

January 29, 2013

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 159 RELATING TO TUITION WAIVERS.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS MILITARY AND INTERNATIONAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

HEARING ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30TH AT 8:30 AM, IN CONFERENCE ROOM 312

Aloha Chair Takai: The Oahu Veterans Council is honored to serve at the pleasure of our veterans and their families. On January 26thth, our delegates reviewed and voted unanimously to support House Bill 159.

We are extremely grateful for your noble efforts to Requires the University of Hawaii to waive all tuition and fees for qualified students who are the spouse or child of United States Armed Services and National Guard members who are totally disabled or were killed in action.

Providing this legislative protection in state is so important to our veterans and military personnel who sacrificed so selflessly and ask for no more recognition than we would expect for ourselves.

The Oahu Veterans Council respectfully urges your committee to consider passing House Bill 159 as written. Mahalo, for allowing us to testify, regarding this extremely important issue.

Dennis Egge

Dennis Egge; Chairman, Legislative Committee



1298 Kukila Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96818 Email: <u>sballard@oahuveternascenter.com;</u> Phone: 808-422-4000; Fax: 808-422-4001 <u>www.oahuveternascenter.com</u>

Testimony to the House Committee on Veterans, Military and International Affairs, and Culture and the Arts

Wednesday, January 30, 2013 8:30 AM Conference Room 312

RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 159, RELATING TO TUITION WAIVERS

Chair Takai, Vice Chair Ito, and members of the committee.

My name is Charles Ota and I am the Vice President for Military Affairs at The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii (The Chamber). I am here to state The Chamber's *support of the intent* of House Bill No. 159, Relating to Tuition Waivers.

The measure requires the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii to waive entirely the tuition fees and other fees for qualified students who are the spouse or child of a United States Armed Services or National Guard members who are totally disabled or were killed in action. The measure further provides that this waiver will not be extended to a surviving spouse who subsequently remarried.

The measure recognizes the extreme sacrifices made by members of the US Armed Services and the impacts on military family members. However, we believe that consideration be given to members of the Reserves and limiting this waiver to legal residents who pay Hawaii state income taxes.

In light of the above, we recommend the measure be amended accordingly.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Sunday, January 27, 2013 2:43 PM
То:	vmitestimony
Cc:	addie_h06@yahoo.com
Subject:	*Submitted testimony for HB159 on Jan 30, 2013 08:30AM*

<u>HB159</u>

Submitted on: 1/27/2013 Testimony for VMI on Jan 30, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Addie Cox	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing , improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

VMI 1-30-2013 8:30am (HB 159)

I am in favor of HB 159. My name is Ann Mora, I am the war widow of SSG Conrad Mora (Army), and when I was told my husband was killed in action in Afghanistan nearly three years ago my world was crushed and turned upside down. Surviving family members like myself are thrown into a whirlwind of turbulent emotions as we try to navigate our new lifestyles without our loved one. Many spouses have to start anew in order to ensure financial stability for their stranded family, hence the need for education in order to allow for good career paths. I myself am attending a school that grants a tuition waiver to surviving families in order to begin a career that will support my son and I in the future. Children left behind deserve educational benefits just as much. The soldiers are entitled to educational benefits that are commonly transferrable to spouses and children while they are alive and well, so in my humble opinion it is an injustice to the soldier as well as their family to deny them educational benefits such as the tuition waiver once they have been killed in action and no longer have a voice to oppose the decision, or have been totally disabled while serving this great country. It is our duty to ensure that surviving family members are taken care of, as well as those enduring the hardships of disability. Their loved ones have paid the ultimate sacrifice, the least we can do is look after those left behind in these times of war by guaranteeing the benefits they so rightly deserve.

Ann Mora Army Gold Star Wife As a wounded service member myself, if the government is not paying for dependents to get the education like it should, then the school system should be able to grant waivers to eligible applicants for their tuition. The post 9/11 GI Bill covers this now, however, why would we turn a cold shoulder to service members who have died or have become physically disabled prior to the release of the Post 9/11 GI Bill. Take care of these families!

