



Selective Service System

Hawaii Headquarters

Committee on Veterans, Military & International Affairs & Culture and the Arts (VMI)

Testimony of Andrew L. Pepper, State Director, Selective Service System

Thursday, February 2, 2017 (9:30 a.m.)

RE: House Bill 422-- RELATING TO SELECTIVE SERVICE

I am Andrew Pepper, State Director for the United States Selective Service System. My role is to ensure young men in Hawaii ages 18 through 25 register with the Selective Service System, as required by law. This helps ensure that they do not lose valuable Federal benefits linked to the registration requirement and helps ensure that any future military draft is fair and equitable to the residents of Hawaii. In the very unlikely event the draft is resumed, we want it to be the fairest and most equitable in our Nation's history. It is important to remember that every young person who fails to register unfairly increases a law-abiding person's chances of being drafted.

Many people asked me the basic question: "Why do we still have the Selective Service System?" It is a fair question with an easy answer: The Selective Service System is our Nation's ultimate insurance policy in that it provides a ready source of personnel for national service should world events dictate the need for such personnel. The ability of the Selective Service

System to rapidly deliver personnel for national service ensures that all potential adversaries understand both our national resolve and our national mobilization capabilities. In other words, registration with the Selective Service System helps keep us safe and at peace.

The Selective Service System supports the passage of HB422 because it will unquestionably increase registration compliance in Hawaii. Only 73%-88% (depending on the year) of 18-year-old men in Hawaii have registered with Selective Service. This means that up to 27% of the young people in this critical age group are at risk of losing, *for life*, a host of federal benefits linked to the registration requirement. These benefits include: Federal employment, Federal student financial assistance, participation in Federally-funded job training programs, and eligibility for U.S. citizenship.

HB422 is not designed or intended to deny anyone access to student financial aid, a university education, or employment by the State. To the contrary, it is a good-faith attempt to create more opportunities for young people to discover that they are not in compliance with the registration requirement of the Military Selective Service Act and, at that time, correct their non-compliance as part of their student financial aid or employment application process. Basically, HB422 is an attempt to create an additional safety net to help young people (who may be out of compliance with the Selective Service registration requirement) realize their status and be brought

into compliance, thereby preserving their federal rights and benefits. A failure to preserve such rights can be heartbreaking (such as the loss of the right of naturalization by a person who has a deep desire to become a proud American citizen).

Thirty-one States around the Nation have already passed this type of legislation. Passing HB422---to link eligibility for State supported student financial aid and governmental employment to Selective Service registration compliance--will further increase the registration compliance rate in Hawaii. It will also further remind young people in Hawaii of their civic and patriotic obligation to contribute to the defense of our country in a national emergency.

Registration with the Selective Service System is each citizen's contract with freedom.

The Selective Service System never seeks to impose burdens on our State government partners without reimbursing and supporting such efforts. For example, Hawaii already receives the highest per capita rate of any State in reimbursement for implementing registration tied to driver's licensing. See Haw. Rev. Stat. §286-102.5. The Selective Service System also notes that it has developed close and effective working relationships with the thirty-one other states that have adopted similar legislation and has implemented computer processing systems designed to minimize the effort required by our State agency partners.

In closing, passing HB422 will help ensure that the youth of Hawaii do not lose valuable Federal benefits linked to the registration requirement, ensure that any future draft is fair and equitable as possible, and will help remind young people of their patriotic obligation to contribute to the defense of our country in a national emergency.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Very Respectfully,



Andrew L. Pepper
State Director
U.S. Selective Service System



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Veterans, Military, & International Affairs, & Culture and the Arts
Thursday, February 2, 2017 at 9:30 a.m.

By
Risa E. Dickson, Vice President for Academic Affairs
University of Hawai'i System

HB 422 – RELATING TO SELECTIVE SERVICE

Chair Ito, Vice Chair Tokioka, and members of the committee:

HB 422 requires compliance with the Military Selective Service Act to qualify for state financial assistance, which would include loans, grants, scholarships and tuition waivers or other financial assistance for post-secondary education that is provided by the state.

The intent of HB 422 is laudable; however, the University has concerns about its operational impacts and programmatic concerns related to enrollment and financial resources.

