

HB2383

HD1 SD1

THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF HAWAII

1132 Bishop Street, Suite 402

Honolulu, HI 96813

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations

Tuesday, March 23, 2010

9:30 AM

Conference Room 016

RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 2383, HD1, SD1, RELATING TO FLAGS

Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Takamine, and members of the committee.

My name is Charles Ota and I am the Vice President for Military Affairs at The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii (The Chamber). I am here to state The Chamber's support of House Bill 2383, HD1, Relating To Flags.

The Chamber's Military Affairs Council (MAC) serves as the liaison for the state in matters relating to the US military and its civilian workforce and families, and has provided oversight for the state's multi-billion dollar defense industry since 1985.

The measure proposes to recognize and allow the prisoner of war and missing in action flag to be flown on the grounds of the State Capitol and the State Department of Defense headquarters with the U.S. and Hawaiian flags on specified days.

We understand that some testimonies have suggested the flag be flown on the grounds at selected locations throughout the year. We would not object to this should this committee so recommends.

Hawaii has a proud history in its contributions to the Nation's military efforts to protect and preserve our freedoms and the security of the peoples in the Asia Pacific region. The adoption of this measure would enhance the state's recognition of the thousands of brave Hawaii residents who were captured and interred as prisoners of war (POW), and the thousands of others who were officially reported as missing in action (MIA).

The public display of the POW/MIA flag is an appropriate honor and tribute to our Hawaii residents and others throughout the Nation that were listed as POW or MIA, and would serve as a constant reminder that they are not forgotten. This is an important tribute for all Americans to recognize.

We respectfully request that the proposed measure be approved for adoption.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Meadow Gold Dairies



Testimony by: Glenn Muranaka
HB 2383sd1, Relating to Flags
Sen JGO Decision Making Hearing – Room 016
Tuesday, March 23, 2010 – 9:30 am

Position: Support

Chair Taniguchi and Members of the Senate JGO Committee:

My name is Glenn Muranaka, President and General Manager of Meadow Gold Dairies. Our company has been in Hawaii since 1897, providing Hawaii consumers with a variety of milk products and juices. We have withstood the test of time as Hawai'i became a U.S. territory; played a vital role in World War II; and became the 50th state. We salute the sacrifices of Hawaii's sons and daughters who fought in the Korean, Vietnam, and Gulf wars. The foundation of Meadow Gold's resiliency rests with the 350 employees that are committed to providing superior quality products.

As an organization with a long and ongoing relationship with the armed forces in Hawaii, we are proud to support the intent of this measure to acknowledge appreciation for the many brave Americans that were captured and interred as Prisoner Of War or reported Missing In Action.

Appreciation is also expressed for the efforts to continue discussion on this matter. HB 2383sd1 now requires that the POW/MIA flag be flown at state capitol and Department of Defense buildings, and limits the flying of the POW/MIA flag to six designated days. This provides recognition and tribute to those Americans that were captured and interred as Prisoner of War or Missing In Action.

In further acknowledgement of those courageous individuals, we ask that language be added to state that the POW/MIA flag **may** be flown at the State Capitol and Department of Defense buildings on any other day than the six designated days.

These amendments affirm Hawaii's respect and aloha for those currently serving in the Military. Moreover, it demonstrates that we will never forget the service and sacrifice of loved ones who have never returned from war.

Please feel free to call me at 944-5911 if you have any questions. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony.

The Johnson Ohana



92-1030 Kanehoa Loop
Kapolei, Hawaii 96707

Telephone: (808) 672-3122
Fax: (808) 672-3860
E-Mail: bjcattle@hawaii.rr.com



HB 2383,hd1, sd1, Flags
Senate Judiciary and Government Operations Committee "JGO"
Tuesday, March 23, 2010 Decision Making Hearing @ 9:30 am, Room 016
Testimony By: Robert A. "Bob" Johnson, William A. "Billy" Johnson, Betty L. "Peke"
Johnson and Eleanor R. Johnson

Position: Support, with Amendments

Aloha Chairman Taniguchi and Members of the Senate JGO Committee:

HB 2383, sd1 is significant to the Johnson Family, Bob (former Marine), Billy (former Marine 100% DAV), Betty (former Hollywood USO Volunteer) and Eleanor. We respect and appreciate your interest in continuing discussion and requirement of flying the POW/MIA Flag in Hawaii. Bob and Betty have been married for 61 years. There are four generations of military in our Family, including one POW, two MIA's and four DAV's. Betty's sister was also a Hollywood USO Volunteer. A number of our comrades (brothers) are MIA's.

Appreciation is expressed for this measure that **requires** the POW/MIA Flag to be flown at the Hawaii State Capitol and Department of Defense buildings. As written, it limits the flying of the POW/MIA Flag to the following six days: Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, National POW/MIA Recognition Day and Veterans Day.