My name is Christina Brodt and I am the proud wife of 12 years, to a Gunnery Sergeant in the United States Marine Corps. I am writing this testimony in favor of HB159. My support of this bill does not come lightly. Having friends who have passed while serving their country, I have seen what it can do to the family who they have left all too soon. I believe these families should receive all the support and finances they need to continue the family missions that were put into place before the loss of their Marine, Solider, Sailor or Airman. They come from every state in the country! They have left to fight in a foreign land to protect the rights of all Americans, with the thought of their families freedom and wellbeing, standing as the driving force for them to push forward in situations we could never even imagine. The legacy of these men and women was and is not to leave their families without the proper support of the states in the nation they are fighting to protect. They have done their duty and given their ALL. It is time that we should fully back up each one of these military service members and their immediate family members in the passing of HB159.

Thank you and God Bless

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Saturday, January 26, 2013 3:31 PM
To:	vmitestimony
Cc:	busmup808@yahoo.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for HB159 on Jan 30, 2013 08:30AM

<u>HB159</u>

Submitted on: 1/26/2013 Testimony for VMI on Jan 30, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dani C Agbayani	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I Dain Agbayani am in favor and Support HB 159 for VMI 1-30- 13. After a detriemntal lost of a loved one, I believe this bill would prove to be beneficial in assisting the surviving spouses and children of a fallen towards a higher education. Sincerely, Dani C Agbayani contact 808-347-8609

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing , improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Saturday, January 26, 2013 3:35 PM
То:	vmitestimony
Cc:	danigrle@yahoo.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for HB159 on Jan 30, 2013 08:30AM

<u>HB159</u>

Submitted on: 1/26/2013 Testimony for VMI on Jan 30, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dani Nachampassak and Brandi Williams	Individual	Support	No

Comments: In 2003 and 2004, our husbands Sgt. Eugene Williams and Sgt Krisna Nachampassak were killed in action fighting in the war against terrorism. Our lives have forever been changed since that knock on the door. It has been a long and rough journey for us, but through out the years we have been able to pick up the pieces and continue to live one day at a time, raising our children and honoring our husbands. We both decided that we needed to return to college and further our education to support our families. Along with this decision, came the responsibility of paying for our education. For some of us, we have to put our dreams aside because it is financially impossible to attend college. Although we do qualify for some benefits, they do not include tuition waiver s. After our husbands died we were under the impression that we would be able to attend college, using our benefits. We soon learned that these benefits do not cover tuition and fees. We are than tasked to make the decision whether to go back to school or possibly save those funds for our children's future education. For some of us, we have to put our dreams aside because it is financially impossible to attend college We believe that if this bill is passed, this will help us to continue to support our families and at the same time further our education. We support and are in favor of House Bill 159 Dani Nachampassak and Brandi Williams

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I fully support this bill. Not only when a spouse loses the service member they also have to take on new responsibilities such as working to provide for the family, managing finances and so forth. If the widowed spouse has no job skill or education they are now faced with the choice to better themselves with a College education and valuable job skills needed to provide for their family. The cost of living is very expensive in Hawaii and to add tuition cost on top of it is sure to add unneeded stress and more financial strain for the widowed spouse. I think the deceased service members GI benefits should be transferred to the widow and children so that they will have the opportunity to get their education. The service member has already paid for those benefits.

VMI 1-30-13 8:30am (HB159)

I am in favor of HB 159. This bill should be pushed through because for the simple fact its for the children and spouses of those who paid the ultimate sacrifice or served their country dutifully and became disabled while doing so.. The military in general does enough for the country to stay safe for their families and everyone else, if they are KIA, the survivors need anything they can to carry on with their lives independently. The least we can do is make sure the surviving families that are left behind are cared for and given the benefits they deserve.

Contact info:

Name: Kendall Barnett

Organization: United States Navy

VMI 01-30-2013 8:30am HB-159

I'm an Oklahoma resident that has close ties with the military, and I'm in favor of the bill. I have a brother-in-law who was killed in action in Afghanistan, SSG Conrad Mora, that left a wife and son behind to fend for themselves. I feel that individuals such as my sister and nephew should have the right to use educational benefits such as a tuition waiver in the state of Hawaii if they so wished because of their loved one's sacrifice. My state offers it, and her resident state of Washington allows it as well, so how many more resident spouses and surviving children are being denied the same benefit in the state of Hawaii despite their sacrifice that they have to live with every day? Please show your support by passing this bill, it's the least we can do for our men and women in uniform and their families.

