

LATE TESTIMONY

TESTIMONY OF ROBERT TOYOFUKU ON BEHALF OF THE HAWAII ASSOCIATION FOR JUSTICE (HAJ) IN SUPPORT OF H.C.R. NO. 42

April 16, 2009

To: Chairmen Will Espero and David Ige and Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs and the Senate Committee on Health:

My name is Bob Toyofuku and I am testifying on behalf of the Hawaii Association for Justice (HAJ) in support of the intent of H.C. R. No. 42.

In our research over the past few years regarding the issues raised about health care in the rural areas of our state, health care providers have stated to us that there needs to be a system where seriously injured or sick persons be evacuated to a trauma center as soon as possible from these rural areas and that the use of helicopters or other available aircraft is the best (only) way to do this.

Although the State DOD states in its earlier testimony that it does not have surplus helicopters, HAJ feels that some arrangement should be worked out so that the DOD does provide such emergency service in the time of need.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this resolution.

To: The Honorable Will Espero, PSM Chair
The Honorable Robert Bunda, PSM Vice-Chair
The Honorable David Ige, HTH Chair
The Honorable Josh Green, MD HTH Vice-Chair

From: Charlayne Holliday, Mililani Resident

Date: Thursday, April 16, 2009 at 2:30pm

Subject: PSM-HTH Hearing on HCR 42, requesting the Department of Defense to allow available surplus helicopters to be used for medical evacuation services.

Aloha Chair Espero, Vice-Chair Bunda, Chair Ige, Vice-Chair Green, and Members of the Committee:

I am Charlayne Holliday, proud resident of Mililani and member of the Coast Guard Reserves. I am testifying in support of House Concurrent Resolution 42.

As someone who has flown on search and rescue (SAR) and medevac missions for the Coast Guard as a Japanese Interpreter, I can say from my experience that the military barely has enough planes and helicopters to do their missions due to repairs, maintenance, and use. And when they do their missions, they do with what available resources they have professionally and honorably. But sometimes, when the mission gets critical, resources may be called from other places like the mainland to assist with the completion of a medevac or SAR because we don't have the extra resources on hand. In my opinion, Hawaii does need more medical evacuation services and I believe that the military will require reimbursement for their services.