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 high as anticipated. Perhaps, the yields would be greater if all age appropriate males would comply with the requirements *prior to graduating from high school*.

In gauging the practices across the country, only eight states currently require selective service registration prior to enrollment in a state-supported institution of higher education.

Should HB 422 pass, there will be major impacts on the workload of frontline operations, involving the altering of computerized and manual workflows to the University financial aid application processes. This will involve overtime and/or the need for additional human resources to comply. HB 422 has the potential of affecting student enrollments negatively which will have a consequential impact on the quality of student life as well as the financial resources available on the University's campuses. Finally, the bill's applicability to continuing students (i.e. those already enrolled) will require ample planning, foresight, and anticipation to minimize disruption in their continued enrollment and persistence.

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

BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS, MILITARY, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, &
CULTURE AND THE ARTS

Hawaii State Legislature, February 2, 2017

House Bill No. 422
Relating to Selective Service

Aloha Chair Ito, Vice Chair Tokioka and Members of the Committee:

The Ka Lahui Hawaii Political Action Committee (KPAC) opposes H.B. 422 Relating to Selective Service.

It already is a Federal requirement for all men ages 18 to 26 to sign up for the Military Selective Service. There is no need for the State to duplicate this, and if a person chooses to not register, it would be a Federal matter.

Signing up for the Military Selective Service should not be a requirement for enrollment at a University of Hawaii campus for anyone, especially for students of Native Hawaiian ancestry. The University of Hawaii at Manoa is on more than 300 acres of ceded Hawaiian lands and pays no rent to kanaka maoli.

It should not be a requirement to qualify for State financial assistance for post-secondary education at any school. KPAC views such a requirement as a penalty in an environment where attending college should be encouraged, not discouraged.

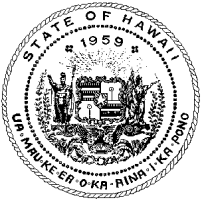
Registering with the Military Selective Service should not be a requirement for government employment either. The government is Hawaii's largest employer, and such a requirement will reduce the labor pool of public servants because many of our young men will likely decline registering.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebekah Luke
Member, KPAC

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Fukuzawa	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I neither support or oppose this bill as I do not really understand the purpose of this bill. The wording of this bill is not clear as to purpose. I believe it needs to be reviewed and edited to be more clear as to its purpose. Since our state has enough statues that no longer have purpose, this might be another one of those unnecessary statues.



HAWAI‘I CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 411 HONOLULU, HI 96813 · PHONE: 586-8636 FAX: 586-8655 TDD: 568-8692

February 2, 2017
Rm. 429, 9:30 a.m.

To: The Honorable Ken Ito, Chair
Members of the House Committee on Labor & Public Employment

From: Linda Hamilton Krieger, Chair
and Commissioners of the Hawai‘i Civil Rights Commission

Re: H.B. No. 422

The Hawai‘i Civil Rights Commission (HCRC) has enforcement jurisdiction over Hawai‘i’s laws prohibiting discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, and access to state and state funded services. The HCRC carries out the Hawai‘i constitutional mandate that no person shall be discriminated against in the exercise of their civil rights.

Article I, section 5 of the Hawai‘i Constitution provides:

No person shall be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law, nor be denied the equal protection of the laws, ***nor be denied the enjoyment of the person’s civil rights or be discriminated against in the exercise thereof because of race, religion, sex, or ancestry.***
(emphasis added).

The HCRC strongly opposes H.B. No. 422, because it codifies sex discrimination into state law.

H.B. No. 422, if enacted, will prohibit *males* who fail to register with the Selective Service System from: enrolling at, or receiving education from, any campus of the University of Hawai‘i System; receiving state educational financial assistance; and being eligible for county or state employment or service. On its face, because the federal Selective Service Act only applies to males, the proposed prohibition is limited to males. It imposes a discriminatory burden on men that does not apply to women. In addition, the new prohibition would likely bar young men who are conscientious objectors based on their religious beliefs from state higher education and county or state employment or service, including service in elected office.

The HCRC strongly opposes H.B. No. 422, and urges the Committee to hold the bill.