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MUFI HANNEMANN
MAYOR



Testimony of
Ann H. Chung

Committee on Tourism & Culture

February 25, 2008

The Honorable Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
The Honorable Joey Manahan, Vice-Chair and
Members of the Committee on Tourism & Culture
The Twenty-Fourth Legislature
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Manahan and Members of the Committee on Tourism & Culture:

SUBJECT: RELATING TO FILIPINO-AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH (HB3343 HD1)

The Administration recognizes the importance of the Filipino community, both in Hawaii and the United States, and the history of economic, cultural, and social contributions they have made and support HB3343 HD1 designating the month of October as Filipino-American History Month.

The City and County of Honolulu has sister-city relationships with six cities in the Philippines: Vigan, Puerto Princesa, Manila, Baguio, Cebu, and Laoag City. The oldest relationship is with Laoag City which was established in 1969. These relationships were established to support the many historical and cultural ties that are shared between our cities. As many of the Filipino community in Honolulu originated from the Philippines, commemorating the history and heritage of Filipino-Americans with this designation would also reinforce the cultural diversity that is Honolulu.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Ann H. Chung
Director of Economic Development
Office of Mayor Mufi Hannemann



HAWAII CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

830 PUNICAWA STREET, ROOM 411 • HONOLULU, HI 96813-5095 • PHONE: (808) 586-8636 • FAX: (808) 586-8655 • TDD: (808) 586-8692

Fax

To: Hon. Ryan Yamane

Chair, House Comm. on TAC

From: Bill Hoshijo *BH*

HCRC Executive Director

Fax: 586-6011

Pages: 2 (including cover)

Phone:

Date: February 22, 2008

Re: TAC Hearing

CC:

Monday, Feb. 25, 2008

9:00 a.m.

State Capitol, Room 325

Urgent For review & comment For your information Please reply Per our discussion

MESSAGE:

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HAWAII CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 411 • HONOLULU, HI 96813-5095 • PHONE: (808) 586-8636 • FAX: (808) 586-8655 • TDD: (808) 586-8692

February 4, 2008
Rm. 329, 8:35 a.m.

To: The Honorable Ryan Yamane, Chair, and Members of the House Committee on
Tourism & Culture

From: Sara Banks, Acting Chair and Commissioners of the Hawaii Civil Rights
Commission

Re: H.B. No. 3343, H.D.1

The Hawaii Civil Rights Commission (HCRC) has enforcement jurisdiction over state laws prohibiting discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, and access to state and state-funded services. The HCRC carries out the Hawaii constitutional mandate that "no person shall be discriminated against in the exercise of their civil rights because of race, religion, sex or ancestry". Art. I, Sec. 5.

The HCRC supports H.B. No. 3343, H.D.1, which designates the month of October as Filipino-American History Month to annually commemorate the contributions of Filipino-Americans to Hawaii and the United States.

From the sakadas who first arrived here in 1906, to labor leaders like Pablo Manlapit and Carl Damaso who collaborated with other ethnic unions against oppressive conditions, Filipinos have made a positive and lasting impact upon these islands. For example, Filipino community advocates played a crucial role as part of a diverse coalition of organizations who came together to for the purpose of drafting legislation and lobbying for the establishment of a state civil rights commission. Many of the strategies successfully implemented in this effort were derived from the lessons learned during earlier civil rights struggles undertaken by Filipinos.

Our nation has also benefited from important contributions by Filipinos across the country, which are far too numerous to mention here.

The HCRC supports H.B. No. 3343, H.D.1.



Knowledge of history and culture for respect and understanding.

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 3343, HD 1
A BILL RELATING TO FILIPINO-AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH**

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**House Committee on Tourism & Culture
Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
Representative Joey Manahan, Vice Chair**

**Monday, February 25, 2008, 9:00 am
State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**Representative Yamane, Representative Manahan and
Members of the Committee:**

As President of the **Filipino-American Historical Society of Hawaii (FAHSON)**, we support House Bill 3343, HD 1, which designates the month of October as Filipino-American History Month to annually commemorate the contributions of Filipino-Americans to Hawaii and the United States.

Our non-profit group, the **Filipino-American Historical Society of Hawaii**, was organized in 1980 to bring together individuals who were interested in learning more about Filipino heritage. Our mission is to "foster an appreciation of the heritage and experiences of Filipino-Americans in Hawaii. We believe that knowledge of the history and culture of all peoples affirms individual dignity and teaches respect and understanding."