Lisa Obrien Concerned Citizen

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Saturday, January 26, 2013 7:39 PM
То:	vmitestimony
Cc:	m.hendrickson24@gmail.com
Subject:	*Submitted testimony for HB159 on Jan 30, 2013 08:30AM*

<u>HB159</u>

Submitted on: 1/26/2013 Testimony for VMI on Jan 30, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marisse Hendrickson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Saturday, January 26, 2013 7:59 PM
To:	vmitestimony
Cc:	msuliven@yahoo.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for HB159 on Jan 30, 2013 08:30AM

<u>HB159</u>

Submitted on: 1/26/2013 Testimony for VMI on Jan 30, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Martin Suliven	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am in favor of and I fully support HB 159. As a Navy veteran during the Vietnam era,I want to see spouses and dependents of fallen military servicemen and women receive assistance in continuing their education that will strenghten their lives and aid them in their career path for a better future.

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From: Sent:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov Sunday, January 27, 2013 7:19 PM
To:	vmitestimonv
Cc:	Misty3404@yahoo.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for HB159 on Jan 30, 2013 08:30AM

<u>HB159</u>

Submitted on: 1/27/2013 Testimony for VMI on Jan 30, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Misty Bauer	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As an Ohio resident survivor whose husband was KIA I support this bill. I have been able to further my education and support myself through a similar program in my state. Alot of families of our service men and women deserve this, especially those in need.

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VMI 1-30-13 8:30am w/HB159

I, being an Army Veteran, am in favor of HB 159, and believe that the University of Hawaii should waive all tuition and fees for qualified students who are the spouse or child of United States Armed Services and National Guard members who are totally disabled or were killed in action. I served in Operation Iraqi Freedom III, from November 2004 – February 2006, myself and many others returned home to our friends and loved ones. We are able to use our benefits toward education to include our spouses and children. Some were not so lucky. For those soldiers who returned disabled may not be able to use these benefits; more so are the soldiers who were killed in action. I believe that the surviving family members should be able to use these benefits. After all, these soldiers paid the ultimate sacrifice. I strongly support this bill in hopes that it passes.

-Princess Stewart (Army Reserve National guard)

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Saturday, January 26, 2013 3:27 PM
To:	vmitestimony
Cc:	rocket_roman@yahoo.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for HB159 on Jan 30, 2013 08:30AM

<u>HB159</u>

Submitted on: 1/26/2013 Testimony for VMI on Jan 30, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Roman Bustamante	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I Support HB 159, VMI 1-30-2013. I had lost my father Krisna Nachampassak on July 07, 2004 he was KIA. My family and I struggle to establish our lives daily and we strive to rebuild our family foundation. My family and I forever live on in my father's memory. My mother has always instilled the fundamentals of education. The possiblity of HB 159 getting approved, it would provide me an oppurtiunity to continue with my education without causing a financial burden on my my family. Any further assistance I can provide, you may reach me at 808-426-8004. I approve HB 159!! Sincerely, Roman II Bustamante

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To: House Committee on Veterans, Military and International Affairs and Culture and the Arms (VMI)

Subj: HB 159 Relating to Tuition Waivers at University of Hawaii

- 1. On 30 JAN, 2013 at 0830 there will be a public hearing for HB159. I will not be able to attend and I wish to express my full support for HB 159. The addendum is essential to include all military deaths in the line of duty regardless of killed in action (KIA).
- My husband and I were dual military Reservists both serving our country. Tragically, he died unexpectedly while on active duty at work. His cause of death was labeled as inconclusive. He was a perfectly healthy 37 year old male until the time of his sudden death.
- 3. My husband had worked full time as a civilian and supported our family. I am now an unemployed military spouse and veteran that lives each day doing the best I can as a single parent.
- 4. Unfortunately, my husband had not transferred his Post 911 GI bill to our children and we lost this entitlement. The Fry scholarship is a big help, but there are still many college expenses that I know I will incur.
- 5. I strongly wish the University of Hawaii would waive all tuition and fees for qualified students who are the spouse or child of United States Armed Services and National Guard members who are totally disabled or died in the line of duty. I know other States have a similar benefit and this would provide a huge relief to the dependents that are left trying to cope with their loss.

