



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
Annac ti Kailokuan iti
America
Annac 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
Iocos Nortenians 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 HCR 19 House Committee on International Affairs

February 25, 2008, 8:30 a.m. | Conference Room 329

Report Title:

Filipino World War II Veterans; Family Reunification

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

From: Franklin Borromeo, President
Oahu Filipino Community Council

My name is Franklin Borromeo, President of the Oahu Filipino Community Council (OFCC). OFCC is composed of 62 member organizations on Oahu. Our Council's mission is to improve the quality of life for Hawaii's Filipinos, in order for our communities to make positive contributions to the State of Hawaii, where we are grateful to have had the privilege to live, work, prosper, and raise our families over the last one hundred years.

The Oahu Filipino Community Council strongly supports this bill. Many Filipino World War II veterans and their family are longtime members of the OFCC, which passed a resolution to advocate for Filipino World War II veterans equity at our statewide annual convention in June 2006.

This legislation is crucial for our aging Filipino WWII veterans to be reunited with family members, especially when they need assistance with long-term care or end of life issues. OFCC appreciates your consideration of the legal and historical injustices that this legislation rectifies. Please support this bill.

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
Pasquinios 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 Bacarreneos 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 President: **Carlotta Ader** Secretary: **Jean Jeremiah** | Assistant Secretary: **Veronica Esteban** | Treasurer: **Faye Cudal** | Assistant Treasurer: **Dolly Ortal** | Auditor: **Mario Palma** | Board of Directors: • **Aurea Agas** • **Filemon Castillo** • **Maria Etrata** • **Louie Funtanilla** • **Jake Manegdeg** • **Estrella Pada-Taong** • **Danny Villaruz** • **Amado Yoro** | Legal Counsel: **Alfredo Evangelista**

Filipino American Citizens League

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

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HCR 19

House Committee on International Affairs
February 25, 2008, 8:30 a.m.
Conference Room 329

Measure Title: URGING THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO ENACT
LEGISLATION TO EXEMPT CHILDREN OF FILIPINO WORLD WAR II VETERANS FROM
IMMIGRANT VISA LIMITS.

Report Title: Filipino World War II Veterans; Family Reunification

To:

Honorable Rida Cabanilla, Chair

Honorable James Kunane Tokioka, Vice-Chair

Honorable Members of the House Committee on International Affairs

From:

Jake Manegdeg, 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.

Justice is overdue for our Filipino World War II veterans and their children. We urge our state and national leaders to consider exempting the veterans' children from immigration visa limits. Please help us restore their human dignity with the passage of this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Very Sincerely,

Jake Manegdeg, President

Filipino American Citizens League



TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HCR 19

House Committee on International Affairs

February 25, 2008, 8:30 a.m. | Conference Room 329

Measure Title:

URGING THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO ENACT LEGISLATION TO EXEMPT CHILDREN OF FILIPINO WORLD WAR II VETERANS FROM IMMIGRANT VISA LIMITS.

Report Title:

Filipino World War II Veterans; Family Reunification

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

From: Amy Agbayani, Assistant Vice Chair, NaFFAA Region 12
 3432 B1 Kalihi St., Honolulu, HI 96819

My name is Amy Agbayani. I serve as Vice Chair of the National Federation of Filipino American Associations Region 12, which represents the interests of Filipinos in Hawai'i, Guam, and the Commonwealth of Northern Marianas Islands. NaFFAA Region 12 is an affiliate of the National NaFFAA, which is recognized by Washington policy-makers, private industry and national advocacy groups 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.

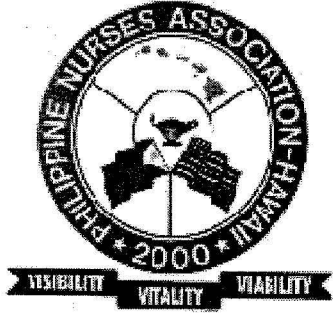
NaFFAA strongly supports this measure to exempt children of Filipino World War II veterans from immigrant visa limits. Filipino WWII veterans' benefits were unjustly rescinded by Congress in 1946. Family reunification without visa limits is the just thing to do. We thank you for hearing this very

important bill, and respectfully request your support of social justice and dignity due to our veterans and their families.



Sincerely,

Amy Agbayani, Ph.D., Assistant Vice Chair
NaFFAA Region 12



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 HCR 19

House Committee on International Affairs
February 25, 2008, 8:30 a.m.
Conference Room 329

Measure Title: URGING THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO ENACT LEGISLATION TO EXEMPT CHILDREN OF FILIPINO WORLD WAR II VETERANS FROM IMMIGRANT VISA LIMITS.

Report Title: Filipino World War II Veterans; Family Reunification

To: Honorable Rida Cabanilla, Chair
Honorable James Kunane Tokioka, Vice-Chair
Honorable Members of the House Committee on International Affairs

My name is Tessie Oculito. I am speaking as president of the Philippine Nurses Association-Hawaii, which has a membership of over 70 registered nurses. 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.

We strongly support this bill, which would enable our elderly Filipino WWII veterans to be reunited with their children. We believe that there should be an exemption to any visa limits. As nurses, we see the importance of family support needed to care for their aging parents.

