

LATE TESTIMONY

Organization of Latin Americans in Hawai'i, Inc. (OLAH)

P.O. Box 2282
Kealahou, HI 96750
April 7, 2011

Rep. Karen L. Awana, Chair / Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair
International Affairs Committee
State Capitol, Room 424
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: HR 151 / HCR 175: "Requesting the San Francisco Mexican Consulate to Consider Establishment of a Mexican Consulate in Hawai'i."

Dear Representatives Awana and Hashem:

I am originally from Mexico and immigrated to Hawai'i 17 years ago. I have gone through the process of becoming an American Citizen, and am employed fulltime in a supervisory position of a large market.

Although we are referred to as Hispanic or Latino (as if we are all alike) in reality we are not. We represent 22 different nations/countries where Spanish is the native tongue, i.e. Puerto Rico, Spain, Columbia. Our cultural traditions may differ, our food staples may differ, some of our Spanish languages may differ, but we have much more in common. That includes our work ethic and willingness to earn a good honest living in a land that allows us to freely travel between states.

According to the latest U.S. Census figures, there are 120,842 Latinos in the state of Hawaii – 9% of the population. A Mexican Consulate would be of great benefit to the people and to this state. While Hawai'i's population grew by 100,000 residents during the last ten years, the Latino community grew 40% that equates to 35% of the state's total population growth. It should be noted that those figures also reveal that 49% of Hawai'i's Latinos have university or professional degrees.

Hawai'i's tourism industry requires much unskilled labor and this provides employment for a substantial portion of our community from Waikiki - to Kona - to Ka'anapali - to Lahaina. It should also be noted that Lahaina has two public elementary schools in which one has enrolled 18% Latino and the other 13% Latino. Sunday evening Spanish Mass in Kona regularly has around 450 attendees. Latinos own or manage several macadamia nut and coffee farms in Kona, the vast majority being Mexicans.

The lack of a Mexican Consulate in Hawai'i has resulted in much undue suffering and stress for individuals who want to work and are gainfully employed. They may need crucial documentation but, in these recessionary times, cannot afford to make the expensive and time-consuming trip to San Francisco.

The past few years, the Mexican government has made keeping in touch with their Mexican "diasporas" around the globe a priority with 73 embassies around the world and 51 consulates in the U.S. – including unlikely places such as St. Paul, Minnesota and Boise, Idaho. Bringing forth and voting favorably for these Concurrent Resolutions will send a strong message from the State of Hawai'i that a Mexican Consulate is important and welcome.

On behalf of Hawai'i's Latino communities statewide, I respectfully request and urge you and your committee members to vote in **support** of the establishment of a Mexican Consulate in Hawai'i.

Sincerely,

Leonardo Fraga
President, OLAH

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, April 08, 2011 7:54 AM
To: INTtestimony
Cc: tlcperserv@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HR175 on 4/8/2011 10:10:00 AM

Testimony for INT 4/8/2011 10:10:00 AM HR175

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Sally Winkles
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: tlcperserv@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 4/8/2011

Comments:

WE ARE BEING NUKED BY THEIR TRAGEDY. WE NEED TO SAVE OUR MONEY TO CARE FOR OUR OWN FUTURE TRAGEDIES. WHEN THE PEOPLE OF HAWAII START TO GET SICK AND OUR CHILDREN GET CANCER, WE NEED OUR MONEY TO CARE FOR OUR OWN. REMEMBER THE JAPANESE MADE TONS OF MONEY FROM US OVERCHARGING US WITH THEIR TOYOTAS AND SONY