

# Filipino American Citizens League

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

## TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HCR 22

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

Measure Title:

PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF JUNE 2008 AS FILIPINO VETERANS APPRECIATION  
MONTH.

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

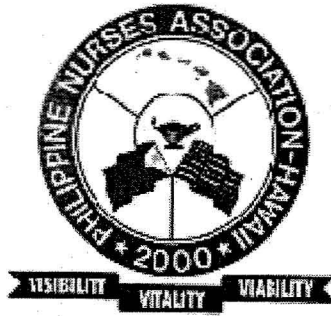
My name is Jake Manegdeg. As president of the Filipino American Citizens League, I am proud to submit our full support of this bill. The Filipino American Citizens League was formed over ten years ago to contribute to the advancement of civil rights and social justice for minority groups, underserved populations, and vulnerable communities through education, advocacy, and social action.

June as Filipino Veterans Appreciation Month will bring justice to our Filipino World War II veterans. 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



Tessie Oculito, RN, President  
Philippine Nurses Association-Hawaii  
92-1269 Umana St. | Kapolei, HI 96707  
E-Mail: [toculto@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:toculto@hawaii.rr.com) | Phone: (808) 457-1066

## TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HCR 22

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

Measure Title:  
PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF JUNE 2008 AS FILIPINO VETERANS APPRECIATION MONTH.

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 honored and recognized in education initiatives that will benefit everyone. Many nurses have ties to the veterans and to the military.

Thank you for hearing this proposal and for this opportunity to testify. Please vote yes.

Sincerely,

Tessie Oculito, RN  
President, Philippine Nurses Association - Hawaii



# *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](mailto:namihonolulu@yahoo.com)

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## **Testimony in Strong Support of HCR 22**

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.)

**Subject:** PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF JUNE 2008 AS  
FILIPINO VETERANS APPRECIATION MONTH

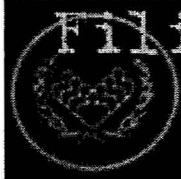
My name is Beatrice Ramos Razon. I am speaking as the founder and president of NAMI (Nursing, Advocates & Mentors, Inc.). NAMI's membership is comprised of over 75 nurses, allied health care professionals, and Filipino leaders, who are dedicated to improve the health of Hawaii's people by addressing 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 designate June as the Filipino WWII Veterans Appreciation Month. They have loyally served the American people, yet have endured and survived compounding life hardships, in addition to having their veterans' benefits rescinded by the U.S. Congress in 1946. This resolution helps to bring justice to their service.

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.



# Filipino Coalition for Solidarity

A HAWAII RIGHTS ADVOCACY GROUP • FOUNDED IN 1990

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

## **TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HCR 22**

House Committee on International Affairs

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

Measure Title:

PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF JUNE 2008 AS FILIPINO VETERANS APPRECIATION MONTH

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 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.

Instituting June as Filipino Veterans Appreciation Month, is aligned with the spirit of a resolution passed at the Coalition's General Assembly in September 2005 to advocate for full equity for Filipino WWII Veterans. It is imperative that society be informed with historical facts and lessons of social justice for Filipino veterans.

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



# UNITED FILIPINO COUNCIL OF HAWAII

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

## 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 Norteenians 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 22 House Committee on International Affairs

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

Measure Title:  
**PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF JUNE 2008 AS FILIPINO VETERANS  
APPRECIATION MONTH.**

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

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

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. Filipino Veterans Month in June will raise public awareness and support.

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 Hawaii



# CONGRESS OF VISAYAN ORGANIZATIONS

## Testimony in Support of HCR 22

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 22  
PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF JUNE 2008 AS FILIPINO VETERANS  
APPRECIATION MONTH.

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.

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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 enacting this measure to proclaim June as Filipino Veterans Appreciation Month. It is our duty to advocate for the veterans, as they age, become more vulnerable, and are in dire need of family support. Lessons learned from righting a wrong is important for all global citizens to understand.