During the 2006 Filipino Centennial Celebration, FAHSON hosted the 11th Biennial Filipino-American National Historical Society (FANHS) Conference here in Honolulu, Hawaii. The theme was "Sakadas and beyond: connecting our past to inspire the future." We had the privilege of offering the hundreds of conference participants an opportunity to visit Hawaii's Plantation Village and Waialua so they could experience a unique living history museum and gain an appreciation of the struggles and contributions of Filipino workers as they lived with other ethnic groups in the plantation.

Our group continues to actively collaborate with other organizations and individuals in the community who seek to promote an understanding and respect for the Filipino-American experience and that of other ethnic groups in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 3343, HD 1, and for helping us to continue to foster cultural awareness and celebrate the contributions of all Filipinos.

Dr. Patricia Brown, President
Filipino-American Historical Society of Hawaii

Filipino American Citizens League

Jake Manegdeg, President
P. O. Box 270126 * Honolulu, Hawai'i 96827

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 3343 HD 1

House Committee on Tourism and Culture

February 25, 2008, 9 a.m.
Conference Room 325

RELATING TO FILIPINO-AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

Description: Designates the month of October as Filipino-American History Month to annually commemorate the contributions of Filipino-Americans to Hawaii and the United States

To: Hon. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
Hon. Joey Manahan, Vice-Chair
Hon. Members of the House Committee on Tourism and Culture

From: Jake Maegdeg, President, Filipino American Citizens League

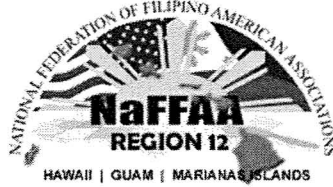
My name is Jake Manegdeg. As president of the Filipino American Citizens League, I am proud to submit our full support of this bill. The Filipino American Citizens League was formed over ten years ago to contribute to the advancement of civil rights and social justice for minority groups, underserved populations, and vulnerable communities through education, advocacy, and social action.

I served as Chair of the 75th Anniversary Commission of Filipinos in Hawai'i, as well as a commissioner on the Filipino Centennial Celebration Commission. The achievements and contributions of Filipinos in Hawai'i since 1906 have been well documented. But after a hundred years of Filipinos in Hawai'i, it is time to bring healing to Hawai'i's educational system that has failed our society, by denying Hawai'i's people the right to learn who our neighbors are, and where they came from. Filipino American Heritage Month will rectify this by providing Hawai'i's multi-ethnic students knowledge that will transform ignorance, fear, and racial strife into universal truths to inspire people to be patient, compassionate, cooperative, and thoughtful in how we come to understand and resolve conflict within ourselves and with others. Provisions of this bill can foster the spirit of inquiry, self awareness, sense of belonging, empathy, unity and reciprocity for the greater good. As Sen. Barack Obama says, "Diversity defines us, not divides."

Thank you for the opportunity to support this bill. Your help in its passage will bring about the type of profound change that is needed to improve the lives of people and our planet. Hawai'i cannot afford not to.

Very Sincerely,

Jake Manegdeg,
President, Filipino American Citizens League



TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 3343 HD 1

House Committee on Tourism and Culture

February 25, 2008, 9 a.m. | Conference Room 325

To: Hon. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
Hon. Joey Manahan, Vice-Chair
Hon. Members of the House Committee on Tourism and Culture

RELATING TO FILIPINO-AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

Description: Designates the month of October as Filipino-American History Month to annually commemorate the contributions of Filipino-Americans to Hawaii and the United

My name is Amy Agbayani. I serve as Vice Chair of the National Federation of Filipino American Associations Region XII, which represents the interests of Filipinos in Hawai‘i, Guam, and the Commonwealth of Northern Marianas Islands. NaFFAA Region XII is an affiliate of the National NaFFAA. Washington policy-makers, private industry and national advocacy groups recognize NaFFAA as the Voice of Filipinos and Filipino Americans throughout the United States. We are a non-partisan, non-profit national affiliation of more than five hundred Filipino-American institutions and umbrella organizations that span twelve regions throughout the continental United States and U.S. Pacific territories.