Very Respectfully, LCDR Valerie Lacroix, USN 95-1069 Loea St Mililani, HI 96789 Valerie.Lacroix@gmail.com

From: Sent:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov Tuesday, January 29, 2013 7:55 AM
То:	vmitestimony
Cc:	pacheco1947@rocketmail.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for HB159 on Jan 30, 2013 08:30AM

<u>HB159</u>

Submitted on: 1/29/2013 Testimony for VMI on Jan 30, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara Pacheco	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I Barbara Pacheco believe that the spouse and children of fallen soldiers should have the opportunity to continue thier education. Thank you. Barbara Pacheco

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From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Tuesday, January 29, 2013 8:00 AM
To:	vmitestimony
Cc:	brestlecc1@icloud.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for HB159 on Jan 30, 2013 08:30AM

<u>HB159</u>

Submitted on: 1/29/2013 Testimony for VMI on Jan 30, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Charles Brestle	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please accept this email in support of HB 159, VMI hearing 1-30-13. vr Charles Brestle

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From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Tuesday, January 29, 2013 7:51 AM
То:	vmitestimony
Cc:	chelseabriggs7@yahoo.co.jp
Subject:	Submitted testimony for HB159 on Jan 30, 2013 08:30AM

<u>HB159</u>

Submitted on: 1/29/2013 Testimony for VMI on Jan 30, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chelsea Briggs	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Testimony to Support HB 159, VMI hearing 1-30-13 My name is Chelsea Momoka Briggs, and I go to Kapolei high School. My dad served in the Army, Army National Guard and Air Force for 18 yrs. He served for this country and the military sent him everywhere, even to war. He devoted himself to this country for his life and even took away free time and family time to support this country. My family and I also served the military as well as my dad. But then Daddy suddenly died by a tragic accident, this changed our lives forever. Now I live with my younger sister, brother and mom, and life after Daddy passed has been so difficult. One reason is because we are not part of the military that we used to belong to, so we have to learn how to survive from now on. Since then, my mom has been taking care of my little sister, brother, and me by herself. It is very important for our future and lives and I am asking you to support House Bill 159, tuition waivers for spouses and dependents for ALL surviving families like us. If not, I am so worried about our future and we will have to move somewhere in the mainland and find a new life. I don't want to move out from Hawaii because I love it, and this is the place my dad dreamed of living at. My sister, brother, and I want to go to the University of Hawaii and graduate there. After graduating from UH, We want to get a good job and stay in Hawaii. I want to take care of my mom and visit my dad's grave every week. My mom also needs to go back to school get more education. After that she will have to find a job in which she can provide an income to support our family in Hawaii's economy. We also scheduled to have my dad's burial in March and he will rest at Kaneohe Veterans cemetery. Daddy's wish is for us to go to college. Just as any soldier who has passed from any circumstance would want their child/spouse to. He has always been serious about our education and has saved for our college tuition ever since we were little. If we went to college he would be so happy and proud of us up in heaven. This is why my family and I support House Bill 159 and we ask that you do the same. Sincerely, Chelsea Briggs Daughter of SSgt Raymond A. Briggs

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From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Monday, January 28, 2013 6:53 PM
То:	vmitestimony
Cc:	christinesuliven@yahoo.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for HB159 on Jan 30, 2013 08:30AM

<u>HB159</u>

Submitted on: 1/28/2013 Testimony for VMI on Jan 30, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christine Suliven	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I Support HB 159, VMI hearing 1-30-13. I believe it is only fair and very important for surviving family members that are native to or plan to live in the state of Hawaii. It will ensure 100% educational benefits that the coming generation of surviving children & spouses. Mahalo, Christine Suliven

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From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Tuesday, January 29, 2013 7:53 AM
To:	vmitestimony
Cc:	charisshinjo@gmail.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for HB159 on Jan 30, 2013 08:30AM

<u>HB159</u>

Submitted on: 1/29/2013 Testimony for VMI on Jan 30, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Glynis Shinjo	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I Glynis Shinjo support HB 159 for the spouse and children of the fallen solders, to further thier education. Thank you. Glynis Shinjo

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From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Monday, January 28, 2013 6:54 PM
То:	vmitestimony
Cc:	jaydenkawai@msn.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for HB159 on Jan 30, 2013 08:30AM

