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**LATE TESTIMONY**

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March 11, 2010

**The Honorable Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair**  
House Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business, & Military Affairs  
State Capitol, Conference Room 312  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

**Re: S.B. 2843, S.D. 2 – Relating to Flags**

Dear Chair McKelvey and Committee Members:

I am Gordon Arakaki. As the son of a 442<sup>nd</sup> 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. 2, 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 State Department of Defense 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. 2, 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 S.B. 2843, S.D. 2, and for your long-standing support of our military men and women.

Sincerely,

**CLAY CHAPMAN IWAMURA PULICE &  
NERVELL**

*Gordon M. Arakaki*

GORDON M. ARAKAKI



## LATE TESTIMONY

SB 2843,sd2, Flags  
House Economic Revitalization, Business and Military Affairs Committee  
Thursday, March 11, 2010 Hearing  
8:30 am, Room 312

Testimony By: Nita A. Stone

Position: Support Intent, With Recommendations

Chair McKelvey and Members of the EBM Committee:

I am a Realtor with Dower Realty, Inc. My family has many Veterans who served in the Vietnam War, World War II, and the Korean War. I have Uncles that died during World War II. My family and my Husband's family are strong Military supporters. My husband, Samuel Robert Stone, passed away unexpectedly last October. He was very actively working with Clay Park of Papa Ola Lokahi, helping Hawaii's Veterans with their benefits.

SB 2843sd2, and the continued discussion about the recognition and requirement of flying the POW/MIA flag in Hawaii are appreciated. However, I do not support the content of SB 2843, sd2 that restricts the flying of the POW/MIA flag to only buildings under the jurisdiction of the State Department of Defense (DoD).

This limitation is contrary to the bill's intent to appropriately honor and give tribute to American prisoners of war and military personnel who are missing in action. I believe this because 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. Hawaii's general public as well as visitors and the military community have good reason to see the POW/MIA flag flow at the State Capitol and other state buildings, and the DoD headquarters.

I respectfully request that this bill be amended to reflect that the original language in the SB 2843 and HB 2383, which states that "if a building is under the jurisdiction of the State, including the state department of defense state headquarters building, and the Hawaiian flag is flown under the same or a separate halyard as the flag of the United States of America, the prisoner of war/missing in action flag shall be flown under the flag of the United States of America."

I can be reached at 808-623-4615 if there are any questions. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

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