NaFFAA is happy to provide our strong support for designating October as Filipino American History Month. Hawai‘i's public schools can play a vital a role to develop an informed generation of students who are committed to social justice in order to achieve the vision laid out in the State's 2050 Summit Initiative. History Month is a strategic tool for enriching our public school's curricula to build the capacity of critical thinkers and diversity competency that will position Hawai‘i's labor force to take on cutting edge opportunities in the global arena that will benefit all people. It starts with knowing the history and struggles of classmates. It starts with self knowledge. It starts with a deeper understanding of friends. This is what Filipino American History Month can offer all students and the community. As Nohealani Cypriano, who is part Filipino, says, it is about "sharing a little aloha"(from the diverse lens of the Filipino people).

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony to support Filipino American History Month.

Sincerely,

Amy Agbayani, Ph.D., Assistant Vice Chair, NaFFAA Region XII



OAHU FILIPINO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

P.O. Box 17531 · Honolulu · Hawaii 96817

Unit Organizations

Alliance of Residential
Carehome Administrators
Aloha Saguibsib Cultural
Foundation, Inc.
Annac ti Bado iti Hawaii
Annac ti Batac
Annac ti Caoayan 2002
Annak ti Kailokuan iti
America
Annak ti Sinait iti Hawaii
Asingan Organization of
Hawaii
Badoc-Pinili Aid
Association of Hawaii
Banna Association of
Hawaii
Bannatiran Association of
Hawaii
Batangas Association of
Hawaii
Bulacan Circle of Hawaii
Caballeros de Dimasalang
Cabugao Sons & Daughters
of Hawaii
Candonians of Hawaii
Caoayan ISAH
Cavitenians of Hawaii
Dingras Association of
Hawaii
Divine Word College
Alumni Association
FilAm Sports USA
Fil American Citizens
League
Filipino Business Women's
Club
Filipino Nurses Organization
of Hawaii
Filipino Women's Civic
Club
GUMIL Hawaii
GUMIL Oahu
Hawaii Filipino Women's
Club
Hawaii Council of Bilingual
Educators
ILAH
Ilocos Norteniens of
America
INCAT Alumni Association
of Hawaii
International Filipino
Society of Hawaii
Kalayaan Phil.-Hi. Int.
La Union Circle of
Hawaii
Lingayen Gulf Club of
Hawaii

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 3343 HD 1

RELATING TO FILIPINO-AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH
House Committee on Tourism and Culture

February 25, 2008, 9 a.m. | Conference Room 325

RELATING TO FILIPINO-AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

Description: Designates the month of October as Filipino-
American History Month to annually commemorate the
contributions of Filipino-Americans to Hawaii and the United
States

To: Hon. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
Hon. Joey Manahan, Vice-Chair

From: Hon. Members of the House Committee on Tourism
and Culture

Description: Designates the month of October as Filipino-American
History Month to annually commemorate the contributions of
Filipino-Americans to Hawaii and the United States

My name is Franklin Borromeo. I am very proud to provide strong
support of HB 3343 HD 1. I serve as President of the Oahu Filipino
Community Council (OFCC). Our Council is an umbrella
organization comprised of sixty-two members (62) that represent a
network of non-profit civic groups with a unified vision to improve
the lives of our Filipino communities.

During times of war, hate crimes, and anti-immigrant sentiments
from the halls of our U.S. Congress to the streets across America,
and in the media flourish. Filipino American Heritage Month can
counter racism and social injustice with tools of historical facts and
universal lessons learned for a civil society. Hawai'i's Filipino
community is ready to do our share to be good stewards for the
common good. Contributing to an informed and compassionate
society through Filipino American Heritage Month is imperative.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.
Your support to enact HB 3343 HD 1 is greatly needed.

