



TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM & CULTURE
MONDAY, JANUARY 28, 2008
9:00 A.M. IN ROOM 325

Re: HB 2351 RELATING TO MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE PACIFIC AVIATION
MUSEUM PEARL HARBOR

Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Manahan, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Charlie Ota and I am the Vice President of the Military Affairs Department of The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii. The Department oversees the Military Affairs Council (MAC) which serves as a liaison seeking solutions to issues of common concern to the military, private sector, and state.

The MAC submits testimony in support of House Bill 2351, Making an Appropriation for the Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor, which proposes to donate \$1 million to further support the planning, designing, and construction of Phase 2 of the Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor.

The completion of Phase 1 of this museum was the beginning of completing the national landmarks at Pearl Harbor commemorating the attack on Pearl Harbor and US involvement in the wars in the Pacific. Included are the USS Arizona Memorial, the USS Bowfin and Pacific Submarine Museum on the shores of Pearl Harbor, and the USS Missouri Memorial, USS Oklahoma Memorial, and the Pacific Aviation Museum on Pearl Harbor's Ford Island. These commemorative landmarks provide a collection of historic memorabilia and artifacts that chronicle the start of, battles fought, and ending of World War II.

Phase 2 of this museum will add military aviation history beyond World War 2 in the Pacific. This will include the Korean War and Vietnam War and pave the way for Phase 3 to complete the project. When completed, the Pacific Aviation Museum will become one of the leading visitor attractions in Hawaii and serve to educate future generations in the historic rise of military aviation in Hawaii and the Pacific.

In light of the above, the MAC strongly recommends approval of HB 2351 as written.

manahan1-Haylee

From: mac kempshall [kempshale001@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Monday, January 28, 2008 8:58 AM
To: TACtestimony
Cc: KT Budde-Jones
Subject: House Bill 2351 - Appropriation for The Pacific Aviation Museum

As a young WWII veteran, and having lived here for 23 years, I am still learning about the history of those times when that war started for the US and particularly how it affected Hawaii.

I am a volunteer at the Pacific Aviation Museum and have been involved in different aspects of the growth of the organization since November 2006.

The most interesting part of being involved is talking with the visitors and covering some of the history that they may have forgotten or never were taught. The more one is involved the more interesting it becomes and the more important it is for the Museum to be here and compliment the Arizona, Missouri, and the new Oklahoma, Memorials.

We see not only World War Two Veterans and their families here, but many who passed through Hawaii on their way to Viet Nam and Korea, and military members based here or passing through during their training. They are not loud and some barely let on what their background is, but one can tell by the look on their faces that they appreciate what they find here.

An appropriation in favor of our Museum is a good thing for Hawaii and it benefits the visitor as well as local families, the kids of which we can teach the rudiments of flying, while injecting some history that they may not have heard about as yet.

Thank you for your interest. Sincerely, Eaton M. Kempshall, Foster Village.

Lee Collins

From: Lee J. Collins Sr. [leec@polyad.com]
Sent: Saturday, January 26, 2008 11:59 AM
To: 'TACtestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov'
Cc: 'jeann@pacificaviationmuseum.org'
Subject: House Bill 2351

January 25, 2008

From: Lee John Collins Sr,
Vice President Marketing & Sales
Polynesian Adventure Tours – Gray Line Hawaii
Senior Chief Operations Specialist United State Navy – Retired
Top Gun Naval Fighter Weapons School Graduate Class of 1988
Combat Veteran - Volunteer at the Pacific Aviation Museum

To: TOURISM COMMITTEE

Date and time of the hearing; January 28, 2008 at 9:00am

Re: Measure number: House Bill 2351

1. Comments:

INTRODUCTION

My name is Lee Collins. I am Vice President of Marketing and Sales for Polynesian Adventure Tours and a member of both the HVCB and OVB marketing committees..

I wish to support Bill 2351 which supports additional state funding for the Pacific Aviation Museum. I thank the Chairperson and the Honorable Members of this Committee for holding this hearing and permitting me to submit these comments to you.

I will keep my remarks brief and will be pleased to answer any questions you may have.

PEARL HARBOR

Pearl Harbor has become a core visitor attraction and destination for the Island of Oahu and the state of Hawaii attracting international visitors by the millions. These memorials create hundreds of jobs for our community and generate billions of dollars for our economy and travel industry. We as a state need to invest and support these museums to ensure they remain world class and are able to meet their individual missions so that they may continue to attract visitors that are vital to our visitor industry. As a retired veteran and former employee and now volunteer in Pearl Harbor I have a deep appreciation for the missions of these noble organizations, the economic impact to our state and the incomparable value to our own children's education.

PACIFIC AVIATION MUSEUM

Prior to the opening of the Pacific Aviation Museum visitors and local children visiting Pearl Harbor were missing a vital piece of our states, nation's and our world's history that this amazing new museum will provide. American aviation has played vital roles in securing our piece and without the courage of

1/26/2008

these valiant men and women we could never have won WWII or continued to secure the freedoms of our great nation today. When visiting this new museum guests are exposed to some of the most significant events in WWII history and the vital role played by Hawaii and Hawaiians in protecting our nation's freedom again unbelievable and horrific aggression. A role our state continues to fill today with her strategic location in the Pacific. As we all know our state receives unparalleled federal spending and these memorials and museums are a constant reminder to all of us and our nation as to why Hawaii deserves the significant federal support we receive.

OUR CHILDREN

Each year thousands upon thousands of our children visit Pearl Harbor. Prior to the Pacific Aviation Museum inception they were never able to understand the total impact of attack on Oahu and the experience first hand the totality of WAR. Now with this invaluable museum Pearl Harbor is complete and offers a true world class experience for all visitors and a true immersion into WWII Pacific history. The news media and Hollywood throw around words like honor, courage, commitment, and sacrifice. The museums bring those words alive, they give them real meaning and touch the hearts of all who touch them. They do not celebrate war but just the opposite, celebrate peace, they honor those that have paid the ultimate sacrifices so that we can live in freedom and prosperity. They tell the amazing horrific stories of battle that are so important to our younger generation, the future leaders of our country as to why war should never be taken lightly but avoided at all cost with the only exception, that of keeping our freedom secure.

I respectfully request that each of you fully support this bill that is vital to helping the Pacific Aviation Museum.

Very Respectfully,
Lee J. Collins

Lee J. Collins

Lee J. Collins Sr.

Past-President

Telephone: (808) 262-6719

Facsimile: (808) 672-7011

Email: Leecollins@hawaii.rr.com

Website: www.amahawaii.org



**American Marketing Association
Hawai'i Chapter**

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This message and the documents accompanying it may contain confidential information intended only for the use of the individual(s) named above. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that its dissemination, distribution, disclosure or reproduction is strictly prohibited. If you have received this message in error, please notify us by e-mail and delete this message without making a copy.