

LAW OFFICE OF
JAMES H. HANCOCK

HCR39, HD1 & HR39, HD1.
Conference Room 325 2:00 p.m.
April 1, 2008

Testimony of Invisible Children Hawaii Club
Honolulu, Hawaii

Invisible Children Hawaii (ICH) is a group of college students from Hawaii Pacific University dedicated to relieving the suffering of children both in Hawai'i and around the world. Created in the Spring of 2007, ICH's committed members began by organizing a sleepover on State Capitol grounds to show support for the child soldiers of Uganda. Over 200 supporters braved the rain to join the event and 100 spent the night. Since then, ICH has continued its work by educating hundreds of students about the tragedies occurring in Northern Uganda, and raising over \$4000 for Atanga Secondary School for the education of children living in displacement camps. For this semester, Spring 2008, ICH held another sleepover at the State Capitol and was joined by Representatives John Mizuno, Karen Awana, and Tom Brower. A keynote speech was given by Representative Gene Ward. We were especially proud to educate local high school students from the Honolulu Community Action Program (HCAP) about the cause. We worked with other Hawai'i Pacific University clubs, University of Hawaii Social Work students and Argosy University psychology students and also sponsored three runners in the Honolulu Marathon. ICH continues to address social injustice regarding children both in Hawai'i and abroad, and is confident that a few college students can, in fact, make a difference.

The purpose of the resolution "CONDEMNING THE HUMAN RIGHTS ATROCITIES AND VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN IN NORTHERN UGANDA AND URGING CONGRESS TO LEAD THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IN EFFORTS TO PROTECT CHILDREN OF UGANDA" is to voice Hawaii's opposition to the humanitarian crisis presently occurring in Northern Uganda by urging Congress to lead the international community in efforts to protect the children of Uganda.

The citizens of Northern Uganda have faced atrocities for more than twenty years due to the armed conflict between the Government of Uganda and the Lord's Resistance Army, an armed rebel trying to topple the Ugandan government. The United Nations Humanitarian Assistant Chief Jan Egeland has described the guerilla war in northern Uganda as "the world's greatest neglected humanitarian crisis."

Of the 300,000 child soldiers in the world today, 30,000 of these are in Uganda and they make up 80% of the Lord's Resistance Army. Statistics show that 77% of child abductees have seen someone murdered, 39% have been forced to kill someone with their own hands, and 35% of female soldiers have been sexually abused. Most other children have also been beaten brutally and forced to burn down towns and houses and abduct other children.

Currently an estimated 1.7 million people still remain internally displaced in northern Uganda as a result of the conflict between the government and the Lord's Resistance Army. The effects of the war are seen most prevalently in the lives of the children of Northern Uganda. These children face issues of malnutrition, lack of food and water supplies, and other physiological as well as psychological problems from living and fighting in such a long-lasting conflict.

H.C.R 39 and H.R 39

"I support the passage of H.C.R 39 and H.R. 39, and testify that I am against the human rights atrocities and violence presently occurring in Northern Uganda, by urging Congress to lead the international community in efforts to protect the children of Uganda."

Signed:

1. Aya Sato *Ayasato*
2. Sara Ortiz *Sara Ortiz*
3. Chelsea Travis
4. Lacy Greninger *Lacy Greninger*
5. Paul Tran *Paul Tran*
6. Duda Breseeg *Duda Breseeg*
7. Beth L. Conner
Beth L. Conner
8. Margo R. Bare / Margo R. Bare
9. Lorraine C. Marais (Lorraine C. Marais)
10. ~~Vivian A. Fukushima~~
11. ~~Chason A. P.~~
12. Dianne Beech
13. Rachel Pope
14. David Woy
15. Saleh Azizi
16. Andrea Paul
17. Jimm Turner
18. ~~Hilary~~
19. ~~Ed~~
20. ~~Michelle~~
21. *Zzi*
22. Anne Grande
23. Alicia Sanchez
24. ~~Kristin~~
25. ~~Lucy~~
26. Abigail Barbour
27. Nicholas Capodinis
28. ~~Shanice Judge~~
- 29.
30. Hayley A. McDermott
31. Turki Albeqami
32. Delia A. Powers
33. Rebecca Mahak
34. ~~Michelle~~
35. ~~Cady~~
36. Ryan Kleiser
37. Mikaela Magnusson
38. Minji Sim
39. Dan ~~W~~
40. ~~K~~
41. Yusef Selim / ~~OR=50~~
42. ~~Wive Manta~~
43. ~~Marianne F. Roe~~
44. ~~Yphg~~
45. Lauren Taylor
46. ~~Becky~~
47. ~~Lynette~~

50. Sally Johnson
51. Joe Pulo
52. Ashleigh Costanza
53. ILJA KOREN
54. Scott Lopez
55. Jennifer Holceker
56. JOHNE Caballero
57. Paciencia Caballero
58. B.A. Grauer
59. ~~Ursula Yamazaki~~
60. Yoshiyuki Fukagawa
61. Bryce Ishikawa
62. Siou-Ming Mai
63. Ryo One
64. Fumiko Sekiguchi
65. Sigismund
66. Takahiro Sasaki
67. Kojin Iguchi
68. Lowen Yoshimura
69. SUSAN LEMIE
70. Vener John Globong Bartolome
71. Russell Alfonso
72. Carlee Johnson
73. ROMELYN M. ROMERO
74. Sean Nagao
75. Lou Nakayama

76. Manene Lopes.