<u>HB159</u>

Submitted on: 1/28/2013 Testimony for VMI on Jan 30, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jayden Gaoing- Agbayani	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support HB 159, VMI hearing 1-30-13. I believe that this is a great bill that will ensure 100% educational benefits for surviving children and spouses. Those who have lost family members that serve our country is very devastating and allowing them to further their lives in getting an education would be the mostly likely thing to do. Again, support HB 159, VMI hearing 1-30-13. - Jayden Gaoing- Agbayani

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing , improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

From: Sent:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov Tuesday, January 29, 2013 7:57 AM
То:	vmitestimony
Cc:	lincolnsnk@yahoo.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for HB159 on Jan 30, 2013 08:30AM

<u>HB159</u>

Submitted on: 1/29/2013 Testimony for VMI on Jan 30, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Katherine Lincoln	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am in favor of HB 159.

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From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Monday, January 28, 2013 6:57 PM
То:	vmitestimony
Cc:	girraween@msn.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for HB159 on Jan 30, 2013 08:30AM

<u>HB159</u>

Submitted on: 1/28/2013 Testimony for VMI on Jan 30, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lisa Recklies	Individual	Support	No

Comments: To Whom It may Concern Re: Support HB 159, VMI hearing 1-30- 13 Military families face hardships and stress unique to the lifestyle. Children are separated from parents and grow into adulthood learning about death and injury at a very early age, often through firsthand experience. The military enlisted members serve their country with very little in return. Families live from pay check to pay check and move with a frequency that makes establishing any sense of truly belonging to a community difficult. All of this is compounded when a child and spouse experiences the sudden loss of a loved one in a training or combat death. For many there is an added financial stress as they become not only a single parent household but also the soul provider. I fully support the above bill. I am married to a marine and have three daughters. I worry about how I am going to provide them with the means of continuing their education. I can only imagine how difficult this would be for my friends who have lost their military spouse. Please support our military in considering and passing this. Respectfully Lisa Recklies

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From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Tuesday, January 29, 2013 8:26 AM
To:	vmitestimony
Cc:	Mistyann@live.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for HB159 on Jan 30, 2013 08:30AM

<u>HB159</u>

Submitted on: 1/29/2013 Testimony for VMI on Jan 30, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Misty Brestle	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please except this in support of Support HB 159, VMI hearing 1-30-13. V/r, Misty Brestle

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing , improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

UNCLASSIFIED

1/24/13

To whom it may concern:

I strongly encourage the H.B. NO. 159 to be considered by the House of Representatives in order that this bill may become available to all people who qualify for its benefits.

As a program designed to aid in the financial function of the payment of higher level education either of a spouse or dependent of an eligible veteran or National Guard member who is disabled as a result of serving his or her country I find this proposal more than acceptable. Through the work of those acting out of both duty and concern this bill serves as a model of respect for those who serve their country and those who look to a future where they will prosper in thanks to education.

The H.B. NO. 159 bill is one that was constructed with the purpose of aiding those connected to a service man or women, with the purpose of providing a financial waiver for education or dependents. With the intent of this bill, and with the results it would achieve I support H. B. NO. 159.

Sincerely,

Sarah Balough

From: Sent:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov Tuesday, January 29, 2013 8:24 AM
To:	vmitestimonv
Cc:	visa_nason@hotmail.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for HB159 on Jan 30, 2013 08:30AM

<u>HB159</u>

Submitted on: 1/29/2013 Testimony for VMI on Jan 30, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Visa Nason	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Please except this in support of Support HB 159, VMI hearing 1-30-13. V/R, Visa Nason

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From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Tuesday, January 29, 2013 7:49 AM
То:	vmitestimony
Cc:	robledo13@msn.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for HB159 on Jan 30, 2013 08:30AM

<u>HB159</u>

Submitted on: 1/29/2013 Testimony for VMI on Jan 30, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christine bRobledo	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Hello, I am a military wife and would like you to know that I am in support of this bill. Soldiers go to war and many of them are injured or killed in action. As a result of this their families are left with not only grieving a loss of their loved one but also the financial hardships of supporting their families, educational support being one of them. It is the least we could do for these families who sacrifice so much. Being a military wife myself with three children I fee that education is very important for my children's future and should not be taken away. Thank you for your time. Sincerely, Christine Robledo

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We are the surviving spouse of a fallen and we all are in favor of representing House Bill 159

Addendum to HOUSE BILL 2428 A BILL FOR AN ACT.

