

# SB 623

**Measure Title:**

RELATING TO TUITION ASSISTANCE

**Report Title:**

National Guard; Tuition Assistance; Appropriation

**Description:**

Broadens the scope of the tuition assistance to Hawaii national guard members attending the University of Hawaii and appropriates funds for that purpose.

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 623  
A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO TUITION ASSISTANCE

PRESENTATION TO THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

BY

MAJOR GENERAL ROBERT G. F. LEE  
ADJUTANT GENERAL  
February 17, 2009

Chair Espero, Vice Chair Bunda, and Committee Members:

I am Major General Robert G. F. Lee, State Adjutant General. I am testifying on Senate Bill 623.

We strongly support Senate Bill 623, since this measure broadens the scope of the tuition assistance to members of the Hawaii National Guard by including all commissioned officers rather than officers in the grade of 01 (Second Lieutenant) to 03 (Captain). Also, this measure includes all students working toward a degree on any campus of the University of Hawaii. However, this bill gives priority to members of the Hawaii National Guard that are working on toward an undergraduate degree.

Passage of this bill will provide the Hawaii National Guard with a very valuable incentive for recruiting and retaining our highly trained soldiers and airmen capable of performing their federal and State missions.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony. Are there any questions?