Thank you for considering the social justice issues that need to be corrected for our veterans, who served this country. We are outraged that our aged Filipino World War II veterans are now dying at a rapid rate; some with no next of kin in Hawai'i. Please vote yes. Thank you for hearing this proposal and for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Tessie Oculito, RN

President, Philippine Nurses Association – Hawaii



CONGRESS OF VISAYAN ORGANIZATIONS

Testimony in Support of HCR 19

To: House Committee on International Affairs
Honorable Rida Cabanilla, Chair
Honorable James Kunane Tokioka, Vice-Chair
Honorable Members of the House Committee on
International Affairs

From: Margarita Hopkins
President, Congress of Visayan Organizations

Date: February 25, 2008, 8:30 a.m.
Place: Hawai'i State Capitol House Conference Room 329
Subject: Testimony in Support of HCR 19
Filipino World War II Veterans; Family Reunification

My name is Margarita Hopkins, President of the Congress of Visayan Organizations, which is a statewide umbrella organization that represents 22 unit organizations of Visayan ancestry.

Honorable Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the Senate Intergovernmental and Military Affairs Committee, I testify in strong support of this proposed legislation for family reunification between Filipino WWII Veterans and their children, with an exemption for visa limits.

With due diligence and bravery, our Filipino WWII veterans put themselves in harm's way to protect Americans, yet they are the only U.S. WWII allied troops to have their veterans benefits and rights rescinded by Congress in 1946. Please support this social justice issue by supporting this family reunification measure. It is our duty to advocate for the veterans, as they age, become more vulnerable, and are in dire need of family support.

Thank you for hearing this important bill, and for this opportunity to testify. We appreciate your consideration to vote yes.

For the President:

Serafin Colmenares Jr.
Executive Vice President



TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HCR 19

House Committee on International Affairs

February 25, 2008, 8:30 a.m. | Conference Room 329

Measure Title:

URGING THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO ENACT LEGISLATION TO EXEMPT CHILDREN OF FILIPINO WORLD WAR II VETERANS FROM IMMIGRANT VISA LIMITS.

Report Title:

Filipino World War II Veterans; Family Reunification

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

From: Charlene Cuaresma, President, Filipino Coalition for Solidarity

My name is Charlene Cuaresma. As president of the Filipino Coalition for Solidarity, I am submitting urgent testimony in strong support of this bill. 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.

A resolution was passed at the Coalition's General Assembly in September 2005 to advocate for full equity for Filipino WWII Veterans benefits. It is imperative that our aging Filipino WWII Veterans be reunited with their family members, and to exempt visa limits.

Your help to pass this bill would go a long way to bring judicial closure and dignity to our Filipino WWII Veterans who have been stripped of the rights and privileges afforded to all other allied troops who had fought on behalf of the United States in World War II. Thank you for this opportunity to speak on behalf of our Filipino WWII veterans. Please support this bill.

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

*Bea Ramos-Razon, RN,
FACDONA
President*

*Tessie Oculito, RN
Vice President*

*D Jun Obaldo, RN, BSN
Corresponding Secretary*

*Au Curameng, RN, CM
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Erinda Ferrer, RN, BSN*

Estrella Guevarra, RN

Delmar Magno, RN, C

Edel Matias, RN, CM

Brenda Monegas, RN

Gail Pantaleon, RN

Oscar Querido, RN

Violeta Sadural, RN, BSN

Tina Salvador, RN, BSN, CNN

Linnette Takenaka, RN, DON

Testimony in Strong Support of HCR 19

Relating to Filipino World War II Veterans; Family Reunification

House Committee on International Affairs

February 25, 2008, 8:30 a.m.

Conference Room 329

To: Honorable Rida Cabanilla, Chair
Honorable James Kunane Tokioka, Vice-Chair
Honorable Members of the House Committee on
International Affairs

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

My name is Beatrice Ramos Razon. I am speaking 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 Hawaii's nurses board exams.

NAMI is in full support of this bill and all of its provisions to assist eligible Filipino WWII veterans with family reunification of children. There should also be an exemption for visa limits. Filipino WWII veterans have endured and survived compounding life hardships, in addition to having their veterans' benefits rescinded by the U.S. Congress in 1946. As experienced gerontology practitioners and skilled nursing administrators, NAMI nurses are keenly aware of the predicament faced by some of our Filipino WWII veterans, who have little or no family networks to support them with long term healthcare needs.

We are grateful that your committee is hearing this bill, and respectfully ask for your support to enact it.

Sincerely,

Beatrice Ramos Razon, RN, FACDA
President, Nursing Advocates and Mentors, Inc.



UNITED FILIPINO COUNCIL OF HAWAII

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

Unit Organizations

Alliance of Residential
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Aloha Saguibsib Cultural
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Annac ti Bado iti Hawaii
Annac ti Batac
Annac ti Caoayan 2002
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America
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TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HCR 19 House Committee on International Affairs

February 25, 2008, 8:30 a.m. | Conference Room 329

Report Title: Filipino World War II Veterans; Family Reunification

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

My name is Bryan Andaya. I serve as president of the United Filipino Council of Hawaii and work as an attorney, specializing in labor law. Founded in 1959 to help Filipinos in Hawaii play a larger role in the State of Hawaii, the mission of the Council is to promote a sense of unity, friendship, camaraderie and mutual assistance among Filipinos in Hawaii while promoting and perpetuating the Filipino heritage and culture. Today, the Council consists of six Island Councils with jurisdiction over 100+ Filipino organizations and a combined membership of about 10,000 from every major island in the State.

The Council strongly supports this proposed legislation, which is in keeping with the passage of a resolution at our statewide annual convention in July 2006 to support local and national initiatives to restore parity and equity for Filipino WWII veterans' benefits that were rescinded by the U.S. government in 1946. Family reunification with an exemption for immigrant visa limits for their children, is vital to the care of our aging veterans. The surviving Filipino veterans deserve no less for their loyalty and service to the U.S. government and America's diverse people. Thank you very much for hearing this bill and for helping to restore social justice with its enactment. We appreciate the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

Bryan P. Andaya, Esq., President, United Filipino Council of Hawai'i