I support Hawaii House Bill in favor of Hawaii State Tuition Waiver for Children and Wives of a

Fallen Hero

Inacielling mel amper Howard Ein Spc ox 01 al sorto m 0 1 rice. 01

From: Sent:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov Tuesday, January 29, 2013 8:07 AM
То:	vmitestimony
Cc:	Rep. K. Mark Takai
Subject:	Submitted testimony for HB159 on Jan 30, 2013 08:30AM

<u>HB159</u>

Submitted on: 1/29/2013 Testimony for VMI on Jan 30, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
K. Mark Takai	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please accept this email as my testimony to Support HB 159, VMI hearing 1-30-13. It is unfortunate enough to lose a loved one and nothing will fill the void. I feel that passing the bill will help those who otherwise would have had the financial support of their loved ones had they still been here. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 2535718062. Thank you for your time. Deena Giesen

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing , improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

To Whom It May Concern,

January 26, 2013

M. Derrickson Davina Support HB 159 VMI 1-30-13.

HB 159 would provide significant value for surviving children and spouses of a fallen. I believe this bill would provide the opportunity for these survivor's to ensure educational benefits that they may utilize when the time emerges.

Sincerely,

MARIA -

To Whom It May Concern,

January 26, 2013

Lemely ______ Support HB 159 VMI 1-30-13. 100-

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Sincerely,

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January 26, 2013

1 Lich Hogenson Support HB 159 VMI 1-30-13.

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Jeah Hogenson Sincerely,

To Whom It May Concern,

January 26, 2013

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January 26, 2013

I

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Sonje Yngt Sincerely,

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January 26, 2013

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January 26, 2013

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Sincerely

To Whom It May Concern,

January 26, 2013

imber achel0 I

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January 26, 2013

Kerns Canocell Support HB 159 VMI 1-30-13. 1

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Sincerely,
To Whom It May Concern,

January 26, 2013

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Judyl. Wolfs Sincerely,

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January 26, 2013

1 TIM Suyler Support HB 159 VMI 1-30-13.

1- Selle

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Sincerely,

To Whom It May Concern,

January 26, 2013

Support HB 159 VMI 1-30-13. 1 Caprice

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Sincerely,

Caprice JBrown

To Whom It May Concern,

January 26, 2013

Support HB 159 VMI 1-30-13. I Eark Brown

HB 159 would provide significant value for surviving children and spouses of a fallen. I believe this bill would provide the opportunity for these survivor's to ensure educational benefits that they may utilize when the time emerges.

Sincerely,

mil Poro

vmitestimony

From: Sent:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov Tuesday, January 29, 2013 11:20 AM
To:	vmitestimony
Cc:	robertxbow70@yahoo.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for HB159 on Jan 30, 2013 08:30AM

<u>HB159</u>

Submitted on: 1/29/2013 Testimony for VMI on Jan 30, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert G. Dela Cruz	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Lets support the Children and spouse of our military veterans who were disabled or killed in action in the war by waivering the tuition at the University of Hawaii

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UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Veterans, Military, & International Affairs, & Cultural and the Arts January 30, 2013 at 8:30 am by Lui K. Hokoana Associate Vice President for Student Affairs University of Hawai'i System

Chair Takai; Vice Chair Ito, and Members of the Committee:

I am testifying on behalf of the University of Hawai'i and its 10 campuses.

HB 159 requires the University of Hawai'i to waive all tuition and fees for qualified students who are the spouse or child of United States Armed Services and National Guard members who are totally disabled or were killed in action.

The University appreciates the outstanding service that military veterans have provided and the sacrifices that their spouses and dependents have made for our state and country. The University supports the intent of this bill. However, we believe that the Department of Veterans Affairs that provides educational benefits for spouses and dependents of veterans who die or is permanently, and totally disabled is already meeting this need. For example the Post-9/11 GI Bill: Marine gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship provides for tuition and fees, monthly housing allowance, and book and supply stipend to dependents of US military who die in the line of duty. The federal government provides the Iraq / Afghanistan scholarship that provides scholarships to spouses and dependents who die or are disabled in the line of duty. Lastly, the Veterans Affairs offers the Dependents Educational Assistance program (DEA). The program provides education and training opportunities to eligible dependents and survivors of veterans.

Thank you for your support of the University and the opportunity to comment on this bill.

