

Filipino American Citizens League

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

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HCR 44

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:

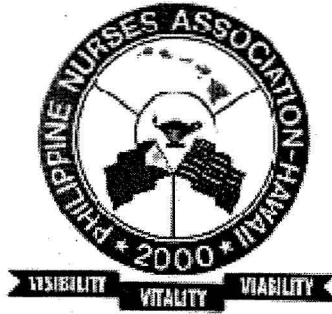
Jake Manegdeg, President, Filipino American Citizens League

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 | Phone: (808) 457-1066

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



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 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 HCR44 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
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 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
Pasuquinos 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
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 Bacarreños 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 Yoroi | Legal Counsel: Alfredo Evangelista



TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HCR44

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

c/o 728 Nunu Street · Kailua · Hawai'i 96734 · Phone/Fax: (808) 254-4522 · E-Mail: 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



c/o 728 Nunu Street · Kailua · Hawai'i 96734 · Phone/Fax: (808) 254-4522 · E-Mail: 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



UNITED FILIPINO COUNCIL OF HAWAII

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

Unit Organizations

Alliance of Residential
Carehome Administrators
Aloha Saguibis 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
Caviticians 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 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 44 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



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

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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 44

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

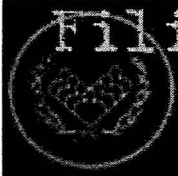
My name is Beatrice Ramos Razon. I am speaking as the founder and president of NAMI (Nursing, Advocates & Mentors, Inc.). NAMI's membership is comprised of over 75 nurses, allied health care professionals, and Filipino leaders, who are dedicated to improve the health of Hawaii's people by addressing the global issues of a worldwide nursing shortage through the training and mentoring of foreign medical graduate nurses to pass Hawai'i'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 44

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



CONGRESS OF VISAYAN ORGANIZATIONS

Testimony in Support of HCR 44

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.

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

Testimony submitted by email to 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.