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



# **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  
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

## **TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HCR 22** House Committee on International Affairs

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

Report Title:

**PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF JUNE 2008 AS  
FILIPINO VETERANS APPRECIATION MONTH.**

To: Hon. Rida Cabanilla, Chair; Hon. James Kunane  
Tokioaka, 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 to designate June as Filipino Veterans  
Appreciation Month. 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 bill will educate people across the generations  
about historical contributions and lessons of social justice.  
Please support this bill.

Sincerely,

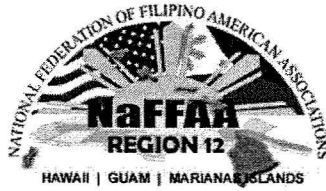
Franklin Borromeo, President  
Oahu Filipino Community Council

## Unit Organizations

Magsingal Association of  
Hawaii  
Narvacan/San Antonio Club of  
Hawaii  
Nueva Vizcaya Association of  
Hawaii  
Pasuquinios 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  
TCP  
Kalihi 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** | 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: **Cirvalina Longboy** | 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice  
President: **Carlotta Ader** Secretary: **Jean Jeremiah** | Assistant Secretary: **Veronica Esteban** | Treasurer: **Faye Cudal** | Assistant  
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## TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HCR 22

House Committee on International Affairs

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

Measure Title:

PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF JUNE 2008 AS FILIPINO VETERANS APPRECIATION MONTH. Report Title:

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 proclaim June as Filipino Veterans Appreciation Month. We thank you for hearing this very important bill, and respectfully request your support of social justice and dignity due to our Filipino veterans and their families.

Sincerely,

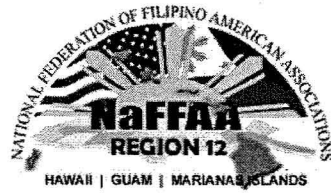
Amy Agbayani, Ph.D., Assistant Vice Chair

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c/o 728 Nunu Street · Kailua · Hawai'i 96734 · Phone/Fax: (808) 254-4522 · E-Mail: [hnaffaa2006@yahoo.com](mailto:hnaffaa2006@yahoo.com)  
Ron Menor, Chair · Mike Dahilig, Vice Chair; Amy Agbayani, Assistant Vice Chair · Rouel Velasco, Youth & Young Adult Leader; Susan Maglaya, Treasurer · Agnes Malate, Asst. Treasurer · Charlene Cuaresma, Secretary



NaFFAA Region 12



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c/o 728 Nunu Street · Kailua · Hawai'i 96734 · Phone/Fax: (808) 254-4522 · E-Mail: [hnaffaa2006@yahoo.com](mailto:hnaffaa2006@yahoo.com)  
Ron Menor, Chair · Mike Dahilig, Vice Chair; Amy Agbayani, Assistant Vice Chair · Rouel Velasco, Youth &  
Young Adult Leader; Susan Maglaya, Treasurer · Agnes Malate, Asst. Treasurer · Charlene Cuaresma, Secretary

Testimony submitted by email to [INTtestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:INTtestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov)

## **Transmittal cover**

- Testifier's name with position/title and organization:  
Mark S. Moses  
Director - State of Hawaii, Department of Defense- Office of Veterans Services
- The comments are directed to:  
Committee on International Affairs
- The date and time of the hearing:  
Monday, February 25, 2008 8:30 am
- Measure number:

HCR 22, HR 22, HCR 44, HR 44

**PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF JUNE 2008 AS FILIPINO VETERANS  
APPRECIATION MONTH.**

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HCR 22, HR 22, HCR 44, HR 44

PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF JUNE 2008 AS FILIPINO VETERANS  
APPRECIATION MONTH.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

FEBRUARY 25, 2008

BY

OFFICE OF VETERANS SERVICES

Chair Cabanilla, Vice-Chair Awana and members of the Committee, I am Mark Moses, Director of the Office of Veterans Services (OVS), and regret I cannot appear in person at this hearing. The Office supports the over-all concept of HCR 22, HR 22, HCR 44, HR 44 provided that passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our Executive Supplemental Budget Request.

The bravery, dedication, and sacrifices of the Filipino World War II soldiers called to service to help defend their homeland in the face of invading Imperial Japanese Forces is well documented.

Proclaiming an appreciation month in honor of these brave veterans is fitting and well deserved.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.