Sincerely,

Franklin Borromeo
President, Oahu Filipino Community Council

Unit Organizations

Magsingal Association of
Hawaii
Narvacan/San Antonio Club of
Hawaii
Nueva Vizcaya Association of
Hawaii
Pasuquimios Association of
Hawaii
Philippine Cultural Foundation
Philippine Nurses
Association of Hawaii
Piddig Association of Hawaii
Sanchez Mira Association of
Hawaii
San Manuel Pangasinan
Association of Hawaii
San Nicolaneos USA
San Nicolas Goodwill
Foundation
San Nicolas Teachers of
Hawaii
Santa Lucia Association of
Hawaii
Sarrat Association of Hawaii
Sarrat International Inc.
Sinait Nt. High School Alumni
of Hawaii
Solsona of Hawaii
Tarlac Mutual Club of Hawaii
TCP
Kalihi Ballroom, Inc.
Sadiri ti San Nicolas iti Hawaii
Samar Leyte Association of
Hawaii
Sampaguita/Sunflower Club of
Hawaii
San Juan Association of
Hawaii
San Nicolas Nat. High
Santa Marians of Hawaii
School Alumni
Santa Nicolas Nat. High
School Bingao Annex
Tagalog Association of Oahu
United Bacarreños of Hawaii
United Group of Home
Operators
United Pangasinan of Hawaii
United Urdaneta Club of
Hawaii
United Vintarinians of Hawaii
Vigan Association of Hawaii

2007-2008 OFCC OFFICERS & BOARD President: **Franklin Borromeo** | 1st Vice President: **Cirvalina Longboy** | 2nd Vice
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Funtanilla · **Jake Manegdeg** · **Estrella Pada-Taong** · **Danny Villaruz** · **Amado Yoro** | Legal Counsel: **Alfredo Evangelista** |



UNITED FILIPINO COUNCIL OF HAWAII

P.O. BOX 498, Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0498

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 3343 HD 1

House Committee on Tourism and Culture

February 25, 2008, 9 a.m. | Conference Room 325

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Lynne Gutierrez (Oahu)

RELATING TO FILIPINO-AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

Description: Designates the month of October as Filipino-American History Month to annually commemorate the contributions of Filipino-Americans to Hawaii and the United States

To: Hon. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
Hon. Joey Manahan, Vice-Chair
Hon. Members of the House Committee on Tourism and Culture
From: Bryan Andaya, President, United Filipino Council of Hawai'i

My name is Bryan Andaya. I am the president of the United Filipino Council of Hawaii (UFCH). I submit this testimony to support HB 3343 HD 1 on behalf of UFCH, an umbrella organization with member organizations from six islands. Current membership includes a total of 5,000 individual members.

At our annual convention in July 2007, our delegates passed a resolution to offer Philippine language and history in Hawai'i's community colleges and high schools, especially in communities with large Filipino populations. We are pleased to do all we can to support your leadership to also advance Filipino American History Month in October. Knowledge of Filipino American history will add to the diversity competency skills of Hawai'i's multi-ethnic people. This is necessary to foster respect, understanding, and appreciation of differences among groups as assets that will empower communities to safeguard civil rights for all.

Filipinos in Hawai'i want to contribute to the successful progress toward prosperity peace, and health in the 21st century. Please help us make this possible for all of Hawai'i's emerging youth leaders and children by passing this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to present our testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

Bryan P. Andaya, President

*2006-07

**2007-08



TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 3343 HD 1

House Committee on Tourism and Culture

February 25, 2008, 9 a.m. | Conference Room 325

RELATING TO FILIPINO-AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

Description: Designates the month of October as Filipino-American History Month to annually commemorate the contributions of Filipino-Americans to Hawaii and the United States

To: Hon. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
Hon. Joey Manahan, Vice-Chair
Hon. Members of the House Committee on Tourism and Culture

From: Charlene Cuaresma, MPH, President, Filipino Coalition For Solidarity

My name is Charlene Cuaresma. As president of the Filipino Coalition for Solidarity, I am submitting testimony in strong support of HB 3343. Since its inception in 1990, the Coalition has represented more than 50 Filipino community leaders whose aim is to work for social justice issues to empower Filipinos to make socially responsible contributions to Hawai'i and our global neighbors through education, advocacy, and social action.

We strongly believe that Filipino-American History Month will foster goodwill and critical thinking among Hawai'i's citizens at all levels of society. Research shows that building the capacity for ethnic pride and diversity competency fosters improved school performance and a productive, versatile labor force. Making education relevant to a child's life is key to developing a positive identity, an ethical and compassionate character, and a foundation for civic engagement to uphold civil rights for all. The Filipino Coalition For Solidarity has passed resolutions to address disparities affecting our State related to health, education, labor, immigrants, Filipino WWII veterans equity, and many more. Through one group at a time, History Month is an important initiative to harness the assets of diversity to build the capacity of a healthy, productive, and progressive State that can collaborate locally and globally to meet the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century. Filipino American Month is about contributing lessons learned from Filipino history for the benefit of all.

