

## FORTY-FIRST DAY

Monday, April 1, 1991

The Senate of the Sixteenth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 1991, convened at 11:35 o'clock a.m. with the President in the Chair.

The Divine Blessing was invoked by Ms. Patricia Mumford, Executive Director, Hawaii Council of Churches, after which the Roll was called showing all Senators present.

The President announced that he had read and approved the Journal of the Fortieth Day.

The following introductions were then made to the members of the Senate:

Senator Solomon recognized and introduced Mr. Hung Wai Ching as follows:

"Mr. President, it is my privilege, on behalf of the Women's Caucus, to welcome members of the 442nd Veterans Club today. We will be presenting them with a Senate certificate congratulating them on their 48th anniversary. But before we do that, I would like to recognize and honor a gentleman who has done so much to foster racial harmony in Hawaii and who is considered as 'Father of the 442nd Combat Team.' I would like to ask Mr. Hung Wai Ching to please stand to be recognized."

Mr. Ching, who was seated on the floor of the Senate, stood to be recognized.

Senator Solomon continued:

"Mr. President, there is a World War II story about two soldiers of the 298th Infantry, one a Hawaiian and the other a Nisei, sitting in a machine gun pit on an Oahu beach, waiting for the Japanese invasion of Hawaii. After a long wait, the Hawaiian turns to the Nisei and blurts out the question which has bothered him: 'Eh, if dey come, who you going shoot? Dem or me?' To which the Nisei answered for all Japanese-Americans: 'Who you t'ink, stupid? Me just as good American as you! (Prologue of "Ambassador in Arms" by Thomas D. Murphy.) The Japanese Pearl Harbor attack thrust upon Japanese-Americans everywhere the battle to fight against doubt, distrust, fear and outright prejudice by fellow Americans.'

"Yet, four and a half years later, on July 15, 1946, the 100th/442nd Combat Team was the only American military unit to march down Constitution Avenue to the White House where it was awarded its seventh Presidential Unit Citation. President Harry S. Truman told the Nisei soldiers: 'You fought for the free nations of the world.... You fought not only the enemy, you fought prejudice, and you have won!'

"The one person, more than anyone else, responsible for this remarkable change of events, and who was directly involved in assisting the Nisei to convincingly answer the question 'Who you going shoot?' is one that we honor today, Mr. Hung Wai Ching.

"One year before the Pearl Harbor attack, Hung Wai Ching organized the Committee for Interracial Unity representing the FBI, Army and Navy intelligence and community leaders, designed to preserve harmonious relations between the various racial groups in Hawaii in the event of hostilities with Japan. Soon after the Pearl Harbor attack, Hung Wai was appointed to the morale

division of the military governor's office, a morale and intelligence liaison between Hawaii's martial law government and the civilian community, and Hung Wai served as civilian advisor to then FBI Chief Robert Shivers and Army G-2 Colonel K.J. Fielder.

"Through his morale division capacity, Hung Wai was able to meet with President Roosevelt and Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt during the early days of the war, where he assured them of the loyalty of Hawaii's Japanese population and pleaded that they not be evacuated and interned like the tragic mistake of the West Coast evacuation/internment.

"Six weeks after the Pearl Harbor attack, all Niseis in the Hawaii Territorial Guard were discharged solely because of their ancestry. Hung Wai met and encouraged 160 of these former University of Hawaii students to volunteer their services to the military governor of Hawaii to organize into a non-combat labor battalion known as the 'Varsity Victory Volunteers' (VVV). For almost one year after February 1942, the men of the Triple V swung hammers, picks and sledgehammers performing work vital to the military defense of Hawaii with the Army Engineers at Schofield Barracks. They were under the command of Captain Richard Lum, Lieutenant Thomas Kaulukui, Lieutenant Frank Judd and Supervisor Ralph Yempuku.

"This was the time when no Nisei could enter the military service because the War Department had reclassified their draft status from 1-A to 4-C ('enemy alien'). Hung Wai Ching was convinced that the only sure way the Nisei could ever convincingly prove their loyalty to America was to be accepted for military service and to be permitted to fight for, and even die, for their country.

