

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR



KEITH T. HAYASHI  
SUPERINTENDENT

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

**Date:** 02/16/2023  
**Time:** 02:00 PM  
**Location:** 309 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE  
**Committee:** House Education

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** HB 0262, HD1 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. Effective 6/30/3000. (HD1)

**Department's Position:**

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

The Department currently accepts Permanent Change of Station orders as valid documentation for enrollment. Continued placement in educational programs such as gifted and talented or advanced placement courses are honored based on availability.

Students are 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 increased class size, overcrowding and strain on school resources.

Some schools serve newly arrived students residing in temporary lodging facilities as a result of military service in addition to residents within the school's geographic area. Should this measure pass, our concern stems from when those families move out of temporary lodging facilities to permanent housing that may be out of the school's geographic area but decide to have their student continue in the first school. That school must then accommodate these students in addition to newly arriving students living in those temporary lodging facilities straining the capacity of that school to properly service all of its students.

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



## OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

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

MANPOWER AND  
RESERVE AFFAIRS

February 15, 2023

The Honorable Justin H. Woodson  
Chair, House Committee on Education  
415 South Beretania St.  
Honolulu, HI 96813

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

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Marten and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of military families and the U.S. 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 thirty days to six 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.

Thirty-eight states have already enacted this policy, however, with nearly 14,000 active duty military school-age children attending school in this state, approving this measure would ensure that families transferring to Hawaii on military orders are provided with equitable educational opportunities for their children. 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 continues to make to support our military members and their families. Thank you for the opportunity to support the policy reflected in HB 262 and to the Chair 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



**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 262, HOUSE DRAFT 1  
RELATING TO EDUCATION**

**The Honorable Justin H. Woodson, Chair  
The Honorable Lisa Marten, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Education**

**Thursday, February 16, 2023 at 2:00 P.M.  
Conference Room 309**

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Marten, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Military Affairs Council ("MAC") **strongly supports** HB 262, HD1 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.