STATE OF HAWAII LATE TESTIMONY

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 158, RELATING TO TUITION WAIVERS

PRESENTATION TO THE

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

ΒY

MAJOR GENERAL DARRYLL D.M. WONG ADJUTANT GENERAL, STATE OF HAWAII

January 30, 2013

Good morning Chair Takai, Vice Chair Ito and Committee members:

I'm Major General Darryll D.M. Wong, Adjutant General, State of Hawaii. I appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony in SUPPORT of House Bill 159.

This measure requires the Board of Regents to waiver tuition and fees for qualified students who are spouse and children of United States Armed Services and National Guard members who are totally disabled or were killed in action.

The waiver of all fees and tuition for those family members honors the sacrifice made by those service members who were either killed in action or totally disabled and further pays tribute to the sacrifices made by family members and helps alleviate the financial hardships while providing a way to further educational goals.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of Hawaii's National Guard members in support of HB 159.

STATE OF HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 159, RELATING TO TUITION WAIVERS

PRESENTATION TO THE

<u>COMMITTEE ON VETERANS, MILITARY, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS,</u> <u>& CULTURE AND THE ARTS</u>

ΒY

MR. RONALD P. HAN DIRECTOR OF STATE OFFICE OF VETERANS SERVICES

January 30, 2013

Good morning Chair Takai, Vice Chair Ito and Committee members:

I am Ron Han, Director of the State Office of Veterans Services (OVS). I appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony in support of the intent of House Bill 159.

This measure would have the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii grant tuition waiver to a child or spouse of a guardsman or reserve member who was totally disabled or killed while serving in the active federal military service. This tuition waiver would support the spouse who automatically becomes the bread winner of the family with a higher education and paying job. To include child to be able to support the family with a higher paying job when continuing its education.

We defer to the agency with direct responsibility for implementation of the special funds regulations.

The OVS supports the concepts and intent expressed in this measure as long as its implementation does not impact or replace the priorities set forth in the Executive Supplemental Budget for Fiscal Years 2013-2015.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of Hawaii's Veterans and their families in support of HB 159.

Testimony to Support HB 159, VMI 1-30-2013

My name is Brandy Williams and I am the surviving spouse of Sgt. Eugene Williams who was Killed in Action on March 29, 2003. My husband and three other soldiers were manning a roadside checkpoint in Najaf, Iraq when a taxi driver pulled up, waived for help then detonated a bomb killing my husband, Cpl. Michael Curtin, PFC Diego Rincon and PFC Michael Creighton.

My life was forever changed after that knock on the door. I was 24 years old, my oldest daughter Mya was 3 and I was 6 months pregnant. I knew that when I married my husband I was marrying a soldier and the Army would become part of my life. I supported him throughout his military career and we planned to make this his career until retirement. But this did not happen and now I am left to raise and support my two daughters on my own. My husband truly believed that if anything happened to him, that we would be taken care of by the Army. While we do qualify for benefits, we have found that sometimes it just isn't enough or doesn't cover what we need it to cover. For example, using my Chapter 35 Benefit and going to school full time, I still needed to pay school tuition. The stipend that is paid according to credit hours was still not enough for me to cover my tuition at University of Hawaii, West Oahu and books and fees. I felt guilty at times, thinking that this money that I was using could possibly be saved for my daughter's college fund. As my daughters get older and college seems not to far away, I am in fear of what this means for their future.

I am asking that you support House Bill 159 so that I may return to school and further my education so that I may continue to support my family now that my husband is not here to help me do so. I am asking you to support this Bill for my children so that if they choose to attend University of Hawaii schools, they may receive a tuition waiver and use other benefits towards room and board, books and fees and other necessities. I am asking that you support this Bill for all other Surviving Families whose loved ones gave the ultimate sacrifice fighting for their country. This Bill if passed would help give me a little peace of mind about what the future holds for my family. We miss my husband every day. Not a day goes by, that we don't think about him and all that he is missing. He will never get to see his daughters grow up, graduate college or walk them down the aisle at their weddings. Although we know he is in a better place, the hurt in our hearts will not go away. We have come far in this journey through the love and support of our family and friends and now I ask you to support us through House Bill 159.

