

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HCR19 & HR19**

I support HCR19 & HR19, URGING CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO ENACT LEGISLATION TO EXEMPT CHILDREN OF FILIPINO WORLD WAR II VETERANS FROM IMMIGRANT VISA LIMITS.

Many of our Filipino Veterans are in their 80's and 90's and I am concerned that their dependents will not be able ever see their parents who defended our Country during WWII.

I humbly ask that you pass these resolutions.

Alice Nakama  
Resident of Hawaii

**LATE**  
Testimony

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HCR19 & HR19**

I support HCR19 & HR19, PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF JUNE 2008 AS FILIPINO VETERANS APPRECIATION MONTH, as these resolutions recognize the Filipino Veterans who defended our Country during World War II.

After the attack on Pearl Harbor, over 200,000 Filipino Soldiers were called to serve for the U.S. Military.

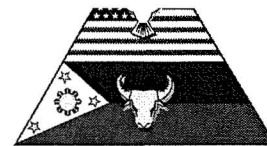
Our Filipino soldiers and scouts helped turn the war in favor of the United States and together with U.S. Forces protected our military striking ability in the Pacific during World War II.

The people of Hawaii would love to honor our outstanding Filipino Veterans, many of whom are in their 80's or 90's.

I ask that you pass these resolutions to recognize and honor a part of U.S. Military History, our Filipino Veterans.

Josephine Besario  
Resident of Hawaii

**ATE**  
Testimony



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HCR19/HR19  
THE FILIPINO VETERANS FAMILY REUNIFICATION ACT.  
PSM - March 20, 2008 - 9:00 a.m. CR 309

LATE TESTIMONY

To: **Rep. Cindy Evans, Chair & Rep. Sharon Har, Vice Chair and members of PSM**

Chair Evans and VC Har and distinguished members of the PSM committee. My name is Ernesto Tesoro-VP & Art Caleda, President of the W.W.II Fil-Am Veterans, Hawaii Chapter with almost one thousand five hundred veterans including veterans on the outer islands.

On behalf of all the Filipino Veterans of WWII, I wish to testify in support of **HCR19/HR19** urging the United States congress to support the passage of the SB introduced by U.S. Senator Daniel Inouye, etc. and HR introduced by U. S. Representative Mazie Hirono and co-sponsored by Representatives Neil Abercrombie and Bob Filner, etc. Both measures are called THE FILIPINO VETERANS FAMILY REUNIFICATION ACT OF 2008 related to expediting visa approvals for the sons and daughters of certain Filipino veterans of World War II seeking justice and fairness for WWII Filipino Veterans. The Immigration Act of 1990 provided for U.S. citizenship to each veteran but excluded the veterans' dependants, unfairly requiring that each veteran submit an immigrant petition with supporting affidavits requesting that the veterans' dependents be permitted to live with the veteran.

We respectfully request the support of this distinguished body to help correct and rectify the injustice to WWII Filipino Veterans who fought and died shoulder-to-shoulder with their other American counterparts denying them their just veteran benefits and rights.

After all, U.S. President William Clinton proclaimed several years ago that what mistakes made by the U.S. in regards to the WWII Filipino Veterans must be corrected by America. Here is a chance for our beloved state to show support and gratitude for the sacrifices made by our very own WWII Filipino Veterans who risked their lives and liberty to keep and preserve democracy and our American way of life.

On October 20, 1996, former President William Clinton and on July 26, 2001, President George W. Bush issued their respective presidential proclamations recognizing and honoring the vital role of the WWII Filipino Veterans in fighting side by side with their American counterparts to turn back the attacking enemy thus defending liberty and preserving democracy and U.S. freedom and way of life.

We wish to see the restoration and recognition of our military World War II service, since we fought side by side with our American comrades in arms in the Philippines, and would be eligible to receive benefits and rights provided by the United States Congress through the U.S. Veterans Administration.

These benefits are the same provided to the 116,000 Allied Soldiers from 66 Allied countries who were like the Filipino soldiers drafted and inducted under the same set of rules and who participated in the war efforts to help win the war. How can we recognize and supported some of the WWII Filipino veterans who were active participants of the war, when we do not recognized and supported two third of the 200,000 Filipino soldiers that compose 70% of General Mac Arthur strong joint Armed Forces. The one-third strength that were killed, disabled or maimed were recognized and supported and were given by the US Veterans Administration.

In short it took a Filipino veteran to be disabled, maimed or killed before his service were recognized and be entitled to the benefits under the GI bill for rights and other benefits provided by the U.S. Veterans Administration. Those veterans who survived the Holocaust of war and continued the "fight" with limbs intact are considered not to have rendered service in the U.S. armed force for purposed of any U.S. law granting veterans' rights and privileges. This is the reason why we appeal again before this august committee to please review the disparity, the injustice, and restore the long overdue deserving benefits of the brave young soldiers, 61 years ago. Time is no longer on our side as many of us passed away. We hope and pray that the passing of this resolution will assist in rectifying this grave injustice. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support.