

**Amy Luke**

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**From:** Frank Lavoie [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 28, 2009 1:15 PM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** HCR 224 and HR 192, Monday, March 30, 2009, 9:40 AM, Conference Room 312

COMMITTEE ON TOURISM, CULTURE, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

HCR 224 and HR 192

DECLARING APRIL 24 AS A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE IN RECOGNITION AND COMMEMORATION  
OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE OF 1915.

To the Honorable Chair Joey Manahan, Vice Chair James Kunane Tokioka, and members of the Committee,

The genocide of the Armenians started in 1915 under the cover of the First World War and eventually cost the lives of over one million people. Those who were not murdered right away were sent on death marches through the desert towards Syria and Lebanon. The Armenian territory around Mount Ararat, inhabited for thousands of years by Armenians, is now desolate.

That so many Armenians were murdered and their land taken was bad enough. The problem we face today is the denial that these events took place. Despite the vast amount of evidence that points to the historical reality of the Armenian Genocide, eyewitness accounts, official archives, photographic evidence, the reports of diplomats, and the testimony of survivors, denial of the Armenian Genocide by successive regimes in Turkey has gone on from 1915 to the present.

This resolution in Hawaii is timely as well. April 2009 is Genocide Prevention Month. The movement recognizes the genocides in Darfur, Rwanda, Bosnia, Cambodia, the Holocaust, and Armenia and sets out to make sure it never happens again. These resolutions can be Hawaii's voice in stopping genocide.

There are many residents of Hawaii that are of Armenian ancestry. Many have had stories told to them by their relatives about the murder of their family members during that tragic time. I lived in Armenia for three years and everyone there has a genocide story to tell. Almost no one in Armenia has been untouched by the tragedy. We of the "Aloha State" can join together with not only our Armenian community, but with 41 other states and the whole world in rejecting genocide.

I respectfully ask for you to pass these resolutions.

Frank Lavoie

**Amy Luke**

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**From:** Margarit Lavoie [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 28, 2009 1:34 PM  
**To:** TCItestimony  
**Subject:** Armenian genocide resolutions HCR 224 and HR 192

COMMITTEE ON TOURISM, CULTURE, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS  
Monday, March 30, 2009  
9:40 AM  
Conference Room 312

Dear Chair Joey Manahan,  
I am writing to support of HCR 224 and HR 192, DECLARING APRIL 24 AS A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE IN RECOGNITION AND COMMEMORATION OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE OF 1915.

I am Margarit Yaghjian Lavoie, an immigrant from Armenia now residing in Hawaii as a small business owner. The genocide resolutions are very important to me because I have a personal story to tell. My grandfather escaped from Turkey during the genocide and told about how when they were fleeing, his uncle Isaak Yaghjian was brutally murdered in front the family. That action scarred the family for the rest of their lives. This is why the resolutions are so personal for me. These resolutions are needed because even until today Turkey denies the genocide ever happened. It is even illegal to talk about the genocide in Turkey. By recognizing the Armenian Genocide it will help that history will not repeat itself. The cycle of genocides must stop!  
I hope you will pass these resolutions.  
Thank you for letting me testify.

Margarit Yaghjian Lavoie

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**Amy Luke**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 29, 2009 7:50 AM  
**To:** TCItestimony  
**Subject:** Armenian Genocide Resolution

COMMITTEE ON TOURISM, CULTURE, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Monday, March 30, 2009

9:40 AM

Conference Room 312

HCR 224 and HR 192

DECLARING APRIL 24 AS A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE IN RECOGNITION AND COMMEMORATION OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE OF 1915.

I have a son who was in the Peace Corp and he was sent to Armenia to give them support and teach them more about America. He taught them that we were a loving people and care about our world brothers and sisters.

The Armenia people have been through a lot because of the genocide in 1915. My son learned to love the Armenian people and he eventually married a girl from Yerevan, Armenia. I have learned from her, how much of her family was killed during that time. So she does not have her grandparents and uncles and aunts to love and cherish like my son does.

As the Armenian people love our country for helping them , we should show support for them also.

We want to support the resolutions for the recognition and commemoration of the Armenian Genocide of 1915. Other countries have shown their support and over 41 of our states have recognized the genocide.

Recognizing past genocides help to stop current and future genocides just like what is happening in other counties around the world.

Thank you for considering our letter of support.

Sincerely,

Scherry Lesanto (mother)

[REDACTED]  
Henderson, NV 89052

Albert, Edith and Nancy Poore (Grandparents and Aunt)

[REDACTED]  
Erwin, TN 37650

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**Amy Luke**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 28, 2009 1:38 PM  
**To:** TCtestimony  
**Subject:** COMMITTEE: TOURISM CULTURE INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS: APRIL 24 DAY FOR ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

And Why Not Armenians

We see the world often from where we have experienced it. There is agreement that our cultural values are created often from ancestral traditions, where we came from. Imagine your culture and traditions were gone, forcibly wiped out, cleared away and the innocent people who practiced them removed from the world by government sanctioned genocide. One can think of examples of government sanctioned genocides: genocide against the Jews in Germany , genocide in Kosovo, and genocide in Darfur . They have all been tragic historical events and factually recognized.

Why not Armenians? Over one million innocent Armenians were wiped out, forcibly removed from the world in 1915 by the Ottoman Turks in the first genocide of the 20th century. The Armenian Genocide is a tragic historical event whose significance is now recognized by various member states of the United States of America . Recognizing past genocides awakens others to the horrors of genocide which increases the possibility that current and future genocides can and will be stopped.

Therefore, I am writing to ask for support of the resolutions that recognize the Armenian Genocide. Please allow this tragic historical event to be factually recognized by our great Aloha state, Hawaii .

Respectfully Submitted

*Anthony Marlin*