

SB 1164



COMMANDER, U.S. PACIFIC COMMAND  
(USPACOM)  
CAMP H.M. SMITH, HAWAII 96861-4028

9 February 2009

Admiral Timothy J. Keating, USN  
Commander  
U.S. Pacific Command  
Box 64028  
Camp H. M. Smith, HI 96861-4208

The Honorable Norman Sakamoto  
Chairman, Senate Committee on Education and Housing  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813


Re: **IN SUPPORT of SB 1164:** Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for  
Military Children  
Hearing : Wednesday, February 11, 2009, 1:30 PM

Dear Mr. Chairman,

United States Pacific Command supports the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children. With approximately 25,000 school-age military dependents, Hawaii ranks 11<sup>th</sup> in the Nation for the number of military students educated within the state. The passage of this bill allows Hawaii to join other states to create a program that removes barriers to educational success due to frequent military moves.

United States Pacific Command supports Senate Bill 1164. We look forward to membership on the Hawaii State Council for the Interstate Compact and to working closely with Hawaii on this all-important initiative. Thank you for your support for our children of military families who, in their own way, also serve our Country.

Sincerely,

  
TIMOTHY J. KEATING  
Admiral, U.S. Navy



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
PACIFIC AIR FORCES

FEB 10 2009

General Carrol H. Chandler  
PACAF/CC  
25 E Street, Suite G-214  
Hickam AFB HI 96853-5420

Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chair  
Senator Will Espero, Chair  
Members of Senate Committees on Education and  
Housing and Public Safety and Military Affairs  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu HI 96813

Re: **IN SUPPORT OF SB1164**

Hearing: Wed, Feb 11, 2009 at 1:30 pm

Dear Chair Sakamoto, Chair Espero and Committee Members

Partnership and collaboration are longstanding keystones for military and local community support to Hawaii public school students. In this spirit, I provide my support to Senate Bill SB1164 "Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children."

SB1164 is groundbreaking legislation written specifically for the unique requirements of a transient student population. Issues such as enrollment, testing standards and graduation requirements are addressed through the interstate compact. These types of standards allow a military student to progress without fear of having to reaccomplish work to meet a new requirement after a move. Additionally, this compact provides an avenue for states to not only establish this list of standards but to collaborate on future issues as they arise.

I look forward to increased cooperation with those who set policy for and educate our children in Hawaii. The changes implemented from SB1164 will directly impact the social, emotional and academic experience of transitioning students who attend Hawaii public schools.

I personally appreciate the hard work and dedication of all those involved with SB1164. Thank you for your submission and continued support of our military families.

Very respectfully

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carol H. Chandler".

CARROL H. CHANDLER  
General, USAF  
Commander



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
COMMANDER  
UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET  
250 MAKALAPA DRIVE  
PEARL HARBOR, HAWAII 96860-3131

IN REPLY REFER TO:

5740  
Ser N00/0072  
09 Feb 09

Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chair  
Senator Will Espero, Chair  
Members of Senate Committees on Education and Housing  
and Public Safety and Military Affairs  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: **IN SUPPORT OF SB1164:**

Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for  
Military Children

Hearing: Wednesday, February 11, 2009, 1:30 PM

Dear Chair Sakamoto, Chair Espero and Committee Members,

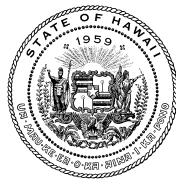
I would like to thank you and your Committee members for your continuous support of our Navy Sailors and their families. Our military families face unique challenges associated with a demanding mobile lifestyle, including quality and consistency in the education of their children. The State of Hawaii has a long history of partnering with the military to support mutual needs.

It is my understanding that Senate Bill SB1164, Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children, will be presented for vote during the current Legislative session. This bill has my full support as it provides a strong framework to counter the effects of frequent moves and deployment experienced by military children. The key component of this bill is its flexibility to "do what is best" for military children transitioning to Hawaii. Your favorable consideration of this important bill is strongly urged. Thank you for including the educational needs of our military children in Hawaii in your advocacy efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert F. Willard".

ROBERT F. WILLARD  
Admiral, U.S. Navy



**EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS**  
HONOLULU

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR

Testimony of  
**Linda L. Smith**  
Senior Policy Advisor to the Governor

Before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEES ON EDUCATION AND HOUSING AND PUBLIC SAFETY  
AND MILITARY AFFAIRS**  
Wednesday, February 11, 2009, 1:30 p.m.  
Room 225, State Capitol

**S.B. 1164 RELATING TO INTERSTATE COMPACT ON EDUCATIONAL  
OPPORTUNITY FOR MILITARY CHILDREN**

Chairs Sakamoto and Espero and Members of the Committee:

The Administration **supports with amendments S.B. 1164**, a bill similar to the Administration's S.B. 897 enacting the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children. We believe this Compact is essential to improving educational opportunities and the quality of life for military families.

The Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children provides standards addressing issues such as enrollment, placement, and graduation of children whose parents are active duty service members or recent veterans of the military. Rather than suffering frustrations and delays, this Compact would allow military children to quickly integrate into and transition out of Hawaii's classrooms. Adopting this Compact to aid the transition of military children would greatly improve their quality of life and access to education.

Currently, the Department of Education already has some transition and integration measures in place for military children in Hawaii. Through the Department's initiatives with the Joint Venture Education Forum (JVEF), military children have received some of the help they need. Yet, more can be done to provide consistency and uniformity for these children arriving or leaving our state. Adopting the Compact is a natural step forward, since it ensures that military children have the help they need not only when they are in Hawaii, but also before they arrive in our state and after they leave our state.

The Administration notes that in addition to adopting the Compact, various provisions have been added to this bill. Some of these additions include requiring JVEF to pay for the Compact's membership fees, furnishing records only if all student financial and school obligations are met, and allowing principals to determine whether space is available to accommodate a child's placement. To the extent that these additional provisions will clarify various administrative issues, the Administration supports such changes.

However, the Administration is concerned with provisions that deviate from the National Model Code and allow the Board of Education to appoint the State Compact Commissioner and establish the State Council without section 26-34 appointment procedures. Since the Compact affects more than just the internal operations of the Hawaii Department of Education, accountability is crucial for the proper implementation of this Compact. To bring this bill into conformity with the National Compact Model statute, the following amendments should be made to:

- Restore the Governor's ability to appoint the State Compact Commissioner, as originally intended in the Interstate Compact;
- Add PACOM representatives to the State Council;
- Subject the State Council to appointment procedures as provided in section 26-34 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes; and
- Subject the State Council to public notice, public hearing, rulemaking, and open meeting requirements.

