

HB 2383 HD1

Measure Title:
RELATING TO FLAGS.

Report Title:
Recognizes and allows the prisoner of war/missing in action flag to be flown with the U.S. and
Hawaiian flags on specified days.

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
919 Ala Moana Boulevard, 4th Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

CLAYTON A. FRANK
DIRECTOR

DAVID F. FESTERLING
Deputy Director
Administration

TOMMY JOHNSON
Deputy Director
Corrections

JAMES L. PROPOTNICK
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

No. _____

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2383, HD1
RELATING TO FLAGS

by
Clayton A. Frank, Director
Department of Public Safety

Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs
Senator Will Espero, Chair
Senator Robert Bunda, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 16, 2010; 1:25 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

Senator Espero, Senator Bunda, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) strongly supports House Bill 2383, HD1 that permits flying the National League of Families' Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Flag with the American flag and the Hawaiian flag on specific days that commemorate our military and significant historical dates, at buildings under the jurisdiction of the State of Hawaii.

This act would honor all the military personnel who endured captivity as prisoners of war while serving our state and country, or those who have never been honored because they are still unidentified and/or have not been recovered. This is a small gesture would allow our Deputy Sheriffs who raise and lower the flag at the State Capitol to honor the courageous acts of those military personnel serving our country. Based on the foregoing, PSD strongly supports this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

From: Fred Ballard **Sent:** Sunday, March 14, 2010 8:48 PM
To: PSM Testimony
Subject: FW: Testimony in Favor of HB 2383 HD1 - Relating to Flags

Please change date on testimony to March 14, 2010 vs. February 9th. Mahalo

Fred Ballard
President, Oahu Veterans Council

From: Fred Ballard [mailto:exexdir01@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 14, 2010 2:06 PM
To: 'PSMTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov'

Subject: Testimony in Favor of HB 2383 HD1 - Relating to Flags

Aloha:

Attached is Oahu Veterans Council favorable testimony concerning HB 2383, HD1 - Relating to Flags

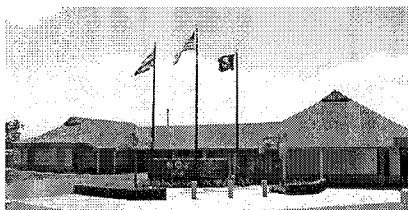
Hearing: Tuesday, March 16, 2010, 1:25 PM, Conference Room 229

Mahalo

Fred Ballard
President
Oahu Veterans Council
422-4000 - Oahu Veterans Center

OAHU VETERANS COUNCIL

OAHU VETERANS COUNCIL
President - Fred Ballard
1st V.P. - Cecil Meadows
2nd V.P. - Jim Santos
Secretary - John Harms
Treasurer - Eugenia Woodward
Chaplain - Frank Lamson



"a gathering place for veterans"
OAHU VETERANS CENTER

OAHU VETERANS CENTER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Sandy Ballard

March 14, 2010
~~February 9, 2010~~

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

5th Regimental Combat Team
45th Infantry Division Assn.
Air Force Assn. - Chapter 138
Air Force Sergeants Association
American Legion Aux. Dept. of HI
American Legion - Dept. of HI
American Legion Post 32
American Veterans Empowerment &
Support Community Operations
BPOE VAVS Hawaii Dist.
China-Burma-India Veterans Assn.
Chosin Few - Aloha Chapter
Combat Infantrymen's Assn.
Combat Veterans Motorcycle Club
Disabled American Veterans -
Chapter 3
Fleet Reserve Association Branch
And Unit 46
Hawaii Multiple Schools Unit - Jr. ROTC
Korean War Veterans Assn -
Chapter 1
Military Officers Assn. of America -
Aloha Chapter
Military Officers Assn. of America -
Hawaii State Chapter
Military Order of the Purple Heart
Military Order of World Wars
National Assn. for Atomic Veterans
National Assn. of Uniformed Services
National Sojourners - Hawaiian # 9
National Sojourners - Honolulu # 11
National Sojourners - Kamehameha #439
Pearl Harbor Survivors Association
Radiated Veterans
Samoan Providers
Society of Military Widows -
Aloha Chapter
Sons & Daughters of
Pearl Harbor Survivors
Special Forces Assn. - Chapter VIII
State Office of Veterans Services
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Dept. of Hawaii
Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 970
Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter 858
Waves National - Unit 131
Women Veterans of America #26

TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF HB 2383, HD 1 RELATING TO FLAGS

SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

HEARING TUESDAY, MARCH 16, 2010, 1:25 P.M., ROOM 229

Aloha Senators Will Espero, Chair, Robert Bunda, Vice Chair, and members of the Committee. My name is Fred Ballard, President Oahu Veterans Council. The Oahu Veterans Council is comprised of over 35 Oahu veteran organizations that in turn represent over 80,000 veterans and their families.

The Oahu Veterans Council strongly believes that the Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Flag should be flown with the U.S. and Hawaiian flags on **all state buildings**. The council also feels the bill should be amended to include flying the flag every day of the year, not just on selected holidays. Should we not remember and honor these warriors each and every day? That amendment should also include inserting the word "require" in place of "may be" flown under the flag of the U.S.A. This would strengthen the intent of the bill. The flag is a symbol of those who have not returned. The possibility of becoming a prisoner of war, or missing in action is ever present as our troops continue to serve our country. In the words of the Pearl Harbor Survivors, "Lest we forget," the same can be said for our POW's and Missing in Action. The flag is a constant reminder of their sacrifice, and hope that they will come home. That flag deserves to fly on state buildings including State Department of Defense buildings. The council believes that you would be hard pressed to find another state capital building that does not already fly the POW/MIA flag.

