



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs
And
Senate Committee on Higher Education
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SB 2364 – RELATING TO SELECTIVE SERVICE

Chairs Nishihara and Kim, Vice Chairs DeCoite and Kidani, and members of the committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 2364 which requires compliance with the Military Selective Service Act to be eligible for: enrollment in a state-supported post-secondary institution, qualify for post-secondary state financial aid, or be eligible for employment by or service to the State or any of its political subdivisions.

The University of Hawai'i (UH) appreciates the goals of this measure but has significant concerns regarding unintended consequences of SB 2364, including the potential for decreasing access to public higher education in Hawai'i for men between the ages of 18 and 26, and federal law already requires much of what this bill seeks to accomplish.

Federal law currently requires any student applying for federal financial aid via the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to register for the Selective Service, and this federal aid information is downloaded to the University's student information system. However, implementing the eligibility screening for enrollment or state financial aid requires an additional step to identify applicants who have not applied for FAFSA before admitting a male applicant, which requires additional administrative resources and is complicated because the Selective Service database uses social security numbers as identifiers. The UH does not collect social security numbers at the admissions stage or for non-FAFSA filers. After reviewing the data, applying selective service registration as an additional filter to allow or prohibit UH enrollment or as state aid eligibility may not produce more selective service registration.

UH enrollment contingent on Selective Service registration may dampen young men's college attendance at UH campuses. This is a national concern as the college-going rate of 2020 public high school students enrolling in college is 58% female and 42% male. In Hawai'i, males currently have lower college-going rates than females; 38% of males vs. 62% of females enroll in college directly out of public high schools. SB 2364 would subject young men between 18 and 26 years of age to additional screening

before being eligible to enroll at the State's public university. The data for males in this group is already less at 23%. In addition, our data indicates that males in under-represented populations would be reduced even further to 19.3%. This is not applied to other populations, for example, women, non-US citizens, those who attend private or out-of-state institutions, and others.

UH is unique in its responsibility as the sole provider of public higher education in a state that is located at a great geographical distance from other institutions and other options for students in Hawai'i.

For these reasons, the University of Hawai'i has serious concerns with this bill and respectfully requests that SB 2364 be deferred.