



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Veterans, Military, International Affairs & Culture & the Arts
Monday, February 02, 2015 at 9am, Conference Room 312
By Jan Javinar, EdD
Interim Associate Vice President for Student Affairs

HB 1004 – RELATING TO VETERANS

Chair Cachola, Vice Chair Ito, and Members of the Committee:

HB 1004 proposes to require the University of Hawai'i to waive the nonresident tuition & fee differential for veterans of the five major branches of the US Armed Forces (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard) so that those veteran students pay resident tuition at the University of Hawai'i campuses.

The University of Hawai'i appreciates the outstanding service that military veterans have provided to our country, and welcomes the different life experiences military veterans bring to the college classroom; thus, adding to the diversity of our campuses. We support the overall intent of this bill and are pleased to report that University of Hawai'i Board of Regents at its meeting dated October 16, 2014, adopted an amendment to its policies and extended the waiver of nonresident tuition and fee differential for veterans of the United States armed forces who enroll at a campus of the University within three years of their discharge under honorable conditions beginning this Spring 2015 semester. This action has effected HB 1004's outcome and may obviate the need for the statutory changes as proposed by the bill.

President Obama last Fall 2014 signed into law, HR 3230 stipulating that veterans be charged in-state tuition rates effective July 2015. HR 3230 became Public Law 113-146 commonly known as the Veterans Access, Choice & Accountability Act of 2014. As the U.S. Veterans Administration continues to interpret the law and develop implementing federal regulations to clarify provisions of Public Law 113-146, the University will propose additional amendments to the Board of Regents as necessary this Spring 2015 to further comply with federal requirements.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill. The University supports the intent of this bill's goal to encourage our veterans to improve themselves and the communities in which they reside through post-secondary education. However, with the Board of Regents action and implementation this Spring 2015 semester of changes to its tuition policies affecting student veterans, the goal and outcome of HB 1004 are being realized.

Date: January 30, 2015

To: Representative Romy M. Cachola, Chair
Representative Ken Ito, Vice Chair
Committee on Veterans, Military, International Affairs & Culture and the Arts

From: Mike Golojuch, Sr.

Subject: Support for HB1004

As a retired Air Force officer and current Chair, Advisory Board to the Office of Veterans' Services, which represents over 170,000 Hawaii veterans, I strongly support the passage of HB1004 that allows United States military veterans to pay resident tuition at the University of Hawaii campuses.

The benefit to the veterans and their contribution that will result to the State of Hawaii far out cedes the cost of the program. It is just a small way to pay back our veterans who were willing to give their life for the rest of us.

I would also like to add that the Democratic Party of Hawaii passed Resolution 2012-03, that, in part states, appropriate legislation be passed to render needed support to our veterans. Passage of this bill would show such support.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my view.

Michael Golojuch, Sr., Lt Col, USAF (Ret)

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 02, 2015 1:42 AM
To: vmitestimony
Cc: jasmineramos808@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1004 on Feb 2, 2015 09:00AM



HB1004

Submitted on: 2/2/2015

Testimony for VMI on Feb 2, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jasmine Ramos	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support HB 1004 to allow our United States Veterans to pay in-state tuition at the University of Hawaii and the UH campuses. This will encourage and support military to remain in Hawaii and help display Hawaii's support for the U.S. Military. It will also allow U.S. veterans to attend UH paying the same tuition as Hawaii residents. This will benefit Hawaii as we work toward an educated community, while supporting our military. Therefore, I am in strong support for this measure.

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