This language that requires the POW/MIA Flag be flown gives honor and gives tribute to American Prisoners of War and military personnel who are Missing In Action. The POW/MIA Flag is a powerful symbol that reminds; **"YOU ARE NOT FORGOTTEN"**.

Hawaii is home to the Pacific Command, the front line of defense for the Asia-Pacific Region. Few or no other State can claim that it is supported by four component commands: U.S. Pacific Fleet, U.S. Pacific Air Forces, U.S. Army Pacific, and U.S. Marine Forces Pacific. These commands are headquartered in Hawai'i and have forces stationed and deployed throughout the region that spans the waters off the west coast of the U.S. to the western border of India, and from Antarctica to the North Pole.

We respectfully request the addition of the following language to provide greater visibility of the honor and recognition for those who are Missing in Action or Prisoners of War:

1. Page 3, line 8 – x: (c): On any day other than those specified under subsection (b), the POW/MIA flag may be flown at the Hawaii State capitol and state department of defense buildings.

OR If there is resistance to the suggested item 1 language,

2. Page 3, line 8 – x: (c): In addition to the specified days under subsection (b), the POW/MIA flag shall be flown when those Missing in Action are returned home to "The Joint Prisoner of War Missing in Action (POW/MIA) Accounting Command" at Hickam Air Force Base.

We respectfully request your consideration of these proposed amendments. We may be reached at 808-672-3122 if there are any questions. We thank you for the opportunity to present our testimony.

Robert A. "Bob" Johnson
William A. "Billy" Johnson
Betty L. "Peke" Johnson
Eleanor R. Johnson

CLAY CHAPMAN
IWAMURA &
PULICE &
NERVELL
Attorneys at law

Topa Financial Center, Bishop Street Tower
700 Bishop Street, Suite 2100
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Tele. 808-535-8400
Fax 808-535-8444
www.paclawteam.com
www.pacific-lawyers.com

Gordon M. Arakaki: Direct (808) 535-8407
E-mail: garakaki@paclawteam.com

March 23, 2010

The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations
State Capitol, Conference Room 016
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: H.B. 2383, H.D. 1, S.D. 1 – Relating to Flags

Dear Chair Taniguchi and Committee Members:

I am Gordon Arakaki. As the son of a 442nd Regimental Combat Team Veteran and the uncle of a Captain in the U.S. Air Force, I proudly testify in support of H.B. 2383, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, which requires that the National League of Families' Prisoner of War/Missing in Action flag ("POW/MIA flag") be flown with the United States and Hawaiian flags on specified buildings and days to honor American prisoners of war and military personnel who are missing in action.

The POW/MIA flag is a powerful symbol of our commitment to resolving as fully as possible the fates of Americans still prisoner, missing, and unaccounted for. As noted in the prefatory language of H.B. 2383, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, it is important to honor the extraordinary heroism of the men and women who risked or sacrificed their lives or their freedom in the past, as well as those who place their lives in harm's way on a daily basis in Afghanistan, Iraq, and elsewhere throughout the world.

I understand that there are some who prefer that the POW/MIA flag be flown every day over most State buildings, and I respect their passion. On the Federal level, however, I note that Section 1082 of the 1998 Defense Authorization Act limits the flying of the POW/MIA flag to certain days and places each year. I trust and believe that the Hawaii State House and Senate will be able to craft a reasonable compromise in this matter.

Thank you for this opportunity to present written testimony in support of H.B. 2383, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, and for your long-standing support of our military men and women.

Sincerely,

CLAY CHAPMAN IWAMURA PULICE &
NERVELL

Gordon M. Arakaki

GORDON M. ARAKAKI



From: Nita Stone [nitaannstone@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2010 4:19 PM
To: JGO Testimony
Subject: HB 2383,hd1, sd1, Flags

HB 2383,hd1, sd1, Flags
Senate Judiciary and Government Operations Committee "JGO"
Tuesday, March 23, 2010 Decision Making Hearing @ 9:30 am, Room 016
Testimony By: Nita Stone
Position: Support, with Amendments

Aloha Chairman Taniguchi and Members of the Senate JGO Committee:

I am Nita Stone, a Realtor with Dower Realty, Inc. My family and my husband's family have had many relatives in World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. I have Uncles who were killed in World War II. My husband and his brother were in the Vietnam War. My husband, Sam Stone, passed away recently, but he was a strong supporter of our American Veterans. He worked with Clay Park from the Veterans Administration for Veterans rights. He was and we are in favor of the following:

Appreciation is expressed for this measure that **requires** the POW/MIA Flag to be flown at the Hawaii State Capitol and Department of Defense buildings. As written, it limits the flying of the POW/MIA Flag to the following six days: Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, National POW/MIA Recognition Day and Veterans Day.

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We respectfully request your consideration of these proposed amendments. We may be reached at 808-282-1034 if there are any questions. We thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony.

Sincerely,

Nita Stone (R)
Dower Realty, Inc.
1114 11th Ave.
Honolulu, HI. 96816
Cell: (808) 282-1034
NitaAnnStone@aol.com