

~~xxxxxx@xxxxxx~~

From: Lance Holter [holter@maui.net]
Sent: Saturday, March 21, 2009 4:04 PM
To: HUS testimony
Subject: Peace corps

Importance: High

March 21, 2009
Rep. John Mizuno,
Human Services Committee

My name is Lance Holter, I am a returned Peace Corps volunteer, Tunisia, North Africa 1971-72. We built water wells in the Sahara Desert. I learned to speak Arabic and participated in renovating 132 water wells. I believe the best money spent for world understanding and world peace would be to expand the Peace Corps. When I left North Africa after the project 250,000 Muslims loved America, believed in America and supported America's mission because we performed actions that spoke a thousand words towards peace and understanding. Please expand the Peace Corps !

Lance Holter
Chairman, Maui Democratic Party
PO Box 790656
Paia, Hi 96779

Tele 808-579-9442

From: Kimberly Biggs [kbiggs@cp-homeloans.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 21, 2009 5:12 PM
To: HUS testimony
Subject: SUPPORT FOR PEACE CORPS EXPANSION ACT OF 2009.
Attachments: t_1180147185_KimBiggs_small.jp; untitled.jpg; apply_now_small.gif; equal_housing_wht.gif

Dear Rep. John Mizuno, Chair of Human Services Committee,

I am sending this email to you in support of this Bill. I am a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer. I served in Honduras from 1986-1988. I represented my country and humanity. I was able to provide technical support in Poultry Management to 5 communities. The projects were very important for several reasons. The main reason was to provide another food source for sell in these communities. The projects were located in hub areas and supplied the sell of eggs to many people who lived further out in remote areas away from larger markets or cities. The other reasons for the projects was income generation for the women and their families and group/community skill development. I can't stress how important these projects were to the communities served and the families it touched financially. The projects are now finished in 4 for the communities today. In one community I went back and visited they were able to open up several other types of businesses, send their kids on to vocational or the universities, upgraded home with electricity and indoor plumbing and the list goes on. It changed their life style and lives. It enhanced their physical and mental well being. My role as I mentioned was to provide technical assistance. During my visit back I was able to see what we did together was a small part of a bigger picture. When we give people support and tools to learn to make decisions and try new ideas etc.. we give them the freedom to become productive human beings, full of pride and dignity. When we turn our backs we take away what little hope they may have to progress or shine that light of theirs. I can't even begin to describe what it felt like to leave after 2 years and then go back 15 years later and see the results. It has made an impact on my life. Thank you for considering this Bill.

Respectfully,
Kimberly Biggs
President
RPCVHI (Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Hawaii)



Kimberly Biggs
Vice President, HomeLoan Consultant
201 Merchant St., Suite 1700
Honolulu, HI 96813
Mobile: 808.216.3518
Phone: 877.466.3429 ext. 170
Fax: 808.203.2063
Email: kbiggs@cp-homeloans.com

~~POWER JOHN~~

From: RPCVHI Last Name [rpcvhi@yahoo.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 21, 2009 5:41 PM
To: HUS testimony
Subject: SUPPORT FOR PEACE CORPS EXPANSION ACT OF 2009

Rep. John Mizuno,
Chair of Human Services Committee

Dear Rep. Mizuno,

I am writing to you from Honolulu to support the Peace Corps Expansion Act 2009 resolution. The Peace Corps has had a profound impact on my life and US community. I served in the Kingdom of Tonga, 1989-1993.

The Peace Corps is neglected and underfunded. In 2009, we will send fewer than 3,500 volunteers to the Peace Corps - less than half the number in 1966. Over twenty nations without Peace Corps missions including Indonesia, Vietnam, and Sierra Leone have requested new programs, but due to insufficient funds, Peace Corps cannot respond. In 2008 alone, over 13,000 people applied to become volunteers, a 16% increase over 2007. The number of minority applicants and applicants over the age of 50 also rose by double digits in the last year. The desire for Americans to serve internationally is matched by a long list of countries that want volunteers. This is an appropriate time to grow and revitalize Peace Corps.

I hope you share my view that the Peace Corps is a vital component of our public diplomacy toolbox. Since 1961, nearly 200,000 Peace Corps volunteers have provided meaningful, small-scale development assistance, reversing stereotypes about Americans and returning stateside to enrich communities domestically with new language and other skills. Peace Corps continues to be one of America's finest expressions of friendship and solidarity across the globe.

The Obama-Biden Administration is working diligently to reinvigorate our foreign policy and burnish America's image. To do this, we must maximize every element of soft power. Investing in Peace Corps in would help to reestablish our credibility and moral standing abroad, while exposing people to the core American values of peace, progress, tolerance and prosperity. To meet the President's stated goal of 16,000 volunteers in the Peace Corps we must pass the Peace Corps Expansion Act 2009.