These amendments are necessary to ensure that stakeholders other than the Department of Education and the Board of Education are involved in the implementation of the Compact. These changes are needed so that the State Council remains accountable to all stakeholders. The amendment language is attached.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

## REQUESTED AMENDMENTS

### ARTICLE VIII STATE COORDINATION

A. Each member state shall, through the creation of a State Council or use of an existing body or board, provide for the coordination among its agencies of government, local education agencies and military installations concerning the state's participation in, and compliance with, this compact and Interstate Commission activities. While each member state may determine the membership of its own State Council, its membership must include at least: the state superintendent of education, superintendent of a school district with a high concentration of military children, representative from a military installation, one representative each from the legislative and executive branches of government, and other offices and stakeholder groups the State Council deems appropriate. A member state that does not have a school district deemed to contain a high concentration of military children may appoint a superintendent from another school district to represent local education agencies on the State Council.

B. The State Council of each member state shall appoint or designate a military family education liaison to assist military families and the state in facilitating the implementation of this compact.

C. The compact commissioner responsible for the administration and management of the state's participation in the compact shall be ~~[recommended by the superintendent of education with the approval of the board of education]~~ appointed by the Governor in accordance with section 26-43.

D. The compact commissioner and the military family education liaison designated herein shall be ex-officio members of the State Council, unless either is already a full voting member of the State Council.

**§ -2 State council.** There is established within the board of education for administrative purposes the state council on educational opportunity for military children~~[-]~~ consisting of members who shall be appointed by the governor in accordance with section 26-34 as follows: ~~[The board of education shall establish the state council, as required by Article VIII of the compact. The membership of the state council shall include, at a minimum, the]~~ The superintendent of education or the superintendent's designee; the complex area superintendents of the administrative districts that contain the Leilehua, Radford/Moanalua, and Kalaheo school complexes; the military

liaison from the department of education; one military representative each from Schofield Barracks, Naval Base Pearl Harbor, Hickam Air Force Base, and Marine Corps Base Hawaii; a representative from the Coast Guard; a representative from the United States pacific command; a representative of the executive branch of government; the chairperson of the senate education committee or the chairperson's designee; the chairperson of the house education committee or the chairperson's designee; and other offices and stakeholder groups the state council deems necessary. Members of the state council may delegate voting authority to another person for a specified meeting or meetings. The state council shall appoint or designate a military family education liaison to assist military families and the state in facilitating the implementation of this compact. The compact commissioner and the military family education liaison designated herein shall be ex-officio members of the state council, unless either is already a full voting member of the state council.

~~[The council shall establish policies and procedures governing its operations without regard to the public notice, public hearing, and the gubernatorial approval requirements of chapter 91, but subject to the open meeting requirements of chapter 92.]~~

**§ -3 Appointment of compact commissioner.** As required by Article VIII of the compact, the ~~[state superintendent of education shall recommend, with approval of the board of education,~~ governor shall appoint the compact commissioner, who shall be responsible for the administration and management of the State's participation in the compact."





## UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

COMMANDER, U.S. MARINE CORPS FORCES, PACIFIC  
CAMP H. M. SMITH, HI 96861-5001

IN REPLY REFER TO:

1000

G-1  
09 FEB 2009

Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chair, Committee on Education and Housing  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator Sakamoto:

SUBJECT: **IN SUPPORT OF SB 1164**: INTERSTATE COMPACT ON EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY FOR MILITARY CHILDREN, HEARING: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2009, 1:30 PM

The State of Hawaii has a long, well-established record of support for the military service members and their families who are assigned in Hawaii and I thank you for the personal support you have provided to so many of these programs. An opportunity is approaching that offers a major step forward in assisting the children of these families when they are required to change schools as they move to new locations.

The "Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children" is a Bill that provides great assistance to our military families as they are required to move their children from school to school as a normal part of their military careers. Over 90,000 Marines and Sailors are assigned to my Command stationed in the Pacific Region in three states, Japan, and the Republic of Korea. Many of them are regularly deployed to our on-going conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as other security related operations throughout the world. The stability of our families is crucial to the well-being of these service members, and the quality of education for their children is often one of their major factors they consider when reenlisting. I am obliged to advise you of the importance our service members place on this piece of legislation and request your support in its passage this year.

Thank you for your continued support of the many issues that affect our military families in Hawaii.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Stalder", written over a horizontal line.

KEITH J. STALDER  
Lieutenant General, U.S. Marine Corps  
Commanding General, Marine Forces Pacific



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY, PACIFIC  
FORT SHAFTER, HAWAII 96858-5100

Office of the Commanding General

Senator Norman Sakamoto  
15TH Senatorial District  
Chair, Education and Housing Committee  
State Capitol, Room 230  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-2403

Re: **In SUPPORT of SB# 1164** "Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children"

Hearing: Wednesday, February 11, 2009, 1:30 PM

Dear Chair Sakamoto, Chair Espero, and Committee Members:

The United States Army, Pacific (USARPAC) would like to inform you of our **support** for the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children Senate Bill SB#1164). When considering the number of school-age military children impacting each state, Hawaii ranks 9TH in the nation with approximately 23,000 school-age military children attending public, private, and homeschooling venues. As these children move from state to state, many of them encounter considerable challenges when dealing with enrollment, eligibility, placement, extra-curricular activities, and graduation requirements. Often, military children lose course credits due to multiple school transfers and are often improperly placed in courses due to the varying school requirements.

USARPAC appreciates all that Hawaii public schools have done on behalf of our military children regarding transition and deployment issues. The Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children will only serve to compliment and augment what is already being done in the Hawaii public schools. Additionally, this bill will join Hawaii with other states in an effort to streamline the school transition process and create much needed uniformity between states.

For these reasons, USARPAC supports this compact and encourages the Hawaii Senate to pass Senate Bill #SB1164. If you need additional information, please contact my Well Being/Education Specialist, Ruth Davis, at 438-4177 or E-mail [nancy.ruth.davis@us.army.mil](mailto:nancy.ruth.davis@us.army.mil).

Sincerely,

Benjamin R. Mixon  
Lieutenant General, US Army  
Commanding General



COMMANDER, U.S. PACIFIC COMMAND  
(USPACOM)  
CAMP H.M. SMITH, HAWAII 96861-4028

9 February 2009

Members of Senate Committees on Education and Housing  
and Public Safety and Military Affairs  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: **IN SUPPORT of SB 1164:**  
Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children  
Hearing: Wednesday, February 11, 2009, 1:30 PM

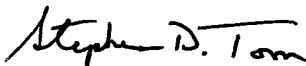
Dear Chair Sakamoto, Chair Espero and Committee Members:

As Chief of Staff of the United States Pacific Command, I strongly support **Senate Bill 1164**. The education of our children is a top quality of life issue for military families and remains paramount to retaining quality military members in the Pacific theater.

