

THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF HAWAII

1132 Bishop Street, Suite 402

Honolulu, HI 96813

Testimony to the House Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business,  
and Military Affairs

Thursday, January 28, 2010

9:30 AM

Conference Room 312

RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 2383, RELATING TO FLAGS

Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Choy, 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 2382, 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 require that the prisoner of war (POW) and missing in action flag to be flown with the US and Hawaiian flags.

We believe that this measure would enhance state recognition of the thousands of brave Americans who were officially captured and interred as prisoners of war (POW), and the thousands of others who were officially reported as missing in action (MIA). This would be an appropriate honor and tribute to the Hawaii residents as well as the other Americans that were reported as POW/MIA.

The Chamber supports this proposal provided it doesn't violate any state or federal policies to the contrary.

For these reasons, we respectfully request that the proposed measure be approved for further review and adoption.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

LATE

## LATE TESTIMONY

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Attention: Mr. Angus L. K. McKelvey, Chairman

**COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION, BUSINESS &  
MILITARY AFFAIRS**

**RE: HB 2383 RELATING TO FLAGS - POW/MIA FLAG**

Dear Chairman McKelvey:

It is unfortunate that we did not receive adequate notice to submit our testimony on HB 2383. We are requesting that you respect and honor the thousands of military families; active and inactive living in Hawaii and approve HB 2383.

Many of us have loved ones who sacrificed their lives for our Country that have never returned home.

Hawaii's economy must rely on the military and we must not close our eyes on them. It would be heartening and inspirational to active and inactive military to see the POW/MIA Flag flying on State of Hawaii buildings as stated in HB 2383. They can be honored by passing HB 2383.

The POW/MIA Flag is a constant reminder of the thousands of those missing and unaccounted for and those who were taken prisoners; they will never be forgotten.

**Chairman McKelvey we are asking you to support and pass HB2383.**

Respectfully yours,

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