



## OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

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

MANPOWER AND  
RESERVE AFFAIRS

March 19, 2023

The Honorable Senator Glenn Wakai  
Chair, Hawaii Senate Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

The Honorable Senator Michelle N. Kidani  
Chair, Hawaii Senate Committee on Education

**RE: Letter of Support – HB 262 HD 1 (RELATING TO EDUCATION)**

Dear Chairs Wakai and Kidani, and Members of the Committees:

On behalf of military families and the Department of Defense, I am writing in support of the policy changes expressed in HB 262 HD 1, 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. We appreciate the opportunity to support the policy reflected in HB 262 and would especially like to thank Representative Woodson for spearheading this effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kelli May Douglas". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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:** 03/22/2023

**Time:** 03:15 PM

**Location:** CR 225 & Videoconference

**Committee:** Senate Public Safety and  
Intergovernmental and Military Affairs  
Senate 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 Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) respectfully offers comments on HB 262, HD1.

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.

**HB-262-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/21/2023 1:09:23 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/22/2023 3:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Bob Davis	Testifying for HIDOE- Central District	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This testimony is on behalf of Complex Area Superintendent (CAS) Bob Davis from the Leilehua, Mililani and Waialua area; and, from CAS John Erickson from the Aiea, Moanalua and Radford area. We are in opposition to HB 262 because it has the potential for creating a disparity with enrollment at our military impacted schools. The Central District comprises of over 50 % of all military impacted students in the DOE and we are very familiar with the nuances of families moving in and out of our state. Both CAS Erickson and I are extremely sensitive to our military connected families and continue to work to provide them all the necessary support with transitions and acclimation to our school systems. However, if HB262 passes we are likely to have major student increases in a few schools and major student decreases in other schools. Student enrollment is directly correlated to our weighted student formula and school budgets will then be severely impacted by this. The Hawaii DOE participates with the Military Interstate Children's Compact and this is the national governing body that works directly with the military and school districts to ensure we are doing what is best for our military impacted students. What exactly is the Compact? In the FAQ's it states:

The Compact deals with the challenges of military children and their frequent relocations. It allows for uniform treatment as military children transfer between school districts in ember states.

This is the appropriate organization to address these kinds of issues.



**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 262, HD1  
RELATING TO EDUCATION**

**The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Chair  
The Honorable Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs**

**The Honorable Michelle N. Kidani, Chair  
The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Education**

**Wednesday, March 22, 2023 at 3:15 PM  
Conference Room 225 & Videoconference**

Chairs Wakai and Kidani, Vice Chairs Elefante and Kim, and Members of the Committees:

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.



More importantly, the Advance Enrollment initiative is now the policy in 38 states, and with the large active military presence in Hawaii, this policy 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 for this measure on behalf of military families and children.

**HB-262-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2023 12:39:01 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/22/2023 3:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Malia Tsuchiya	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments: