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RESERVE AFFAIRS

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF WAR
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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-1500

March 24, 2026

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

Hawai'i State House of Representatives
415 S Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: SUPPORT – Senate Bill 3118 (Relating to The Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children.)

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

On behalf of military families stationed in Hawai'i, I am writing to express our **support** for Senate Bill (SB) 3118, which updates references to the United States Code in state statute implementing the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children (Compact).

The Compact, which was developed in 2006 through a cooperative agreement between the U.S. Department of Defense and the Council of State Governments and with support from a broad coalition of federal, state, and local officials, has been a resounding success and is one of only four interstate agreements adopted by all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Hawai'i has been a valued member of this compact since 2009 and understands its importance firsthand. Currently, Hawai'i is home to nearly 18,000 school-age children of active-duty service members and nearly 6,000 school-age children of members of the National Guard and Reserve; the Compact is vital to ensuring their educational stability and success.

In 2022, a minor scrivener's error was identified in the model language of the Compact. Specifically, in Articles II(A) and III(A)(1), the statute incorrectly refers to "10 U.S.C. Section 1209 and 1211." The correct citation should be to "10 U.S.C. Chapter 1209 and 1211." This error pertains to the provisions defining the Compact's coverage for children of National Guard and Reserve members on active-duty orders.

While technical in nature, this bill impacts a crucial section of the Compact that defines its scope by ensuring that all eligible children receive the benefits to which they are entitled. Several states have already passed similar legislation to make this important correction.

We are grateful to the Committee for providing the opportunity for us to share our support of this measure and respectfully request your favorable consideration. Thank you for your continued support of Hawai'i's military community.

Sincerely,

Kelli May Douglas
Defense-State Liaison Office
Pacific Southwest Region
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571-265-0075



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

Date: 03/25/2026

Time: 10:00 AM

Location: 411 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Committee: PBS

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB3118, SD1, RELATING TO THE INTERSTATE COMPACT ON EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY FOR MILITARY CHILDREN.

Purpose of Bill: Updates references to the United States Code in the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children. (SD1)

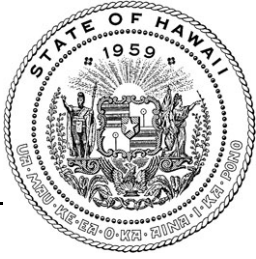
Department's Position:

The Hawai'i State Department of Education (Department) supports SB 3118 SD1 which is part of the Department's administrative package, and respectfully requests that the measure be amended to take effect upon approval.

The Interstate Compact is a historic agreement designed to remove barriers to educational success for military-connected students. Its effectiveness relies on uniformity across all jurisdictions. It is important to note that this Compact has been formally adopted by all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA).

Because Hawai'i is part of this total national commitment, it is critical that our state statute remains aligned with the national model. SB 3118 SD1 ensures that Hawai'i's language is technically accurate and consistent with the standards followed by every other state and the DoDEA.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 3118 SD1.



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**
KA 'OIHANA HO'OMOHALA PĀ'OIHANA, 'IMI WAIWAI
A HO'OMĀKA'IKA'I

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Statement of
LAURIE MCALLISTER MOORE
Executive Director
Military and Community Relations Office
Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

Wednesday, March 25, 2026
10:00 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 411

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB3118 SD1 HD1

RELATING TO THE INTERSTATE COMPACT ON EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY FOR MILITARY CHILDREN.

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

The Military and Community Relations Office of the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) **supports** this measure which updates Hawai'i law to be fully inclusive of related military components.

Since Hawai'i participates in the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children, SB3118 SD1 HD1 would amend Articles II and III of Section 311D-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes to align state law with references to the United States Code in the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children.

This measure is significant in that it not only references active duty servicemembers but also considers reserves and guard personnel. This comprehensive language secures Hawai'i's full compliance with the Interstate Compact and establishes a clear, consistent reference for local military families navigating enrollment, placement, and graduation of their children when moving between states.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.