Each year, approximately one-third of our children transfer from Hawaii and are replaced by incoming military-affiliated students. Because of the mobility imposed on families due to assignments and deployments, our children face significant educational challenges including enrollment, eligibility, placement, and graduation. Membership in the Compact demonstrates Hawaii's dedication to work with other states to insure that children of military families are not penalized educationally by frequent moves and deployments.

I urge the passage of **Senate Bill 1164** and request that you ensure that the United States Pacific Command be included among the military members on the Hawaii State Council for the Interstate Compact. We are grateful for your continued support of military families stationed in Hawaii.

Sincerely,

  
Stephen D. Tom  
Major General, U.S. Army  
Chief of Staff

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 1164  
A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO INTERSTATE COMPACT ON  
EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY FOR MILITARY CHILDREN

PRESENTATION TO THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND HOUSING  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

BY

MAJOR GENERAL ROBERT G. F. LEE  
ADJUTANT GENERAL  
February 11, 2009

Chair Sakamoto, Chair Espero, and Committee Members:

I am Major General Robert G. F. Lee, State Adjutant General. I am testifying on Senate Bill 1164. This bill enacts the interstate compact on educational opportunity for military children.

We support Senate Bill 1164. Passage of this bill will remove educational barriers to educational success imposed on children of military families due to service directed moves and deployment of their parents.

The adoption of the compact will address key issues regarding kindergarten through high school eligibility, enrollment, placement and graduation of children whose parents are active duty service members or recent veterans of the military. The bottom line is that it will tremendously improve the transition for military dependent children transferring into or out of the Hawaii public school system.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this written testimony.

Date of Hearing: Wednesday, February 11, 2009

Committee: Senate Committees on Education  
and Housing, and Public Safety and  
Military Affairs

Board: Education

Person Testifying: Garrett Toguchi, Chairperson, Board of Education

Title of Bill: S.B. No. 1164, Relating to Interstate Compact on Educational  
Opportunity for Military Children

Purpose of Bill: Enacts the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for  
Military Children (Compact) to, among other things: (1) facilitate  
the timely enrollment; student placement process; qualification and  
eligibility for enrollment, educational programs; and participation in  
extracurricular, academic, athletic, and social activities of children  
of military families; (2) facilitate the on time graduation of children of  
military families; (3) provide for the promulgation and enforcement  
of administrative rules to implement the Compact; (4) provide for  
the uniform collection and sharing of information between and  
among member states, schools, and military families under the  
Compact; and (5) promote coordination between this and other  
compacts affecting military children.

Establishes the State Council on Educational Opportunity for  
Military Children within the Board of Education (Board).

Board's Position: Chairpersons Sakamoto and Espero, Vice Chairpersons Kidani and Bunda, and members of the Senate Committees on Education and Housing, and Public Safety and Military Affairs, thank you for the opportunity to comment on S.B. No. 1164.

While the Board of Education **does not have a position** on S.B. No. 1164 at this time, the issue of an Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children is something that the Board has been following. The Board Committee on Legislation, Public Charter Schools & Public Libraries will meet tomorrow to discuss this and other bills with educational impact.

The Board recognizes the transitional challenges faced by children of military families as these families relocate across state lines. We believe that efforts to support the transition for students of military students are best achieved when there is direct involvement and input from the state entity or entities with the authority and responsibility for statewide policymaking and operations of schools.

The Board believes that the difficulties of enrollment, placement, graduation, and other factors that weigh heavily on students of military families must also be considered in relation to other

students who also move frequently, but may not be of military families. The goal is to work toward and apply the efficient and effectively delivery of quality educational services to students across all categories.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

Date of Hearing: February 11, 2009

Committee: Senate Committee on  
Education and Housing/Senate Committee on  
Public Safety and Military Affairs

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent

Title: S.B. No. 1164, Relating to Interstate Compact on  
Educational Opportunity for Military Children

Purpose: Advocates the State of Hawaii to join a national interstate  
commission compact to address the “Educational  
Opportunities for Military Children” within member states. In  
addition, this bill establishes a local Hawaii Compact  
Commissioner and State Council to address Hawaii issues  
as stated in the compact relating to the educational needs of  
military children, and represent Hawaii at national  
commission meetings.

Department’s Position: Until the Board of Education has an opportunity to review  
this Bill, the Department will hold its comments. The Board  
Committee on Legislation will convene on February 12,  
2009, and will be taking a position on this Bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this  
measure.



10 February 2009

15th Senatorial District  
Senator Norman Sakamoto  
Chair, Education and Housing Committee  
State Capitol, Room 230  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children (Senate Bill #SB1164) – **STRONGLY SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Sakamoto:

I am a parent of a 2<sup>nd</sup> grader at Shafter Elementary School and want to thank you for your support of military families and encourage you to support the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children. This compact is very important to me and other military families who have to re-locate every few years due to deployments or military moves.

Because all Department of Education (DOE) policies and practices are not mandated in Hawaii they may be interpreted differently by different principals. This may result in varying practices at different schools regarding our incoming military children causing confusion and frustration by parents.

Hawaii is very fortunate to have the Joint Venture Education Forum (JVEF) which is an excellent tool supporting military students here in Hawaii, but unfortunately it does not work with other states trying to solve difficult transition or deployment issues.

Because Hawaii does not have mandated procedures and JVEF policies do not transfer, the Compact is the best solution to our sometimes trying lifestyle. With your support, Hawaii could join many other states in adopting the Compact and support our children of military parents.

While I strongly support this legislation, there are a few recommendations which might make this Compact much better for our military families and should not hamper the DOE's ability to conduct their operations. Here are my recommendations:

1. Page 15, lines 6 -8. "This subsection does not require excused absences to be granted during test periods." If this statement is added, there ought to be some statement about trying to accommodate the needs of the student/military family. This issue might arise in a number of cases - i.e., if a unit's block leave covers a period where HSA testing is scheduled, if a soldier unexpectedly gets R&R leave, etc. Recommend an additional statement be added stating that the "appropriate educational agency" will attempt to work with the family to either

adjust the testing schedule, or allow the student to test early or make up the testing.