"In December 1942, Assistant Secretary of War John J. McCloy visited Hawaii on a military inspection trip, and Hung Wai was assigned to escort him around. Hung Wai made sure that McCloy witnessed the Triple V men cracking rocks up at the Kolekole Pass rockcrusher and heard the story of the VVV. One month later in January 1943, the War Department ordered the reopening of military service to Niseis and issued the call for Nisei volunteers to form the now famous 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

"The story of the 100th/442nd Combat Team, the most decorated military unit of World War II, has been told and retold many times, and I'm sure many, many more times. But Hung Wai Ching made it his personal mission to assure that the Nisei soldiers were given every fair opportunity to prove their loyalty through dedicated military service to their country.

"After the war was over and the boys came home, Hung Wai approached community leaders to establish scholarship funds and foundations to solicit education scholarships for those who wanted to continue their education, and he found job opportunities for returning veterans who wanted work. It is no wonder that Hung Wai Ching was one of the very first to be accepted as an honorary member of the 442nd Veterans Club.

"Mr. President, it gives me great pleasure, again, to introduce our honored guest, Mr. Hung Wai Ching."

Mr. Ching, again, rose to be recognized.

Senator Solomon continued:

"We must remember that the 'political revolution of 1954' was made possible because the late Governor Jack Burns worked up a strong Democrat Party from a nucleus of returning war veterans. The rest is well-known history, Mr. President. Much of this could not have happened had the Niseis not been given the chance to fight for and to even die for their country. That chance was realized because the right man was in the right place at the right time.

"Such is part of the rich legacy we have inherited from the man we recognize and honor today."

At this time, Senator Lehua Fernandes Salling was called to read the special message from Governor John Waihee as follows:

"Mr. President, fellow Senators, it gives me great pleasure to read this message from Governor John Waihee.

'The political triumphs in the last three decades in Hawaii are deeply rooted in the accomplishments of the Varsity Victory Volunteers Labor Battalion, and the courage and heroism of the 100th Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. For Hawaii's Nisei soldiers, just being accepted in a combat role was an achievement in civil rights. They established an unbeatable record in both the European and Pacific conflicts, paying the price of admission to full citizenship in blood. Those were the triumphs in democracy destined to serve as a guide to the people of the islands never to surrender despite the odds.

'Today, the 442nd Hawaiian Glee Club joins the Senate in acknowledging the tremendous contributions of the men of the Triple V, the 100th Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. Also to be credited, once again, is Mr. Hung Wai Ching who helped organize the Victory Volunteers and the AJA units that sprang from their leadership.

'The example of those who battled prejudice during the war years remains a moving force. New population groups have come to the islands and are struggling for acceptance. Fortunately, they will have the benefit of those who went before them.

'Let us all recognize the contributions of our AJA heroes and the powerful influence for equality for which they fought.

'John Waihee, Governor.'

Senator Ann Kobayashi then rose to read the congratulatory Senate Certificate to the 442nd Veterans Club on its 48th Anniversary, signed by all members of the Senate, as follows:

'The 442nd Regimental Combat Team formed in March of 1943, served with distinction on the battlefields of Italy and France and became the most decorated unit of its size in the United States Army, receiving seven Presidential Unit Citations and numerous individual medals. Upon discharge from the Army, members formed the 442nd Veterans Club and dedicated themselves to community service.

'The 442nd Veterans Club is celebrating its 48th anniversary and the Senate of the Sixteenth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 1991, congratulates each and every member for his continued and exemplary service to his community, his state and his country.'

"Thank you."

Senator Solomon then continued:

"Mr. President, we have here with us today, Mr. John Tsukano, author of 'Bridge of Love,' a book on the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. He would like to present this book to Governor Waihee. Since the Governor could not be here, Mr. President, Mr. Tsukano would like you to accept the book for the Governor."

Mr. Tsukano, who was also seated on the floor of the Senate, presented his book to the Senate President.

Senator Solomon, on behalf of the Women's Caucus, also introduced Mr. Harold Fukunaga, president of the 442nd Veterans Club, who was also seated on the floor of the Senate, and presented him the congratulatory Senate certificate. (Senator Solomon said, 'Incidentally, he is the proud father of Representative Carol Fukunaga.')

Senator Solomon then presented the 442nd choral group under the leadership of president Yoshi Shibuya and choral leader Jane Ueoka and said, "This group is made up of 442nd veterans and their wives and they provide entertainment to various community organizations as a community service."

