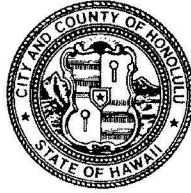


OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
530 SOUTH KING STREET, ROOM 208 • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
PHONE: (808) 523-4616 • FAX: (808) 523-4771 • INTERNET: www.honolulu.gov

MUFI HANNEMANN
MAYOR



Testimony of
Ann H. Chung

Committee on International Affairs

February 4, 2008

The Honorable Rida T.R. Cabanilla, Chair
The Honorable Karen Leinani Awana, Vice-Chair and
Members of the Committee on International Affairs
The Twenty-Fourth Legislature
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Cabanilla, Vice Chair Awana and Members of the Committee on International Affairs:

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

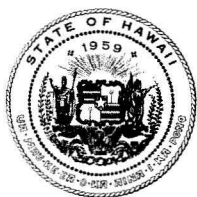
The Administration recognizes the importance of the Filipino community, both in Hawaii and the United States, and the history of economic, cultural, and social contributions they have made. We support the intent of this measure designating the month of October as Filipino-American History Month.

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 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 Rida M. Cabanilla, Chair, and Members of the House Committee on International Affairs

From: Sara Banks, Acting Chair and Commissioners of the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission

Re: H.B. No. 3343

The Hawai'i 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 Hawai'i 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 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.



UNITED FILIPINO COUNCIL OF HAWAII

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

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 3343

House Committee on International Affairs

Honorable Rida Cabanilla, Chair

Honorable James Kunane Tokioka, Vice-Chair

Honorable House Committee Members of International Affairs

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February 4, 2008, 8:35 a.m. | Conference Room 329

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

To: Hon. Rida Cabanilla, Chair; Hon. James Kunane Tokioka, Vice-Chair;
Hon. House Committee Members of International Affairs

From: Bryan Andaya, President, United Filipino Council of Hawaii

My name is Bryan Andaya. I am the president of the United Filipino Council of Hawaii (UFCH). I submit this testimony to support HB 3398 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 Hawaii'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.

Filipinos in Hawaii want to contribute to the successful progress of social and global prosperity and peace in the 21st century. Please help us make this possible for all of Hawaii's emerging youth leaders and children.

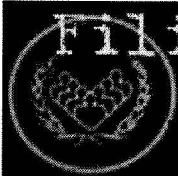
Thank you for the opportunity to present our testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

Bryan P. Andaya, President

*2006-07

**2007-08



Filipino Coalition for Solidarity

A HAWAII RIGHTS ADVOCACY GROUP • FOUNDED IN 1990

c/o 728 Nunu St. • Kailua, HI 96734 • <http://www.philippinesonline.org/thecoalition/>

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 3343

House Committee on International Affairs

Honorable Rida Cabanilla, Chair

Honorable James Kunane Tokioka, Vice-Chair

Honorable House Committee Members of International Affairs

February 4, 2008, 8:35 a.m. | Conference Room 329

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

To: Hon. Rida Cabanilla, Chair; Hon. James Kunane Tokioka, Vice-Chair;
Hon. House Committee Members of International Affairs

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

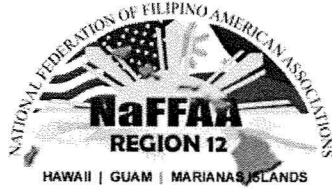
My name is Charlene Cuaresma. As president of the Filipino Coalition for Solidarity, I am submitting testimony in strong support of HB 3343. Since its inception in 1990, the Coalition has represented more than 50 Filipino community leaders whose aim is to work for social justice issues to empower Filipinos 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 Coalition has passed resolutions to address disparities affecting our State related to health, education, labor issues affecting the hotel and caregiver industries, 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



TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 3343

House Committee on International Affairs

Honorable Rida Cabanilla, Chair

Honorable James Kunane Tokioka, Vice-Chair

Honorable House Committee Members of International Affairs

February 4, 2008, 8:35 a.m. | Conference Room 329

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 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., Vice Chair, NaFFAA Region XII

c/o 728 Nunu Street · Kailua · Hawai‘i 96734 · Phone/Fax: (808) 254-4522 · E-Mail: hnaffaa2006@yahoo.com

Ron Menor, Chair · Amy Agbayani, Vice Chair · Rouel Velasco, Youth & Young Adult Leader

Susan Maglaya, Treasurer · Agnes Malate, Asst. Treasurer · Charlene Cuaresma, Secretary



OAHU FILIPINO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

P.O. Box 17531 • Honolulu • Hawaii 96817

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 3343

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

House Committee on International Affairs

Honorable Rida Cabanilla, Chair

Honorable James Kunane Tokioka, Vice-Chair

Honorable House Committee Members of International Affairs

February 4, 2008, 8:35 a.m. ❖ Conference Room 329

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. Rida Cabanilla, Chair, Hon. James Kunane Tokioka, Vice-Chair; Hon. House Committee Members of International Affairs
From: Franklin Borromeo, President, Oahu Filipino Community Council

Dear Hon. Rida Cabanilla, Hon. James Tokioka, and
Hon. Members of the House Committee on International Affairs:

My name is Franklin Borromeo. I am very proud to provide strong support of HB 3343. 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, Filipino American Heritage Month can counter racism and social injustice with an enrichment of historical facts and universal lessons learned in overcoming adversity. Such are the tools of 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 a worthwhile endeavor.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.
Your support to enact HB 3343 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
Pasuquinos 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
TPCP
Kalihii 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 Urduaneta Club of
Hawaii
United Vintarinians of Hawaii
Vigan Association of Hawaii

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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF
HB3343

RELATING TO FILIPINO AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

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

House Committee on International Affairs
Honorable Rida Cabanilla, Chair
Honorable James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair
Honorable House Committee Members on International Affairs

Ruth Elynia S. Mabanglo, PhD
1133 Waimanu, Apt 2509
Honolulu, HI 96814
Tel: (808) 596-2057

My name is Ruth Elynia S. Mabanglo, professor and coordinator of the UH Filipino and Philippine Literature Program, but my testimony does not represent the official position of the University. I am writing in full support of HB 3343.

The Filipinos and Filipino Americans of Hawaii comprise a significant portion of the State's population. Since 1906 they have become the backbones of the labor capital of Hawaii, not to mention that a great number of them have served and are still serving in the time of war. Designating a month to commemorate their contributions to the socio-economic, historical and cultural welfare to the state will truly help them develop their self-esteem and make them more civic-minded. Also, it will highlight the diversity of Hawaii whilst fostering tolerance, compassion and appreciation of each other.

Thank you for this opportunity to present this testimony. We hope you will support and enact HB3343.