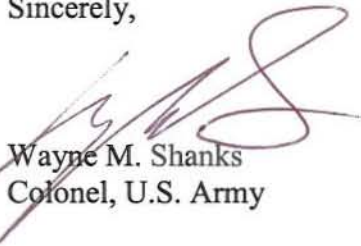
2. Page 16, lines 8 - 11. There is no provision for redeploying parents to obtain a Geographical Exception (GE) to keep their children in the same school they were enrolled in prior to the deployment. The provision exists during the deployment but not after the return. I think there should be a provision allowing parents to request a Geographical Exception (GE) if they are not able to find housing in the same area after they redeploy. For example, if a parent was leasing a house in one area prior to deployment, terminated the lease in preparation for deployment (and had household goods in storage), and then was not able to find a house in the same area upon redeploying, I think he or she ought to be able to request a GE to keep his or her child in the same school.

3. Page 17, line 5, the replacement of "shall" with "may". As a military parent, I think the word change significantly weakened this portion of the document, especially with the addition of the statement in lines 13 - 16: "This section shall not obligate the school or appropriate education agency from paying for an online course if funding is unavailable." This means the military parents have to pay for the student to complete the requirement.

Our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines do so much for our country everyday and their children are moved all across the world with the demands of military life. I am asking you to do something in return for them – support the Compact’s passage by voting “yes” on Senate Bill #SB1164.

Thank you for consideration and service to Hawaii and our country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Wayne M. Shanks', is written over a printed name and title. The signature is stylized and somewhat cursive.

Wayne M. Shanks  
Colonel, U.S. Army

February 11, 2009

TO: CHAIR NORMAN SAKAMOTO, SENATE EDUCATION & HOUSING  
CHAIR WILL ESPERO, SENATE PUBLIC SAFETY & MILITARY AFFAIRS

FROM: MAJOR K. MARK TAKAI, Member of the US Army

SUBJECT: Testimony **in Support of Senate Bill 1164**  
Relating to Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military  
Children

*I testify as a member of the US Army with the approval of Admiral Timothy Keating, US PACOM Commander, and Major General Robert Lee, Hawaii State Adjutant General. I was mobilized on February 4, 2009 to serve with the Hawaii Army National Guard's 29<sup>th</sup> Brigade in Kuwait.*

Chair Sakamoto, Chair Espero, Vice Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Bunda and distinguished members of the committees, as an advocate of Education for Military Children throughout Hawaii and the world, as a board member of the Joint Venture Education Forum, and as a deployed soldier of the United States Army, I appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 1164, which will enact the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children.

The overall purpose of the Interstate Compact is to remove educational barriers faced by children of military families due to frequent moves and deployment of military parents.

However, I look at this from a broader perspective. This bill is much more than Hawaii being part of the Interstate Compact. We have worked so hard over the past 10 years to build a comprehensive partnership between the military and our school system. Additionally, Hawaii's public schools and our educators understand and recognize the unique challenges facing military children and their families. Passage of this bill will provide Hawaii and our schools the recognition that we deserve. Passage tells people throughout the military circles that Hawaii's public schools are extremely supportive of our military children and their families.

Some may say that we in Hawaii don't need to be a part of the Interstate Compact because we already do much of what is advocated in the compact. I say that we should join the compact because we already do much of what is advocated in the compact.

As you know, the children of military personnel already have the kind of stress in their lives that children of civilians rarely encounter. They face frequent moves, having to leave friends behind and make new ones. In addition, one or more of their parents might be deployed at any time to a war zone.

However, we in Hawaii have taken a broader approach to this effort. We believe that what is good for military children should also be good for other children from families who face frequent moves. What is good for military children is also good for all children. Hence, each provision in the Compact is looked at from this broader perspective.

The Interstate Compact is designed to ease the challenges when children are uprooted from school as parents are transferred or are deployed. To date, 11 states are part of this compact, including Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Missouri, North Carolina and Oklahoma.

Since the 2008 legislative session, we worked with an ad-hoc task force to analyze how Hawaii currently responds to the provisions of the model legislation proposed by the Council of State Governments.

Over the past, eight months, we have worked to craft a bill that recognizes the unique challenges of the State of Hawaii and the uniqueness of our state-wide school system.

SB 1164 as introduced is the cumulative result of efforts including the following:

- Recommendations from the Ad-hoc task force comprised of legislators, educators, military leaders and business leaders;
- Observations at the first meeting of the commissioners for the Interstate Compact in Phoenix, Arizona;
- Discussions with the commissioners from the 11 initial states;
- Analysis of the discussions and conclusions from similar efforts in North Carolina and the State of Washington;
- Meetings and discussions with the Military Impacted Schools Association;
- Meetings and discussions with the Council of State Governments (CSG) and with Rick Masters, the legal counsel for CSG and for the Interstate Compact; and
- Meetings with the Board of Education, DOE officials, and military-impacted school principals.

This bill addresses issues that are specific to Hawaii, such as allowing Hawaii's tuberculosis clearance requirement and allowing the child of a deployed servicemember to continue and finish the school year at the school currently enrolled while in the custody of a guardian.

Hawaii's compact commissioner is recommended the Superintendent with the approval of the Board of Education. Additionally, SB1164 creates a State Council for Educational Opportunity for Military Children that includes the superintendent, the three complex area superintendents, the DOE military liaison, representatives of all five military branches (including the Coast Guard), the education legislative committee chairs and other important key players.

I provided SB 1164 (as introduced) to Mr. Masters from CGS and he said that "the proposed amendments do not substantially deviate from the material provisions of the Interstate Compact statutes enacted by the current member states which are signatories to this compact."

Mr. Masters' comments recognize some of the unique challenges and differences of our state-wide school system.

Your support of this bill will be greatly appreciated.

U.S. Department of  
Homeland Security

United States  
Coast Guard



Commanding Officer  
U. S. Coast Guard  
Integrated Support Command

400 Sand Island Pkwy  
Honolulu, HI 96819-4398  
Staff Symbol: co  
Phone: (808) 842-2011  
Fax: (808) 842-2009

5000  
9 February 2009

Members of Senate Committees on Education and Housing  
and Public Safety and Military Affairs  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: **IN SUPPORT of SB 1164:**

Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children  
Hearing: Wednesday, February 11, 2009, 1:30 PM

Dear Chair Sakamoto, Chair Espero and Committee Members:

On behalf of the men and women of the United States Coast Guard serving throughout the Hawaiian Islands, I wish to formally register support for the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children.

Coast Guard members and their families are expected to move somewhere every two to four years. Each move presents many transition challenges especially with our military dependent students as they move in and out of our schools. The Interstate Compact allows Hawaii to join together with other states in addressing the transition challenges to ensure our military children are not disadvantaged or penalized when they have to move frequently during their school years.

