

**TESTIMONY OF**

Daniel Paul de Gracia, II  
Concerned Citizen

(Offering Comments Only)

**BEFORE THE**

House Committee on International Affairs  
Chair, Rida Cabanilla-Arakawa  
Vice Chair, Karen Awana

**IN CONSIDERATION OF THE MEASURE**

HR154 "URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO AMEND THE DEFINITION OF  
"AMERASIANS" IN THE AMERASIAN IMMIGRATION ACT OF 1982."

Monday, March 17, 2008

Conference Room 329, 9:30 am

*Single copy transmitted electronically to INTtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov*

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**Chair Cabanilla, Vice Chair Awana, Honorable Members of the Committee:**

The purpose of these measures is to request the United States Congress to expand the scope of the definition of the word "Amerasian" to include Filipino nationals born between the years of 1950 and 1982 whose father was a citizen of the United States of America.

I defer to the U.S. Attorney General and Department of Homeland Security on this matter, however I would like to enter some comments into the record regarding the topic of Amerasians.

I first learned of Amerasians in 1988 when I was eight years old by way of the highly emotional Chuck Norris film "Braddock: Missing In Action III" which touched upon the topic of the thousands of Amerasians left behind after the Fall of Saigon. The film concluded with a highly emotional and extremely patriotic scene in which a flood of Amerasian children ran across a border into the arms of U.S. Army soldiers as a patriotic song plays with the lyrics, "When I look into your eyes what do I see? I can see the love of freedom shining in your eyes" projecting the impression that America is always willing to welcome those who yearn for freedom, especially those of American descent.

The popular play "Miss Saigon" also brought to contemporary attention the fate of Amerasian children (referred to therein as "Bui Doi" or "the dust of life") and the effect that it had on both the children and the mothers left behind by their American fathers.

It is extremely tragic that across the history of mankind, even as far back as the Crusades and even further, whenever and wherever

there have been major wars, there have always been children conceived in the conflict who have been left behind. The topic of Amerasians as it relates to amending U.S. public policy is certainly one that merits further consideration.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments.