

# **SB 181**

## **RELATING TO VETERANS**

Allows the department of education to continue awarding veterans 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 until June 30, 2020.

**PSM/EDU, WAM**

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 181, RELATING TO VETERANS  
PRESENTATION TO THE

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL  
AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

BY

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

February 17, 2015

Chair Espero, Vice-Chair Baker, and members of the Committee:

I'm Ron Han, Director of the State Office of Veterans Services (OVS). I appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 181 as long as its implementation does not impact or replace the priorities set forth in the Executive Budget.

This bill allows the Department of Education to continue awarding veteran's 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 until June 30, 2020.

For example, this measure would help individuals who received draft notices during the Vietnam Conflict and had to curtail their formal schooling to support our Nation's interest and efforts abroad. With recognition and commemoration events forthcoming with the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Vietnam War, there may be citizens who were unaware of this special bill that was enacted several years ago to award them a veteran's high school diploma on behalf of a grateful Nation and State.

Thank you for your support of Veterans and their families and for this opportunity to offer my comments.

Written Only

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



KATHRYN S. MATAYOSHI  
SUPERINTENDENT

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

**Date:** 02/18/2015  
**Time:** 01:20 PM  
**Location:** 229  
**Committee:** Senate Education  
Senate Public Safety, Intergovernmental and  
Military Affairs

**Department:** Education

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

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

**Purpose of Bill:** Allows the department of education to continue awarding veterans 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 until June 30, 2020.

**Department's Position:**

The Hawaii Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of SB 181. 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 high school diplomas--23 to military veterans (one posthumously), and most recently, to our first honoree that had been transferred from Hawaii in 1942 with her family to internment camps located in Arkansas and California.

SB 181 does not include the original language regarding recognition of individuals that

were interned. Therefore the Department respectfully requests that the following language be added to this measure: ***To include individuals that have had their schooling interrupted due to wartime practices, such as the internment of Japanese and Japanese-Americans during World War II.***



HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION  
*Teaching Today for Hawaii's Tomorrow*

1200 Ala Kapuna Street ♦ Honolulu, Hawaii 96819  
Tel: (808) 833-2711 ♦ Fax: (808) 839-7106 ♦ Web: [www.hsta.org](http://www.hsta.org)

Wii Okabe  
President

Joan Kamila Lewis  
Vice President

Colleen Pasco  
Secretary-Treasurer

Wilbert Holck  
Executive Director

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON EDUCATION  
AND PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL  
AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

DATE: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2015

RE: S.B. 181 – RELATING TO VETERANS

PERSON TESTIFYING: JOAN LEWIS, VICE PRESIDENT  
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

The Honorable Chairs Michelle Kidani, Wil Espero and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to **support S.B. 181**, relating to veterans.

The Hawaii State Teachers Association (HSTA) supports the awarding of high school diplomas by the Hawai'i Department of Education to qualified veterans who did not receive a high school diploma as a result of compulsory induction into active service in the armed services.

Honorably discharged veterans who were unable to complete their high school education because of service in the armed forces should be granted an honorary diploma. Their service to our country certainly warrants such action.

HSTA **supports S.B. 181**. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2015 11:12 PM  
**To:** PSMTestimony  
**Cc:** mjgolo@email.phoenix.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB181 on Feb 18, 2015 13:20PM

**SB181**

Submitted on: 2/12/2015

Testimony for PSM/EDU on Feb 18, 2015 13:20PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mike Golojuch	Veterans Advisory Board	Support	No

Comments: The Advisory Board supports SB181.

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)