I fully support and urge the passage of Senate Bill 1164. Thank you for your support of our service members and their families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J.J. Hickey", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

J.J. HICKEY  
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard

**Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chair, Education and Housing Committee**  
**Senator Will Espero, Chair, Public Safety and Military Affairs Committee**

**Wednesday, February 11, 2009**

**Testimony of**  
**Laurie Crehan, Ed.D.**  
**Quality of Life Regional Liaison**  
**Office of the Under Secretary of Defense, Military Community and Family**  
**Policy**  
**DoD-State Liaison Office**

**Support** of: **INTERSTATE COMPACT ON EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY FOR MILITARY CHILDREN SB 1164**

**The Department of Defense State Liaison Office** operates under the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, and the Deputy Under Secretary for Military Community and Family Policy. Our mission is to be a resource to state policymakers as they work to address quality of life issues of military families.

**Laurie Crehan, Ed.D.**

Dr. Crehan joined the DoD-State Liaison Office as a Regional Liaison in 2005. In her position, Dr. Crehan monitors quality of life issues for military families in HI, CA, AZ, and NV. Before coming to work in the State Liaison Office, she worked as an educator, spending over 20 years in the Department of Defense Dependents Schools as a teacher and administrator. In that capacity, she learned first hand of the educational challenges the children of our military members face as they encounter frequent school moves.

**Testimony**

Chair Sakamoto and Chair Espero, on behalf of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony today on the *Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children*. DoD, in conjunction with the Council of State Governments, worked with groups and individuals representing legislators, educators, and educational organizations and associations over a period of two years to create a compact to address the educational challenges of military students who frequently transition from school

to school around the world. These challenges are of utmost importance to military families, and are consistently listed as among their top family concerns as they work to serve our nation in the Armed Forces.

On average, most military children will move at least twice during their high school years, and most will attend six to nine different school systems between kindergarten and 12<sup>th</sup> grade. These frequent moves result in some educational obstacles. Though many states, including Hawaii, have made progress in addressing these educational concerns, there is a lack of consistency *between* states that continues to create difficulties for our military families. Some of these recurring issues include kindergarten start age, participation in extracurricular activities, immunizations, timely transfer of records, placement in appropriate courses, missed or redundant entrance and exit testing, support for children of deployed service members, and on-time graduation. Though one state may do several things right, the next move to another state can create a new set of problems since the procedures are not the same. These issues are addressed in the *Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children*.

The Compact is an agreement among member states to a set of practices that will allow for the uniform treatment of military children transferring between school districts and between states. The Interstate Compact does not ask for special privileges for military children; only that states create a level playing field, and work cooperatively to make it happen. Military children often end up making sacrifices because their parent's are serving our country. The language and intent of the Compact will provide consistency for our military children as they move from state to state and alleviate some of the hardship they encounter.

Though there has been some discussion among members of Congress to introduce such school transfer guidelines on a federal level, which would then be implemented by states, DoD believes states are the appropriate entities to determine and execute this type of policy in a cooperative, multi-state manner. Thankfully, many state leaders also recognize this responsibility. Eleven states have already adopted the compact. These states include Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Missouri, North Carolina, and Oklahoma. This legislative session, nineteen states have filed or pre-filed compact legislation. These states include Arkansas, Hawaii, Indiana, Iowa, Maryland, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Virginia, and Washington. An additional ten states to the ones listed above are anticipated to file legislation this year. It is still early enough in the compact



process that states entering the compact this year would have significant say in the rule making process.

I would like to share an excerpt from an email I received from a Navy Captain in Al Anbar Province in Iraq.

The CAPT states:

*“My family has been through a challenging few months with my deployment to Iraq and a move from an overseas duty station back to the United States (which my wife and daughter executed without me). You may not be aware, but the children of military members who are forced to move when their parent changes duty stations, are faced with a myriad of issues as they try to assimilate into a new school system. These challenges are magnified by a significant factor when the child is in high school, as is the case for my daughter. There are issues on what classes they can take, qualifying for AP level courses, resolving state history requirements, specific school graduation requirements such as PE and exit exams that vary from state to state, computation of GPA and class ranking, ensuring that all course work is accurately captured on transcripts and finally ensuring that the child is eligible to compete in high school athletics.*

*My wife and daughter have been embroiled in these issues - on top of everything else that accompanies an overseas move - for months now. They have diligently sought out requirements and provided documentation in every case to ensure my daughter is not penalized by my military service.*

This Service Member goes on to describe some roadblocks this young woman faced in becoming eligible for sports and coursework she needed. In addition, she discovered four classes she needed to take in order to graduate that were not requirements in her previous school. Because this student is a top scholar and had brought documentation and letters from her previous school, she was able to get the school district to waive some of these requirements so she could continue to take her AP classes and graduate on time. The COS of Navy Region Southwest helped advocate to get her on the gymnastics team.

You might be thinking that this would not happen in Hawaii and therefore there is not reason for Hawaii to join the Interstate Compact. However, these kinds of scenarios are being played out across our nation every day. By joining the Compact, Hawaii would do their part in assuring that military students do not

face these situations and demonstrate strong support for military families stationed in Hawaii and throughout the world.

DoD is very concerned about the impact of frequent moves on military children, but there are also other issues at play. DoD is also concerned with military readiness. This Commander should not have to worry about and have to deal with school issues when his focus needs to be on his mission in Iraq.

In addition, DoD realizes that many military families will choose not to reenlist when they see that their children are paying a price for their military service. We know that the decision to remain in the military or not is often made around the kitchen table. When parents feel that staying in the service is going to have an adverse impact on their child's education, they often choose to not remain in the Service. Service Members should not have to choose between serving their country and getting a quality education for their children.

I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony and look forward to Hawaii's leadership in adopting this vital compact supporting our military children. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any concerns or questions.

Dr. Laurie Crehan  
858-274-3314  
[lcrehan@juno.com](mailto:lcrehan@juno.com)

**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Education and Housing  
and Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs  
Wednesday, February 11, 2009  
1:30 PM  
Conference Room 225**

**RE: SENATE BILL NO.1164, RELATING TO INTERSTATE COMPACT ON  
EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY FOR MILITARY CHILDREN**

**Chairs Sakamoto and Espero, Vice Chairs Kidani and Bunda, and members of the  
committees.**

My name is Charles Ota and I am the Vice President for Military Affairs at The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii (The Chamber). I am here to state The Chamber's support of Senate Bill No.1164, Relating to Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children.

The Chamber's Military Affairs Council (MAC) serves as the liaison for the state in matters relating to the U.S. military and provides oversight for the State's multi-billion dollar defense industry.

The measure proposes to enact the interstate compact on educational opportunity for military children to remove barriers to educational attainment faced by children of military families due frequent moves and deployment of parents.

