



**SUPPORT OF SB 422 HD1  
RELATING TO EDUCATION**

House Committee on Public Safety  
The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair  
The Honorable Kim Coco Iwamoto, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 19, 2025 at 10:30 a.m.  
Conference Room 411 & Videoconference  
Hawaii State Capitol; 415 South Beretania Street

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Military Affairs Council ("MAC") wishes to offer our support of SB 422 HD1 which authorizes the Department of Education to establish a program to award high school diplomas to persons who did not receive a diploma as a result of compulsory or voluntary induction into the armed services and persons whose high school education was interrupted due to wartime practices during World War II, the Korean War, or the Vietnam War.

The 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.

SB 422 HD1 would provide high school diplomas to those whose education was interrupted by military service during World War II, the Korean War, and Vietnam War. Veterans deserve recognition for educational sacrifices during wartime. By authorizing the Department of Education to award these diplomas, we honor those who put national service ahead of their personal educational goals. We applaud the legislature for advancing this measure to restore dignity, acknowledge sacrifice, and offer long-overdue educational justice to those who defended our country.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support.



**Testimony to the House Committee on Public Safety  
Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair  
Representative Kim Coco Iwamoto, Vice Chair**

**Wednesday, 19, 2025, at 10:30AM  
Conference Room 411 & Videoconference**

**RE: SB422 HD1 Relating to Education**

Aloha e Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Sherry Menor, President and CEO of the Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber"). The Chamber supports Senate Bill 422 House Draft 1 (SB422 HD1), which authorizes the Department of Education to award a high school diploma to qualified persons who did not receive a high school diploma as a result of compulsory or voluntary induction into the armed services of the United States or whose high school education was interrupted due to wartime practices during World War II, the Korean War, or the Vietnam War.

SB422 HD1 aligns with our 2030 Blueprint for Hawaii: An Economic Action Plan, specifically under the policy pillar for Military & Defense. This bill promotes policies that drive economic growth, enhance workforce opportunities, and improve the quality of life for Hawaii's residents.

There is a need to reinstate a program enabling veterans and other individuals, whose education was disrupted by wartime service or practices, to receive their high school diplomas. The legislature recognizes that a previous provision, which expired in June 2020, had allowed the Department of Education to award high school diplomas to those who missed out on graduating due to their compulsory military service or wartime internment during World War II. This bill seeks to revive and expand that program, enabling the Department to award diplomas to qualified individuals whose high school education was interrupted not only during World War II but also during the Korean and Vietnam Wars, regardless of whether their induction was compulsory or voluntary.

Under the proposed measure, eligible individuals must have been residents of Hawaii whose schooling was disrupted by active service or wartime events during specific historical periods aligned with World War II, the Korean War, or the Vietnam War. The Chamber supports SB422 HD1 because it appropriately acknowledges the educational sacrifices made by veterans and individuals affected by wartime disruptions, demonstrating Hawaii's commitment to honoring their service and resilience.

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii is the state's leading business advocacy organization, dedicated to improving Hawaii's economy and securing Hawaii's future for growth and opportunity. Our mission is to foster a vibrant economic climate. As such, we support initiatives and policies that align with the 2030 Blueprint for Hawaii that create opportunities to strengthen overall competitiveness, improve the quantity and skills of available workforce, diversify the economy, and build greater local wealth.

We respectfully ask to pass Senate Bill 422 House Draft 1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.