

SB2843

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

Wednesday, February 24, 2010

11:00 PM

Conference Room 016

RE: SENATE BILL NO. 2843, 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 Senate Bill 2843, SD1, 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 the prisoner of war/missing in action flag to be flown with the US and Hawaii State flags.

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

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Meadow Gold Dairies



Testimony by: Glenn Muranaka
SB 2843sd1, Relating to Flags
Senate JGO Decision Making Hearing – Room 016
Wednesday, February 24, 2010 – 11:00 am

Position: Strong 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; became the 50th state; saluted the sacrifices of its sons and daughters who fought in the Korean, Vietnam, and Gulf wars; and now struggles along with the rest of our country as we resist world terrorism. 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 this measure that would so visibly acknowledge appreciation for the many brave Americans that were captured and interred as Prisoner Of War or reported Missing In Action.

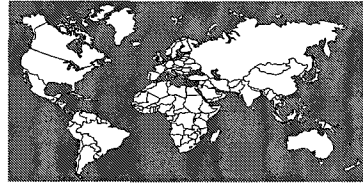
Flying the Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Flag with the United States and the State of Hawaii flags flown at State buildings respectfully communicates Hawaii's aloha for those currently serving in the Military. Moreover, it demonstrates that we will never forget the service and sacrifice of loved ones who have never returned from war. It is for this reason that SB 2843, SD1 is preferred over the proposed amendments to HB 2383, which would restrict flying the POW/MIA flag only on six designated dates.

Your support of this measure is urged. 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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Tuesday, February 23, 2010
Written Testimony to the Senate JGO Committee
Wednesday, February 24, 2010 11:30 AM Conference Room 016

RE: SENATE BILL SB 2843 SD1, RELATING TO FLAGS (POW/MIA Flag)

Aloha Chairman Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair Dwight Takamine and Members of the Committee.

The Johnson Family, Bob (former Marine), Billy (former Marine 100% DAV), Betty (former Hollywood USO Volunteer), Eleanor; proudly testify and express our strong support for the passage of **SB 2843 SD1** that recognizes and requires the Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Flag (**POW/MIA Flag**) be flown with the U.S. and Hawaiian Flags at the Hawaii State Capitol and the Hawaii State Department of Defense Buildings every day of the year.

Hawaii is a special place and millions of tourists visit each year. Hawaii's economy relies significantly on the military. Thousands of Hawaii's families have loved ones and friends who sacrificed their life for our Country and have never returned home. **SB 2843 SD1** would enhance and demonstrate that Hawaii honors those who have suffered, those who served past/present in our Country's Military and those that were taken from us.

It would be heartening and inspirational to Hawaii families and to active/inactive military personnel and their families to catch sight of the **POW/MIA Flag** flying on State of Hawaii buildings as stated in **SB 2843 SD1**.

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 State, military branch, or any other specific group. The Flag belongs to everyone; it is a meaningful symbol that powerfully reminds us of those we should never and will never forget. What greater sacrifice could one ask of any person to lay down their life to save and to protect our FREEDOM!! **"YOU ARE NOT FORGOTTEN"**

The Johnson Family wholeheartedly supports **SB 2843 SD1** and we respectfully request that the proposed Bill be passed as is.

Mahalo for giving us the opportunity to testify for our strong support of **SB 2843 SD1**. If you may have questions please call us at 672-3122.

Respectfully yours,

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

From: Jim and Sharon Baker [jimnshar@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2010 8:12 PM
To: JGO Testimony
Subject: Fw: SB2843, SD1

Importance: High

To whom it may concern regarding **SB2843, SD1** Hearing, Wednesday, 2/24/10. in Room 016 at 11 a.m..

We strongly support the **SB2843, SD1** and prefer it rather than the **HB2383** which will be amended to only allow the **POW/MIA** flag to be flown on no more than six designated holidays of the year.

We believe that the State of Hawaii is proud of and wishes to HONOR our Veterans and give those men and women that gave their all for our FREEDOM the Highest Respect.

Flying the **POW/MIA** flag daily at State Buildings is a strong symbol that demonstrates Hawaii's heartfelt support for all who serve (past/present) in the Armed Forces of our Country.

Mahalo for your consideration for such and important issue.

James M. and Sharon H. Baker
Kailua, HI96734

From: Nita Stone [nitaannstone@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2010 11:39 PM
To: JGO Testimony
Subject: SB 2843 SD1

Aloha,

My name is Nita Stone. I am asking for your support for SB 2843 SD1.

My husband was in the Air Force during the Vietnam War from Feb. 1968 to Feb. 1972. He was stationed in Thailand, as his brother was already in Vietnam. His Brother saw several of his friends killed and some of my husbands high school classmates were also killed. My Father was in the service during World War II, stationed in Guam. I also had several Uncles and cousins killed during World War II. and friends killed in Vietnam.

It would be such an honor to show our country that these heros are never forgotten.

My family and friends would appreciate your support by passing this bill to fly the POW/MIA Flag along with the American and Hawaiian flags at our State and Federal offices. We appreciate the support from local companies who have not forgotten our service men and women, and ask for you to also show your support.

Mahalo, Nita Stone

Nita Stone (R)
Dower Realty, Inc.
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Cell: (808) 282-1034
NitaAnnStone@aol.com

From: brad [brad@nambp.org]
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2010 3:43 PM
To: JGO Testimony
Subject: SB2843 SD1

Aloha,

I am a Former US Marine and very strongly support this bill (SB2843) as written.

Its the least we can show as a state gvt to remember the fallen and missing.

Mahalo,

Brad Hayes
Executive Director
Naval Air Museum Barbers PT.
PO Box 75253,
or Bldg1792, Midway Rd, Kalaeloa Airport
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February 24, 2010

The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations
State Capitol, Conference Room 046
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: S.B. 2843, 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 S.B. 2843, 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 at most State buildings 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 S.B. 2843, 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.

Thank you for this opportunity to present written testimony in support of S.B. 2843, S.D. 1, and for your long-standing support of our military men and women.

Sincerely,

**CLAY CHAPMAN IWAMURA PULICE &
NERVELL**



GORDON M. ARAKAKI

GMA:ga
#413192-v1