Military families encounter inordinate challenges that are unique to being in the military. They are ordered on assignments to all parts of the world, often on short notice and in the middle of the school year. Their school aged children enter schools at inconvenient times during the school year and encounter new systems and requirements.

The interstate compact recognizes that the children of military families face inordinate stresses as they relocate from another state or from an overseas area. Participating on the compact council should contribute towards minimizing the effects of these stresses and ease the child's transition to a new school in a totally new environment.

In specific reference to **Article VIII, paragraph -2 State Council**, please note that Naval Station Pearl Harbor and Hickam AFB will become a joint base in 2010. Suggest that the wording on state council membership clearly provide for one military representative for Navy families and one military representative for Air Force families for this new joint base.

For these reasons, the MAC strongly recommends that SB 86 be passed.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify.

**Testimony of Rick Masters, Special Counsel for Interstate Compacts**  
**The Council of State Governments Re: Interstate Compact on Educational**  
**Opportunity for Military Children**

**IN RE: SB 1164**

**EDH-PSM**

**February 11, 2009 @ 1:30 p.m.**

Honorable Chair and Members of the Committee, I am Rick Masters, Special Counsel for Interstate Compacts for the Council of State Governments. I am also currently serving as Interim Council for the Interstate Commission for Educational Opportunity for Military Children. I hold a J.D. from the Brandeis School of Law of the University of Louisville and I am licensed to practice law in the Commonwealth of Kentucky as well as both of its U.S. District Courts, I am also admitted to practice before the U.S. Courts of Appeals for the 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Circuits as well as the District of Columbia Circuit and the United States Supreme Court.

**I was formerly an Assistant Attorney General for the Commonwealth of Kentucky and I am a former General Counsel for the Council of State Governments and have continued to serve as Special Counsel for Interstate Compacts for the last ten (10) years.**

**I have acted as the primary drafter of a number of national compacts including the Interstate Compact for Adult Offender Supervision, which has been adopted by all 50 states, D.C., Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands and the Interstate Compact for Juveniles, the Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children and the proposed Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children which is contained in SB 1164.**

I have also provided legal advice to a number of existing compact commissions and have litigated court cases concerning disputes in which interstate compact provisions have been at issue in a number of U.S. District Courts and U.S. Courts of Appeals. In addition I was a co-author of a book on the subject of interstate compacts published by the American Bar Association in 2007 containing the largest compilation of legal authorities and case citations ever printed on the subject.

This project is a **joint effort by the Council of State Governments and the U.S. Department of Defense** to address problems encountered children in grades K-12 who must transfer from one state public school district to another because one or both parents are active duty members of the U.S. military including members of the guard and reserves who are activated or deployed.

To give input into the drafting process **stakeholders involved in public school education in this country served as an advisory group which directed the work of the drafting team. *These groups included The National School Boards Association, The National Association of State Boards of Education, the National Education Association, The National Association of Elementary School Principals, The National PTA, The Military Impacted Schools Association, and the Education Commission of the States.***

In order to provide the desired uniformity to facilitate the transfer of these students from one state to another a compact mechanism is employed which will become effective upon the enactment of at least ten (10) states and had its 1<sup>st</sup> compact commission meeting in late October of 2008. Since January of this year eighteen (18) states, including Hawaii have introduced the bill and eleven (11) states have passed the legislation which states are: AZ, CO, CT, DE, FL, KS, KY, MI, MO, NC, and OK. Compact Task Force's were created in CA, IL, MD, and WA three of which states (CA, MD and WA) have introduced bills to enact the compact in those states with more states expected to introduce the legislation during the upcoming legislative sessions.

Interstate compacts are a time tested and court tested means of resolving interstate problems which are authorized under Article I, Section 10, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution. In our country's 220 year history some 200 compacts have been adopted of which Hawaii is a member of approximately 15 interstate compacts including three (3) compacts pertaining to education.

Interstate compacts have been used for three primary purposes: 1) Boundary disputes between states' 2) Management of environmental resources 3) regulatory compacts which apply to a wide variety of multi-state problems including transportation, insurance regulation, taxation, interstate placement of foster and adopted children, criminal justice and corrections matters such as the transfer of adult offenders across state lines and education.

***Compacts allow the states to exercise collective control over matters which are traditionally regulated by the states without surrendering state control to the federal government. Interstate compacts allow the states to avoid the problem of 'fifty (50) different sets of rules' with which to solve interstate problems through a uniform approach while still subject to joint state authority.***

This Compact seeks to facilitate equal educational opportunity for the children of military members in four (4) major areas: 1) Enrollment; 2) Eligibility; 3) Placement; and 4) Graduation. For example:

### **Enrollment**

To facilitate the enrollment of a transferred child the Compact provides that the receiving state school will accept a copy of the educational record from the parent if no “certified record” is available and gives the sending state ten (10) days after receipt of the request from the receiving state school to transfer the “official” record.

### **Eligibility**

The compact recognizes that children of deployed military members should be provided with a reasonable opportunity to be included in extracurricular activities in the event of a missed tryout or induction process if the student is otherwise qualified.

### **Placement**

Under the Compact there is a presumption that the sending state’s placement was correct and will be continued in that placement if the receiving state offers equivalent courses. However the receiving state may subsequently conduct its own testing of the student and reevaluate & change such placement on that basis after the student has transferred to the new school district. The Compact also recognizes the special education services already required under federal law through IDEA, ICP and ADA. The compact allows some flexibility for deployment related absences.

### **Graduation**

The Compact provides that the states will make reasonable efforts to accommodate the transfer of equivalent courses to facilitate on time graduation including consideration of alternative exit exam requirement being met if the student has successfully completed another national norm-referenced achievement test for those students approaching graduation. If the foregoing steps are not reasonably possible, as an alternative the receiving state will cooperate with the sending state in order to facilitate graduation in the sending state.

In summary, the compact attempts to establish a ‘common denominator’ among the member states which will remove existing barriers to timely completion of the public education process for these students who by virtue of the decision and commitment of their parent to serve our country are, in many cases, being unfairly penalized.

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee about this important public policy matter and I will be happy to respond to any questions.



**National Military Family Association, Inc.**

2500 North Van Dorn St., Suite 102 • Alexandria, VA 22302-1601 • (703) 931-6632 • Fax (703) 931-4600 • [www.nmfa.org](http://www.nmfa.org)

TheVoice  
for Military  
Families

Statement of

**Candace Wheeler**

**Deputy Director, Government Relations**

**THE NATIONAL MILITARY FAMILY ASSOCIATION**

***INTERSTATE COMPACT ON EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY  
FOR MILITARY CHILDREN  
SB 1164***

**February 11, 2009**

**Not for Publication  
Until Released by  
The Committee**

**The National Military Family Association** is the only national organization whose sole focus is the military family. The Association's goal is to influence the development and implementation of policies that will improve the lives of those family members. Its mission is to serve the families of the seven uniformed services through education, information, and advocacy.