Thank you for this opportunity to present our support from the community. Your consideration for its passage is greatly appreciated.

Respectfully,

Charlene Cuaresma
President, Filipino Coalition for Solidarity



Nursing Advocates & Mentors, Inc.

... a non-profit organization with a mission to address the global nursing shortage by providing guidance and assistance for nursing colleagues to obtain their professional license in nursing.

P.O. Box 2034 Aiea, HI 96701
E-mail: namihonolulu@yahoo.com

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TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 3343 HD 1

House Committee on Tourism and Culture

February 25, 2008, 9 a.m.

Conference Room 325

RELATING TO FILIPINO-AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

Description: Designates the month of October as Filipino-American History Month to annually commemorate the contributions of Filipino-Americans to Hawaii and the United States

To: Hon. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
Hon. Joey Manahan, Vice-Chair
Hon. Members of the House Committee on Tourism and Culture

From: Beatrice Ramos-Razon, President, NAMI
(Nursing, Advocates & Mentors, Inc.)

My name is Beatrice Ramos Razon. I am in strong support of this bill. As the founder and president of NAMI (Nursing, Advocates & Mentors, Inc.). NAMI's membership is comprised of over 75 nurses, allied health care professionals, and Filipino leaders, who are dedicated to improve the health of Hawaii's people by addressing the global issues of a worldwide nursing shortage through the training and mentoring of foreign medical graduate nurses to pass Hawai'i's nurses board exams.

Filipino American Heritage Month is of great importance to Hawai'i's diverse immigrant groups. Filipinos comprise 61 percent of immigrants, which is larger than all the other immigrant groups combined. Designating a month to promote knowledge of Filipino Americans will perpetuate and promote the building of allies among Hawai'i's multi-ethnic communities. We cannot underestimate the commitments to social justice made in Hawai'i schools that will carry on through adulthood, just as we see today in Sen. Barack Obama's quest to become the first U.S. president from Hawai'i. Even more, it is very important to educate our people of Hawai'i about who they are, where they come from, and the struggles for equal treatment of minorities in the interpretation and enforcement of the U.S. Constitution. Thank you for the opportunity to provide support for this bill. NAMI appreciates your consideration of its passage.

Sincerely,

Beatrice Ramos Razon, RN, FACDA

President, Nursing Advocates
and Mentors, Inc.



Tessie Oculito, RN, President
Philippine Nurses Association-Hawaii
92-1269 Umana St. | Kapolei, HI 96707
E-Mail: toculto@hawaii.rr.com | Phone: (808) 457-1066

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 3343 HD 1

House Committee on Tourism and Culture

February 25, 2008, 9 a.m. | Conference Room 325

RELATING TO FILIPINO-AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

Description: Designates the month of October as Filipino-American History Month to annually commemorate the contributions of Filipino-Americans to Hawaii and the United States

To: Hon. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
Hon. Joey Manahan, Vice-Chair
Hon. Members of the House Committee on Tourism and Culture
From: Tessie Oculito, President, Philippine Nurses Association Hawaii

My name is Tessie Oculito. I am the president of the Philippine Nurses Association-Hawaii (PNAH). We are in strong support of this bill. As a national affiliate of the Philippine Nurses Association of America, our shared mission is to uphold and foster the positive image and welfare of our constituent members; to promote professional excellence and contribute to significant outcomes to healthcare and society. Our vision is to be an organization responsive to its constituent needs, and to be a force in the world arena of nursing.

Most of our members are first generation Filipinos, who immigrated to the United States because of the global nursing shortage. We were shocked to see and experience racism as a result of the harmful effects of Filipinos and Hawai'i's multi-ethnic groups who do not know their heritage languages nor their history and the relationship of their motherland to the United States. American families and the U.S. labor force are at an economic disadvantage because of insufficient cultural and linguistic competencies for critical transactions ranging from inter-generation family discord, to patients with health care providers, to brokering and closing socially responsible and mutually prosperous business deals.

We support this bill because students from diverse backgrounds in public schools and higher education will become informed of each other's historical lessons and worldview through Filipino American Heritage Month. This type of cutting edge education provides a strategic vantage point for an enlightened society to champion global challenges. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony. Your consideration to pass this bill is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Tessie Oculito, RN
President, Philippine Nurses Association-Hawaii