The Oahu Veterans Council strongly supports the passage of House Bill 2383, HD1.

Mahalo for allowing us the opportunity to testify in support of this very important bill.

Fred Ballard

Fred Ballard
President, Oahu Veterans Council



1298 Kukila St.

E-Mail: sballard@oahuveteranscenter.com



Honolulu, Hawaii 96818

Website: <http://www.oahuveteranscenter.com>



(808) 422-4000 FAX: (808) 422-4001



THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF HAWAII

1132 Bishop Street, Suite 402

Honolulu, HI 96813

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs

Tuesday, March 16, 2010

1:25 PM

Conference Room 229

RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 2383, hD1, RELATING TO FLAGS

Chair Espero, Vice Chair Bunda, 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 with the U.S. and Hawaiian flags on specified days.

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 display of the POW/MIA flag at state buildings 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.

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 2383hd1, Relating to Flags
Sen PSM Hearing – Room 229
Tuesday, March 16, 2010 – 1:25 pm

Position: Support Intent, Prefer SB 2843,sd2, Proposed hd1

Chair Espero and Members of the Senate PSM 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. However, HB 2383hd1 does not require but only permits that the POW/MIA flag be flown at state buildings, and limits the flying of the POW/MIA flag to six designated days. This does not seem to adequately honor and give tribute to those Americans that were captured and interred as Prisoner of War or Missing In Action.

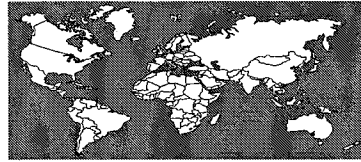
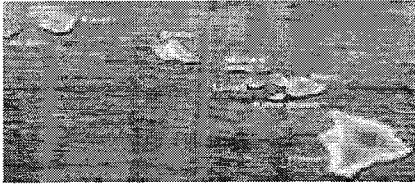
We understand that the Hse EBM Committee's March 11th decision-making was to amend SB 2843sd2 to require the POW/MIA flag to be flown at the State Capitol and at Department of Defense buildings on six designated days, and any other day would be optional. These amendments affirm Hawaii's respect and aloha 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.

Your support of amendments similar to what is proposed for SB 2843,sd2,hd1 is requested. 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

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HB 2383,hd1, Flags
Senate Public Safety and Military Affairs Committee "PSM"
Tuesday, March 16, 2010 Hearing @ 1:25 pm, Room 229

Testimony By: Robert A. "Bob" Johnson, William A. "Billy" Johnson, Betty L. "Peke" Johnson and Eleanor R. Johnson

Position: Support Intent, Prefer SB 2843,sd2, Proposed hd1 Relating To Flags

Aloha Chairman Espero and Members of the Senate PSM Committee:

HB 2383, hd1 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; in addition others are DAV's.

As written, HB 2383, hd1 **permits** rather than requires the **POW/MIA Flag** to be flown at state buildings, and 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 "permitting" rather than requiring the **POW/MIA Flag** be flown seems contrary to the bill's intent to honor and give 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.

As such, strong support is expressed for the proposed SB 2843hd1 from the House EBM Committee hearing of March 11th that expresses:

1. The **POW/MIA Flag** shall be flown at the State Capitol and State Department of Defense buildings on six federally designated holidays;
 - a. Armed Forces Day
 - b. Memorial Day
 - c. Flag Day
 - d. Independence Day
 - e. National POW/MIA Recognition Day
 - f. Veterans Day, and
2. The **POW/MIA Flag** may be flown on any other day at the State Capitol and State Department of Defense buildings.

We respectfully request your support of these proposed amendments. The six federally designated holidays mirror Public Law 105-85 which requires certain federal and major military locations to fly the **POW/MIA Flag**. 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

HB 2383,hd1, Flags
Senate Public Safety and Military Affairs Committee
Tuesday, March 16, 2010 Hearing
1:25 pm, Room 229

Testimony By: Nita Stone

Position: Support Intent, Prefer SB 2843,sd2, Proposed hd1

Chair Espero and Members of the Senate PSM 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:

HB 2383,hd1, and the continued discussion about the recognition and requirement of flying the POW/MIA flag in Hawaii are appreciated.

As written, HB 2383hd1 **permits** rather than requires the POW/MIA flag to be flown at state buildings, and 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 "permitting" rather than requiring the POW/MIA flag be flown seems contrary to the bill's intent to honor and give tribute to American prisoners of war and military personnel who are missing in action.

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.

As such, strong support is expressed for the proposed SB 2843hd1 from the House EBM Committee hearing of March 11 that expresses:

1. The POW/MIA flag shall be flown at the State Capitol and State Department of Defense (DoD) buildings on six federally designated holidays:
 - a. Armed Forces Day
 - b. Memorial Day
 - c. Flag Day
 - d. Independence Day
 - e. National POW/MIA Recognition Day
 - f. Veterans Day, and
2. The POW/MIA flag may be flown on any other day at the State Capitol and State Department of Defense buildings.

Acknowledgement and flying of the POW/MIA flag at Hawaii's State Capitol, in particular, and the State DoD buildings honors and gives tribute to the courageous men and women prisoners of war and military personnel who are missing in action.

I respectfully request your support of these proposed amendments. I may be reached at 282-1034 if there are any questions. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony.

Mahalo,

Nita Stone
Dower Realty, Inc. and
Mililani Resident for 35 years