



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

Date: 03/03/2026

Time: 10:17 AM

Location: CR 211 & Videoconference

Committee: WAM

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB2614, RELATING TO EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: 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.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports SB 2614, which authorizes the Department to award high school diplomas to individuals who did not receive a diploma due to military service and individuals whose high school education was interrupted due to wartime practices during World War II, the Korean War, or the Vietnam War.

Act 101, Session Laws of Hawaii 2007, which previously authorized the Department to issue the Kupono diploma to World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War veterans, as well as individuals whose schooling was interrupted due to military service or internment, sunset in 2020. The Department would appreciate authorization to resume awarding high school diplomas to the individuals outlined in this bill in recognition of their sacrifices during wartime.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 2614.



**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2614
RELATING TO EDUCATION**

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 3, 2026 at 10:17 AM
Conference Room 211 or via Videoconference

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Military Affairs Council ("MAC") supports SB 2614.

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.

This measure honors veterans and affected community members by formally recognizing the sacrifices they made in service to the nation at the expense of completing their secondary education.

The gesture is modest in fiscal and administrative terms, but it carries real symbolic weight for veterans and their families: it validates their sacrifice, restores a measure of dignity and completeness to their life stories, and publicly affirms that the State values both their service and their interrupted educational aspirations.

For these reasons, the Hawaii Military Affairs Council respectfully urges passage of SB 2614. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.