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Testimony by Wade Carmen
HB 2383, Relating to Flags
House JUD Hearing – Room 325
Thursday, February 11, 2010 – 2:00 pm

Position: Strong Support

Aloha Chairman Karamatsu and Vice Chair Ito, and Members of the Committee.

My name is Wade Carmen and I am testifying for the Carmen Household, Wade, David (former US Army), Robbin, Hali, Blane, and Paula, (now deceased), proudly testify and express our strong support for the passage of **HB 2383** that recognizes and requires the Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Flag (POW/MIA Flag) be flown with the US and Hawaiian Flags at the Hawaii State Capitol and the Hawaii State Department of Defense Buildings.

I am a former business man that lived and worked in Hawaii for many years. My family and I visit Hawaii each year because Hawaii is very dear to our heart.

Hawaii is a special place and millions of tourists, such as ours, visit each year. Hawaii's economy relies significantly on the military and tourists. Thousands of us have families and loved ones and friends who sacrificed their life for our Country and have never returned home. **HB 2383** would enhance and boost the State of Hawaii recognition of those who served and were taken from us and those who are currently serving in our Country's Military.

It would be heartening and inspirational to Hawaii families, tourists, and to active military personnel and their families to see the **POW/MIA Flag** flying on State of Hawaii buildings as stated in **HB 2383**.

Freedom isn't free! The **POW/MIA Flag** conveys to the World that Hawaii remembers the sacrifices and service of our loved ones and trust that they will return home. The Flag's presence is an unwavering reminder of the thousands of courageous Americans who were officially captured and interred as Prisoners of War and those who remain missing and unaccounted for and held captive against their will by our enemies of Freedom. Those brave American men and women sacrificed their freedom to defend liberty for all of us.

The **POW/MIA Flag** does not represent any of our States, military branch, or any other group. The Flag belongs to everyone; it is a meaningful symbol that powerfully reminds us of those we should never and will never forget. The Carmen household wholeheartedly supports **HB 2383** and we respectfully request that the proposed measure be passed as is.

In closing I especially like this PLAN OF ACTION because this action could help to initiate the healing of POW's and MIA's Families.

In such a place, (Hawaii), life itself emanates from the Heart.

Please feel free to call me at 928-443-7636 if you may have questions. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony.