

Written Only

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



KATHRYN S. MATAYOSHI  
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
P.O. BOX 2360  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

**Date:** 02/26/2015  
**Time:** 01:00 PM  
**Location:** 211  
**Committee:** Senate Ways and Means

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** SB 0181, SD1 RELATING TO VETERANS.

**Purpose of Bill:** Allows the department of education to continue, until June 30, 2020, awarding high school diplomas to qualified veterans who did not receive a high school diploma as a result of compulsory induction into active service in the armed services of the United States or any person whose high school education was interrupted due to wartime practices such as internment during World War II. (SD1)

**Department's Position:**

The Hawaii Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of S.B. 0181, S.D.1. This bill will allow the Department to continue the **Kupono Diploma Program**, which awards an honorary public high school diploma to:

1) military veterans of World War II, and the Korean and Vietnam Wars, who were unable to complete their public high school education due to compulsory service in the United States Armed Forces, and 2) individuals whose schooling was interrupted due to wartime practices (such as camp internment).

Since 2008, the Department has awarded 24 honorary high school diplomas. Twenty-three to military veterans (one posthumously), and most recently, our first honoree that had been transferred from Hawaii in 1942 with her family to internment camps located in Arkansas and California.

Since the program's inception, there have been minimum administrative costs, such as printing and mileage. The **Kupono Diploma** is managed by the Department's Military Liaison program that is funded through federal funding. Therefore, additional general

**funds are not requested from the Legislature at this time.**