



OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

1500 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-1500

MANPOWER AND
RESERVE AFFAIRS

February 6, 2023

The Honorable Mark J. Hashem, Chair
House Committee on Corrections, Military & Veterans
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Letter of Support – HB 262 (RELATING TO EDUCATION)

Dear Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Chun and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of military families and the Department of Defense, I am writing in support of the policy changes expressed in HB 262, a measure to ease enrollment challenges for military families with school-age children.

Approximately 185,000 U.S. military children move between schools annually. Military service members are routinely reassigned to new duty stations, due to mission and training requirements. Service members typically receive official military orders detailing their upcoming assignment 30 days to 6 months prior to their move. Allowing military families to enroll their children in school, register for classes and apply for specialized programs at the same time as their peers, prior to physically arriving to their location, will help to facilitate their uninterrupted educational progress and smooth integration into their new communities, and relieve unneeded stress during their transition between locations.

With nearly 14,000 active duty military school-age children attending school in this state, Hawaii is in a unique position to have a highly impactful positive effect on the educational experiences of military children and families. The intent of this policy is not to offer an advantage or priority over other students, but simply to provide military families access to educational programs and courses at the same time as their in-state peers. There is added benefit to Hawaii complex area schools by reducing the discrepancy between projected and actual student enrollment numbers for staffing purposes.

In closing, we are grateful for the tremendous support that Hawaii has previously made and is currently making to support our military members and their families. As they move from state to state, providing for a smooth educational transition for their children is key to eliminating one of the largest concerns the parents face. We appreciate the opportunity to support the policy reflected in HB 262 and would especially like to thank Representative Woodson for spearheading this effort. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kelli May Douglas".

Kelli May Douglas
Pacific and Southwest Regional Liaison
Defense-State Liaison Office
DoD, Military Community & Family Policy
571-265-0075



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 02/08/2023
Time: 09:00 AM
Location: 430 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE
Committee: House Corrections, Military,
& Veterans

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 0262 RELATING TO EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: Provides a process for school placement for a child whose parent has transferred or is pending transfer from another state to a military installation in Hawaii while on active military duty pursuant to an official military order.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) respectfully offers comments on HB 262.

The Department is committed to working collaboratively with the military community to support military students and families.

Students are currently required to attend the school of the service area in which the student resides. Exceptions are made if: the student is enrolled in a Hawaiian language medium education program or charter school; has been granted a geographic exception; is mandated to attend an out-of-service-area attendance by the Department or by federal law; or is enrolled in a career and technical education program under Section 302A-1143(a)(5), Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS).

Amending Section 302A-1143, HRS, to extend the exception to attend an out-of-service-area school for students of military families entering the public school system in Hawaii may place undue burdens on schools. Increased, unplanned enrollment at out-of-service-area schools may lead to overcrowding, increased class

size, and strain on school resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.



**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 262
RELATING TO EDUCATION**

**The Honorable Mark J. Hashem, Chair
The Honorable Cory M. Chun, Vice Chair
House Committee on Corrections, Military & Veterans**

**Wednesday, February 8, 2023 at 9:00 A.M.
Conference Room 325**

Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Chun, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Military Affairs Council ("MAC") **strongly supports** House Bill 262 which provides a process for school placement for a child whose parent has transferred or is pending transfer from another state to a military installation in Hawaii while on active military duty pursuant to an official military order.

The Hawaii Military Affairs Council (MAC) was established in 1985 when the Chamber was appointed by the State to serve as the liaison to the military. The MAC advocates on behalf of Hawaii's military, and is comprised of business leaders, academic institutions, State and County officials, members of the CODEL, community leaders, labor unions and organizations and retired U.S. flag and general officers. The MAC works to support Hawaii's location as a strategic U.S. headquarters in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region which is crucial for U.S. national and homeland security.

The MAC applauds the efforts of the legislature in recognizing the challenges faced by military families and their children when moving to a military permanent change of station orders destination. Military families transferring on official military permanent change of station orders are not eligible to register in courses, enroll in specialized academic programs or sports, or submit their children's names for charter school entry until they are physically located in Hawaii.

The initiative, called Advance Enrollment, is now the policy in 34 states, and with the large active military presence in Hawaii, this initiative is long overdue. When military students know which school they will be attending and their class schedules in advance, they and their families have a sense of comfort, relieving unneeded stress during their transition between locations.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our strong support.

HB-262

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 6:51:51 PM

Testimony for CMV on 2/8/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristen Prentiss	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a military spouse, the mother of a military child, and a school psychologist. When we moved here in the summer of 2022, we were expected to register our son to the school zoned to our temporary lodging. We knew that we would not live in that school zone. We were being asked to send him to one school for 30-60 days and then move him. Asking us to force him to attend 2 schools in one year placed extra stress on an already stressful situation. Military children will attend 6-8 schools on average over their k-12 career. Adding another school based solely on the transfer rules of a school district is unfair to military students.

I support the changes to this bill that allow families to register for school with waitlisted status, pending, or current residency on or off base. This will allow families the security of knowing where their children will go to school while not forcing them to send their children to more than 1 school in a school year. Limiting the number of schools a child attends reduces stress, fosters a sense of belonging, protects a child's mental health, and decreases family tensions during a military move.