The 442nd choral group, seated in the gallery, then entertained the Senators and guests with a rendition of two songs.

Senator Solomon continued:

"Mahalo nui loa for that wonderful 'Go For Broke.'"

"Mr. President, Laurence Fuchs, author of the historical 'Hawaii Pono,' attributes the shaping of the post-war modern-day Hawaii to four influencing factors: (1) the public school system of Hawaii; (2) the recognition of labor unions; (3) the resolution of the 'Japanese loyalty' question; and (4) the emergence of the two party political system in Hawaii.

"Mr. President, may we have all the Senators honor the veterans of the 100th/442nd Combat Team for their many, many contributions and honor the memory of their fallen comrades with a standing ovation."

The members of the Senate then rose on a standing ovation in their honor.

Senator Solomon acknowledged the contributions of Senators Matsuura, Holt, A. Kobayashi, McMurdo and Tungpalan and the assistance of Dr. Ryoji Namba and Mr. Alvin Shim for organizing the tribute and hosting the luncheon for Mr. Hung Wai Ching and the 442nd Veterans Club.

At this time, Senator B. Kobayashi recognized and introduced Dr. Carlyle Guerra de Macedo as follows:

"Mr. President, today, we have on the floor with us one of the leading world figures in public health. Dr. Carlyle Guerra de Macedo is here to deliver the prestigious Ira Hiscock Public Lecture at the School of Public Health, University of Hawaii. The topic for his lecture will be 'Health in a Turbulent Society -- Emergency and Disaster Health Services.'

"Dr. de Macedo is one of the world's foremost scholars and administrators and authors in the field of public health, specializing in health planning, population, and economic and social development. Educated in Brazil, Chile, and the United States, Dr. de Macedo lectures throughout the Americas, is active in several medical societies, has received numerous awards recognizing his

outstanding achievements in public health, including decorations from Guatemala, Brazil, Peru, Colombia, and Spain. Since 1983, Dr. de Macedo has been Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, Regional Office for the Americas of the World Health Organization, and is stationed in Washington, D.C.

"Members of the Senate, please recognize Dr. Carlyle Guerra de Macedo.

"Accompanying Dr. de Macedo is the Dean of the School of Public Health, Dr. Jerrold Michael."

Dr. de Macedo, accompanied by Dr. Michael, rose to be recognized and was presented the congratulatory Senate certificate by Senator B. Kobayashi.

Senator McCartney introduced Mr. Tom Rosser, "a friend, community advocate and leader, a member of the Kaneohe Neighborhood Board, who has fought long and hard to preserve and protect Kaneohe Bay."

At 12:01 o'clock p.m., the Senate stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

The Senate reconvened at 12:08 o'clock p.m.

#### **MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR**

Gov. Msg. No. 298, dated March 20, 1991, transmitting a report prepared by the University of Hawaii in response to S.C.R. No. 241 (1990), requesting a study of the legal framework that would maximize the utilization of optical data storage technology, was read by the Clerk and was placed on file.

#### **DEPARTMENTAL COMMUNICATION**

Dept. Com. No. 39, from the Office of the Administrative Director of the Courts, the Judiciary, dated March 28, 1991, transmitting the Annual Report 1990 and the Statistical Supplement, July 1, 1989 to June 30, 1990, of the Judiciary, was read by the Clerk and was placed on file.

#### **HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS**

The following communications from the House (Hse. Com. Nos. 408 and 409) were read by the Clerk and were disposed of as follows:

Hse. Com. No. 408, returning S.B. No. 1373, S.D. 1, which passed Third Reading in the House of Representatives on March 28, 1991, was placed on file.

Hse. Com. No. 409, returning S.B. No. 1522, S.D. 2, which passed Third Reading in the House of Representatives on March 28, 1991, was placed on file.

#### **RE-REFERRAL OF HOUSE BILL**

The President re-referred H.B. No. 362, H.D. 2, which was received in the Senate, to the Committee on Judiciary.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

At 12:16 o'clock p.m., on motion by Senator Solomon, seconded by Senator Reed and carried, the Senate adjourned until 11:30 o'clock a.m., Tuesday, April 2, 1991.