Founded in 1969 as the National Military Wives Association, our Association is a non-profit 501(c)(3) primarily volunteer organization. The National Military Family Association (NMFA) represents the interests of family members and survivors of active duty, reserve component, and retired personnel of the seven uniformed services: Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Public Health Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Our Association Representatives in military communities worldwide provide a direct link between military families and NMFA staff in the nation's capital. Representatives are the "eyes and ears" of NMFA, bringing shared local concerns to national attention.

NMFA does not have or receive federal grants or contracts.

NMFA's website is: <http://www.nmfa.org>.

## **Candace Wheeler**

Mrs. Wheeler joined the National Military Family Association Government Relations staff as a Deputy Director in June 2007. However, Mrs. Wheeler is no stranger to the Association having been a member since 2001. She has held various positions within the organization to include Chairman of the Board of Governors and Chief Executive Officer. In that capacity, she served as the spokesperson for NMFA before Congress, the Department of Defense, and the military and civilian community. She also served as President of The Board of Directors for The Military Coalition which is comprised of 35 military, veterans and uniformed services organizations representing 5.5 million members.

In her position as Deputy Director of Government Relations, Mrs. Wheeler monitors issues relevant to the quality of life of families of the uniformed services. Her areas of responsibility include Education for Children and Military Impact Aid; Spouse Education, Employment and Unemployment Issues; Adoption; Autism Spectrum Disorder; Family Advocacy and Domestic Violence; State Initiatives; and Guard and Reserve Benefits. Mrs. Wheeler currently serves on The Military Coalition Guard and Reserves Committee, The Military Coalition Personnel Committee, and the Chesapeake Regional Inter-Service Family Assistance Committee Working Group.

Mrs. Wheeler is a native of California. She attended the University of Southern California where she majored in International Relations and studied Political Science and Journalism. Mrs. Wheeler has been an Air Force spouse for 23 years, and has lived in Texas, California, Virginia, Alabama, Pennsylvania, Alaska, Germany and Turkey. She has held various volunteer positions within the military and civilian community to include Director of Girl Scouts for Izmir, Turkey, numerous military spouse club positions, church committees and choirs, and has performed with local musical groups. Mrs. Wheeler also recently served on the Board of the Air Force Officers' Wives' Club of Washington D.C. and on the Joint Armed Forces Officers' Wives' Luncheon Steering Committee.

Mrs. Wheeler lives in the Northern Virginia area with her husband and their two children. As the wife of a former fighter pilot, Mrs. Wheeler knows first hand the affect deployment has on families and she remains committed to strengthening our military community, and highlighting the needs of our service members and their families.



Chairman and members of this committee, on behalf of the National Military Family Association, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on the *Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children (SB 1164)*.

My name is Candace Wheeler and I am a military family member. My husband retired from the Air Force after nearly 26 years of active service. I am the mother of two children who have first hand knowledge of many of the issues you will be discussing today. I am also the Deputy Director of Government Relations for the National Military Family Association, a 501(c)(3), non profit that has been in existence for almost 40 years. The National Military Family Association (NMFA) advocates for the families of the seven uniformed services in all areas that affect them. We serve as a resource for members of Congress and policymakers for issues concerning military families.

For those of you familiar with military lifestyle, you know that change is a constant reality for service members and their families. Each new assignment normally means a change in duty station for the active duty service member and another move for the family. In fact, military children on the average will move at least twice during their high school years, and most will attend six to nine different schools between kindergarten and 12<sup>th</sup> grade. For example, our daughter attended five schools during her seven years of elementary education and this is not an uncommon occurrence within military families.

While reassignments are important for the service member's career progression, transition can be difficult for military families, especially children. Military children often experience feelings of loneliness, anger, or frustration with each new move. These feelings can be compounded when faced with educational obstacles as well. Though a great deal of progress has been made over the past several years to help military families address their educational concerns, many issues still remain that need state cooperation.

These issues include: kindergarten start age, participation in extracurricular activities, immunizations, timely transfer of records, placement in appropriate courses, missed or redundant entrance and exit testing, support for children of deployed service members, and an emphasis on on-time graduation.

NMFA has heard from military families regarding these very issues addressed by the *Interstate Compact for Educational Opportunity for Military Children*. We believe it is important for this committee to hear some of the personal stories military families have shared with us. We have included several of them within this testimony but have omitted references to locations, states, or personal names.

*"As you know moving in the military is our way of life. We are transitioning on a continual basis. Our children have to pick up and start over again and again. They leave friends behind and try to make new ones at their new location. My daughter has attended a different school every year since the 4th grade and she currently is in the 10th."*

*Another parent told us that, "One issue we have encountered has to do with accelerated learning programs. My daughter was in an accelerated learning classroom for two years. When we were planning to move, I was told there were designated accelerated classrooms in the new location, but the standard for being placed in them was undetermined. The school where she had been for two years did not want to retest her at the end of her time there since she was not going to be in that district the following year. My husband went all the way to the district TAG facilitator to advocate having her tested so that she could be considered for the appropriate classes. It was a fight, but he prevailed and she was tested. Upon arriving in our new location, the standard still was fuzzy but I was told that with her recent test scores; a written letter I had hand-carried from her teacher; and her report cards, she would be able to be placed in the more*

*advanced class. Because of an error, she was not placed in one of the two classes they have here, but I went to the principal and was able to have her moved. I was then approached by other parents who had been told that their children could not be placed in the advanced class because they had not taken certain tests that are incorporated into the school system to test for the Gifted and Talented program. While we were lucky she was placed despite not having the same tests, it certainly would be helpful if the testing for such programs were somewhat standardized or at least some sort of reciprocal agreement reached that would incorporate a variety of appropriate tests."*

*We heard from another parent that said, "Not only am I a parent of one child that has graduated and the parent of one in grade school, I am also a High School teacher. One of the major problems we faced when we moved was transferring our daughter's records to the new state's system. She was receiving Special Education Services at our old base and here the standards were different, so she had to be retested. As a parent of a child with a deployed father another issue is attendance. When the deployed parent comes home on R&R the student usually needs days to see the parent... 1. Come in on the plane 2. Spend some quality time with the parent. 3. To see the parent off when it is time for them to leave. These days are not considered excused absences at every school. When you only get 8 days absent before you have to make up time or fail some parents have to choose how they will deal with it. Also, as a teacher I see the unique problems our military students face. One of the major obstacles is testing. Our state requires many tests before a student can receive a diploma. When a child transfers from out of state they have to catch up on testing."*