Sincerely,

Brandy Williams

Wife of Sgt. Eugene Williams

KIA March 29, 2003 Najaf, Iraq

vmitestimony

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov	8 A 1
Sent:	Wednesday, January 30, 2013 6:55 AM	LAT
To:	vmitestimony	LA
Cc:	nakiagoldsberry@gmail.com	
Subject:	Submitted testimony for HB159 on Jan 30, 2013	8 08:30AM

LATE TESTIMONY

<u>HB159</u>

Submitted on: 1/30/2013 Testimony for VMI on Jan 30, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nakia Goldsberry	Individual	Support	No

Comments: To whom it may concern, My name is Nakia Goldsberry and I am a paraeducator for the Bethel School district in Tacoma, WA. We are located near Joint Base Lewis-McChord and have the privilege of serving many military families. I see the many sacrifices they make not only for our country, but for our local community as well. From volunteering in our classrooms, chaperoning field trips, serving on PTA's, they give unselfishly of their time and resources no matter how limited they may be because they know the value of hard work and a good education. Therefore, I am writing to show my Support of House Bill 159, and urging you to do the same. I believe this bill is imperative for encouraging military families who have suffered loss to continue to find hope to carry on, and make the most of themselves by receiving the best education possible! The VMI hearing is on 1-30-13, and I trust you will vote in support of House Bill 159. Sincerely, Nakia Goldsberry -- Nakia Goldsberry 8730 237th St. Ct. E Graham, WA 98338 253.271.7982

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

vmitestimony

From: Sent: To:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov Wednesday, January 30, 2013 6:57 AM vmitestimony	LATE TESTIMONY
Cc: Subject:	carley_np@hotmail.com Submitted testimony for HB159 on Jan 30, 20	13 08:30AM

HB159

Submitted on: 1/30/2013 Testimony for VMI on Jan 30, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carley Clark	Individual	Support	No

Comments: In support of HB 158!! Please contact me for any other information! VMI 01-30-13 HB 159. Carley Clark

Please note that testimony submitted <u>less than 24 hours prior to the hearing</u>, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

vmitestimony

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Tuesday, January 29, 2013 3:51 PM
То:	vmitestimony
Cc:	danigrle@yahoo.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for HB159 on Jan 30, 2013 08:30AM
Attachments:	IMG.jpg

HB159

Submitted on: 1/29/2013 Testimony for VMI on Jan 30, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Natalie Bartels	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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vmitestimony

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Tuesday, January 29, 2013 3:47 PM
To:	vmitestimony
Cc:	kcase2954@gmail.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for HB159 on Jan 30, 2013 08:30AM

<u>HB159</u>

Submitted on: 1/29/2013 Testimony for VMI on Jan 30, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kelsi Case	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am writing to you to show my support on HB 159. I believe that families of our fallen soldiers should be able to have help with furthering their education. Losing a loved one is already so difficult. In most cases, they are also losing the only provider for their family. I believe that it is the right thing to do. Thank you for your time, Kelsi Case

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vmitestimony

From: Sent:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov Tuesday, January 29, 2013 3:43 PM
To:	vmitestimony
Cc:	LTD416@aol.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for HB159 on Jan 30, 2013 08:30AM

<u>HB159</u>

Submitted on: 1/29/2013 Testimony for VMI on Jan 30, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lynne Dela Cruz	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am in favor of the passage of House Bill 159, which would entitle the spouse and dependent children of those members of the US Armed Forces and National Guard, killed in action to include those veterans considered 100% disabled, the waiver of tuition and fees at the University of Hawaii. I myself, was the daughter of a 100% disabled veteran of World War II. We all can sympathize, but no one can truly understand or feel the sadness and hardship these families go through daily from their loss. Let us honor our heroes who have gave their lives and those who suffer daily reminders of war, our appreciation, by helping educate their surviving family members with the passage of this bill. Thank you, Lynne Dela Cruz

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vmitestimony

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov		
Sent:	Tuesday, January 29, 2013 3:44 PM		
To:	vmitestimony		
Cc:	rgd70@aol.com		
Subject:	Submitted testimony for HB159 on Jan 30, 2013 08:30AM		

<u>HB159</u>

Submitted on: 1/29/2013 Testimony for VMI on Jan 30, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
G. Dela Cruz	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support HB 159 Lets support spouse or children of our disabled or veterans killed in action by wavering their tuition at the University of Hawaii. Advanced Sheet metal Inc. Robert G. Dela Cruz

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