House Committee on Education  
The Honorable Justin Woodson, Chair  
The Honorable Trish La Chica, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 11, 2025 at 2:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 309 & Videoconference  
Hawaii State Capitol; 415 South Beretania Street

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Military Affairs Council ("MAC") wishes to offer our support of SB 422 which authorizes the Department of Education to establish a program to award high school diplomas to persons who did not receive a diploma as a result of compulsory or voluntary induction into the armed services and persons whose high school education was interrupted due to wartime practices during World War II, the Korean War, or the Vietnam War.

The MAC was established in 1985 when the Chamber was appointed by the State to serve as the liaison to the military. The MAC advocates on behalf of Hawaii's military, and is comprised of business leaders, academic institutions, State and County officials, members of the CODEL, community leaders, labor unions and organizations and retired U.S. flag and general officers. The MAC works to support Hawaii's location as a strategic U.S. headquarters in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region which is crucial for U.S. national and homeland security.

SB 422 would provide high school diplomas to those whose education was interrupted by military service during World War II, the Korean War, and Vietnam War. Veterans deserve recognition for educational sacrifices during wartime. By authorizing the Department of Education to award these diplomas, we honor those who put national service ahead of their personal educational goals. We applaud the legislature for advancing this measure to restore dignity, acknowledge sacrifice, and offer long-overdue educational justice to those who defended our country.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support.

**SB-422**

Submitted on: 3/8/2025 9:48:40 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
M. Leilani DeMello	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I SUPPORT this bill.

Mahalo,

M. Leilani DeMello

‘Ōla‘a, Puna, Hawai‘i

**SB-422**

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 12:25:34 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Leimomi Khan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support this bill. It is just one means of recognizing the sacrifices of the military by granting them long-overdue diplomas and reaffirms the state's commitment to honoring those who served.

**LATE**

**SB-422**

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 2:56:13 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ellen Awai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB422 granting a high school diploma to individuals who were unable to obtain the due to circumstances.