*The following narrative demonstrates this point perfectly, "Our son didn't pass the last portion of the TAKS exit exam. The school board did allow him to walk with his class (after much pressure), but he did NOT receive a diploma. They said he could re-take the*

*last portion of the test on the 12th of July. My husband received short orders to take a command position overseas and he needed to be there the 10th of July. After we arrived in country, we put our son in school taking guitar and weight lifting, because he needed NO credits to graduate, but he needed to say he went to their school. Two months later the principal saw no need for him to continue and they graduated him. I understand that each state has their own graduation requirements, but when a child is moved their senior year, I feel like they should be allowed to stay on the course that they were on. It is so difficult to have them try and make up credits because of a new district."*

These stories are just some of the many we received which help illustrate why the *Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children* is important to the quality of life of our military families. Designed to enable cooperation between states, the compact will allow for the uniform treatment of military children transferring between school districts and states. It recognizes that states, no matter how supportive they are of military children, can only control what happens within their individual borders. By becoming a better "sending" and "receiving" state, each state can help ensure that our military children have the educational opportunities they deserve.

Military families place a high value on education and define the quality of that education differently than most states or districts that look only at issues within their boundaries. For military families, it is not enough for children to be doing well in their current schools they must also be prepared for the next location. However, military families do not want special privileges for their children, only a level playing field. Above all, they do not want their children to make unnecessary sacrifices for a parent's military service. Though military family life comes with many rewards, it is not always easy. Our families endure long separations and repeated deployments, routine moves, and constant change. For children and teens navigating adolescence, this lifestyle can often be

extremely difficult. That is why it is important for legislators, teachers and parents to work together to alleviate additional burdens placed on military children.

We thank you for considering this important legislation which will help mitigate some of the many challenges military children and their families face when moving. We wish to congratulate the Department of Defense and the Council of State Governments for developing this compact. NMFA is very proud to have been among the policy makers and stake-holders on both the Advisory Group and Drafting Team that assisted in the development of this compact.

Once again, we appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in support of the *Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children (SB 1164)* and look forward to Hawaii's leadership in adopting this vital compact.

Senator Norman Sakamoto  
15TH Senatorial District  
Chair, Education and Housing Committee  
State Capitol, Room 230  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-2403

Re: **In SUPPORT** of SB# 1164 “Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children”

Hearing: Wednesday, February 11, 2009, 1:30 PM

Dear Chair Sakamoto, Chair Espero, and Committee Members:

As a parent I am writing you to inform you of my **support** for the Interstate Compact on Education. There are approximately 23,000 school age military children in the state of Hawaii. As our children move from state to state, many of them encounter considerable challenges when dealing with enrollment, eligibility, placement, extra-curricular activities, and graduation requirements. Too many times, our children lose course credits due to multiple school transfers and are often improperly placed in courses due to the varying school requirements.

I appreciate all that Hawaii public schools have done on behalf of our military children regarding transition and deployment issues. The Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children will only serve to enhance what is already being done in the Hawaii public schools. Additionally, this bill will join Hawaii with other states in an effort to streamline the school transition process and create much needed uniformity between states.

For these reasons, I support this compact and encourage the Hawaii Senate to pass Senate Bill #SB1164. If you need additional information, please feel free to contact me at 808-744-2544, or kc1fanmar@aol.com

Sincerely,

Marcia A. Richardson

Senator Norman Sakamoto  
15TH Senatorial District  
Chair, Education and Housing Committee  
State Capitol, Room 230  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-2403

Re: **In SUPPORT of SB# 1164 “Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children”**

Hearing: Wednesday, February 11, 2009, 1:30 PM

Dear Chair Sakamoto, Chair Espero, and Committee Members:

As a parent of a school age Army child, I am writing you to inform you of my **support** for the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children. There are approximately 23,000 school age military children in the state of Hawaii. As our children move from state to state, many of them encounter considerable challenges when dealing with enrollment, eligibility, placement, extra-curricular activities, and graduation requirements. Too many times, our children lose course credits due to multiple school transfers and are often improperly placed in courses due to the varying school requirements.

One of the challenges we recently encountered was when we moved to Hawaii in August 2008. Soon thereafter, our daughter, Kyla, went through testing for the Mililani Middle Schools' Gifted and Talented (GT) Program. The school had requested any additional information that may be helpful for her entrance into their program. Unfortunately, at the time of testing, our household goods had not arrived on the island to access additional documents of her extra-curricular activities. We submitted her prior school's transcripts. We received the requested teacher's recommendations after testing as well. **However, we discovered that the GT screening committee would not accept the teacher's recommendations from her last school or even take into consideration any of her former school's transcripts.** Kyla has been in GT programs from pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade and is currently enrolled in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Because of our late arrival to the island, she missed the entire 1<sup>st</sup> term. However, she made straight A's in the 2<sup>nd</sup> term and, although she was not entered into this year's GT program, she continues to excel in all requirements and maintain straight A's. We met with the school principal and committee to discuss and appeal their decision to no avail.

The Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children will only serve to enhance what is already being done in the Hawaii public schools. Additionally, this bill will join Hawaii with other states in an effort to streamline the school transition process and create much needed uniformity between states.

For these reasons, I support this compact and encourage the Hawaii Senate to pass Senate Bill #SB1164. If you need additional information, please feel free to contact me at C: 512-767-4775 or H: 808-744-1325.

Respectfully,

Kysa George

Attention: COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND HOUSING  
Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chair  
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS  
Senator Will Espero, Chair  
Senator Robert Bunda, Vice Chair

Testimony by: Linda Elento, Kaneohe, (808) 235-7610

Hearing: February 11, 2009, 1:30 pm, Conference Room 225

## SB1164

### **Education: Military Children**

This is my written testimony to request that your committees consider **amending SB1164**  
**Education: Military Children--**

(1) to include in the definitions and scope of eligibility those preschool-age children eligible for special education, not only children Kindergarten through 12th grade, as well including as home-schooled children;

(2) with respect to grade level, specify that home-schooled children have the right to retain the current grade-level from the sending state, as would a non-homeschooled child; and

(3) I strongly support, where stated in the bill, that the grade-level placement would be "regardless of age." This same opportunity and eligibility description should also be considered for **SB1278 Kindergarten/Junior Kindergarten.**

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony.

Sincerely,

Linda Elento, Kaneohe resident  
(808) 235-7610