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**LATE
TESTIMONY**

COMMITTEE ON TOURISM & CULTURE

Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
Rep. Joey Manahan, Vice Chair

Monday, February 4, 2008
Conference Room 325

**RE: HB 3381, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR A GRANT TO THE USS
MISSOURI MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION, INC., FOR REPAIRS AND
RESTORATION OF THE BATTLESHIP MISSOURI**

My name is Nathan Pablo and I respectfully submit this testimony in **strong support** of this measure, which would appropriate funds for repairs and restoration of the Battleship USS Missouri.

I am a senior in high school and a Tour Guide aboard the USS Missouri. The battleship is a national treasure and must be preserved. The USS Missouri serves many important roles.

The USS Missouri serves as floating classroom for school groups. To many kids, history is a vague and distant topic, but when they visit and stand aboard this battleship, history suddenly becomes a very real and tangible thing. They can walk around the battleship and in a couple of hours can learn what might take weeks to teach in a classroom. The battleship also plays host to the Encampment Program, which gives people the opportunity to spend the night aboard the USS Missouri and learn about what life was like for battleship sailors. In this fashion the ship is enriching the education and lives of Hawaii's youth.

I also believe that the USS Missouri serves as a very important link between the United States and the visitors from Japan. Many Japanese groups come to this battleship to see where World War II came to an end, and I think this is an extremely important function as both a common link and cultural healing between the U.S. and Japan. As well as a profound symbol of American military power, the USS Missouri also is a symbol of peace and America's role in maintaining world peace and order.

The other fact I'd like to address is this. A building, when it falls into disrepair, can be torn down and a new one built in its place. When a car begins faltering it can be replaced with a duplicate. There is only one USS Missouri, only one battleship where the worst war in history came to an end. We must not allow this important icon of our nation's sacrifice and our nation's to history to fall into disrepair, because once the USS Missouri is gone, this battleship is gone forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **support** of HB 3381.



HAWAII TEAMSTERS AND ALLIED WORKERS, LOCAL 996

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Representative Joey Manahan, Vice-Chair
Committee on Tourism and Culture

Glenn Ida
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295-1280

Feb. 4, 2008, 9am, room 325

Re: Support HB3381, Making an Appropriation for a Grant to the USS Missouri Memorial Association, Inc., for Repairs and Restoration of the Battleship Missouri.

The Hawaii Teamsters Local 996 negotiates and enforces over 50 contracts serving 6000 members in various industries in Hawaii and Guam. Many of our members are veterans who have served in every war since WWII. There are members who are on active duty right now serving the Armed Forces Half way around the World.

I believe we need to do everything we can to preserve the USS Missouri not only as a memorial to all of those who served in WWII but as a PART of our History and an inspiration to future generations.

While visiting my Dad one day, we drove from his home on Makini St. to the top of Kilauea St. near Kapiolani Community College to watch the Missouri being towed to Pearl Harbor. He was a WWII veteran, Italy, 1945. I'm a Vietnam Veteran, US Navy, 1968- 1974.

The Hawaii Teamsters Local 996, Supports HB3381.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**LATE
TESTIMONY**