Sincerely,

Dr. Michael B. Thomas
Kingdom of Tonga, 1989-1993
2295 Round Top Drive, Honolulu, HI 96822
808 375-6175

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, March 21, 2009 6:05 PM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: nb13lavoie@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HR275 on 3/23/2009 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for HUS 3/23/2009 8:30:00 AM HR275

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Frank Lavoie
Organization: Individual
Address: 1031 Nuuanu Ave Honolulu
Phone: 8085215571
E-mail: nb13lavoie@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 3/21/2009

Comments:

Dear Rep. John Mizuno, Chair of Human Services Committee, I served in the Peace Corps from 1995 -1997 in Armenia. It was a truly amazing experience. I helped the local population learn English and community activism. On the other hand, I learned a lot about myself and America. Most volunteers come home much more appreciative of our homeland. For this and other reasons I support expanding the Peace Corps so more Americans can teach, and learn, oversees.
Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony.

~~STOWELL JONES~~

From: Bruce Corker [corkclan@msn.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 21, 2009 6:20 PM
To: HUS testimony
Subject: FW: Testimony in Support of HCR 303

Hearing of Monday, March 23, 2009
Room 329, 8:30 am

Dear Representative Mizuno and Members of the Committee:

As a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer (Colombia 67-69) I urge you to enact this Resolution in support of the federal Peace Corps Expansion Act of 2009. Rebuilding the Peace Corps and return to the Kennedy ideals that led to the founding of the Peace Corps is important to Americans and to the world community.

Please pass this Resolution.

Bruce Corker
Holualoa
Hawaii County

~~STEWART JONES~~

From: Molly McCarthy [alexandria_96753@yahoo.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 21, 2009 6:06 PM
To: HUS testimony
Subject: Peace Corps

Dear Representative John Mizuno:

I would like you to vote in favor of increasing funding of the Peace Corps. My daughter was in Honduras in the Peace Corps in the 1980's and not only grew from her work there and provided a service, but she gave the Hondurans a good impression of America because of that work. Thank you for supporting our country's quest for peace.

Sincerely,

Molly McCarthy Ed.D.
1934 70th Street
Windsor Heights, IA 50322

From: Sandi Jordan [sjordan@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 21, 2009 8:56 PM
To: HUS testimony
Subject: Approve increase in Peace Corps budget

To Rep. John Mizuno, Chair of Human Services Committee:

I, Sandra Jordan, a former Peace Corps volunteer in 1966-68, support an increase in the Peace Corps budget allowing for more PCV's and expansion of Host Countries.

Please approve the House and Senate Resolution called "SUPPORT FOR PEACE CORPS EXPANSION ACT OF 2009".

Mahalo,

Sandra Jordan

1641 Kalaniiki Street
Honolulu, HI 96821

~~Private Email~~

From: aurora0082@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, March 22, 2009 9:10 AM
To: HUS testimony
Subject: Peace Corps Expansion

Being a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer, and the child of two RPCV's who met and served together in Africa, I am living testimony of the immense positive impact the Peace Corps has upon the world. Being as it focuses on sustainable capacity building by encouraging volunteers to learn about the culture they are serving, it is far more effective than many other development organizations/efforts that use the "hand-out" method of giving financial aid or providing services to those less educated/fortunate. This is because we use the skills we have to train host country nationals to help themselves. The most genius idea, yet the Peace Corps has such a tiny percentage of the national budget. Why???

Rhiannon Carrasco
RPCV Fiji 2006-2008

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~~POWER2 Demo~~

From: christine mcelroy [yunirhi@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 22, 2009 10:07 AM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: Rhiannon Carrasco
Subject: Increased budget for Peace Corps
Attachments: stat420.jpg

As an RPCV (Ethiopia 1972-74 where I met my children's father and many other wonderful people) with an RPCV daughter (Fiji 2006-08), I certainly more than support the expansion of Peace Corps throughout the world. I was allowed into Somalia in 1978 following the deposing of the Ethiopian Emperor and the exchange of Ethiopia and Somalia by the US and Russia during the Cold War. We were welcomed with happy arms by our Somali translators who had had PC English teachers more than 10 years before the countries were divided up. That is the quiet power of Peace Corps throughout the world. Quite different from our military presence. Please continue to expand as much and as far as you can.

Thank you
Christine McElroy
Brookings, OR

~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~

From: Larry Biggs [larrybiggs001@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 22, 2009 2:10 PM
To: HUS testimony
Subject: support for Peace Corps

Aloha,

Please give more support to The Peace Corps by using tax dollars!

Mahalo,

Larry Biggs