

hashem1 - Angleica

From: Carlos Juarez, Ph.D. [cjuarez@hpu.edu]
Sent: Thursday, April 07, 2011 12:29 AM
To: INTtestimony
Subject: testimony for HR 151/HCR 175 - International Affairs Cttee

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Name/Position/Organization:

-- Dr. Carlos Juarez, Honorary Consul of Peru in Hawaii
-- Professor of Political Science, Hawaii Pacific University

Committee comments are directed to: INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Date/Time of hearing: Fri April 8, 10:10am, room 312

Measure No: HR 151 and HCR 175

Comments:

Dear Representatives Iwana and Hashem,

I write in strong support of HR 151 and HC 175. The Mexican community in Hawaii needs to have adequate representation from a Hawaii-based consulate. The community is spread out among the islands, and foreign nationals who reside here play a vital role in support of Hawaii's economy. Lack of access to consular services creates a series of challenges for them, and may contribute to an inability to retain some of them. As an economy dependent on the hard work and entrepreneurial spirit and energy of immigrants, we need to support any efforts to provide resident immigrants with adequate consular services. By sending a clear signal to the Mexican Government, they will be more likely to respond.

Aside from the critical consular services needed, such as ensuring key documents like passports or work-related visas are in order, a consulate can also help foster more cultural and economic ties between Hawaii and Mexico.

Like the Government of Peru, Mexico is also a member of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum, and there are many areas of opportunity to improve relations, especially in areas like fisheries/aquaculture, travel/tourism, and student exchange.

Mexicans have a long record in the State of Hawaii, but their presence and impact is too often poorly understood with larger immigrant communities. But as the largest and fastest growing population in the mainland (and a growing community in Hawaii), the ties and issues will only continue to grow.

Mahalo for your support of this important piece of legislation, which will help send an important signal to the Mexican government that it needs to provide support for a large population in the islands.

With much aloha,
Dr. Carlos Juarez
Honorary Consul of Peru in Hawaii
Professor of Political Science, Hawaii Pacific University

April 7, 2011

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

Dear Representatives Awana and Hashem:

Re: HR 151 and HCR 175: "REQUESTING THE SAN FRANCISCO MEXICAN CONSULATE TO CONSIDER ESTABLISHMENT OF A MEXICAN CONSULATE IN HAWAII."

My name is José Villa. I am Puerto Rican and have lived in Hawaii for 25 years. According to U.S. Census figures released in late February, there are 120,842 Latinos in the state of Hawaii – 9% of population and roughly 8% of each of the major islands.

Some Americans use the term “Hispanic” or “Latino” as if we are all alike, but we’re not. We can be any color or any race. We represent 22 different nations or areas where Spanish is the native tongue. Some of our cultural traditions are different, some of our foods are different, some of our Spanish is different, but we share many more things in common, than the few things that are different.

I strongly **support** the establishment of a Mexican Consulate in Hawaii. As you know, according to the Census, Hawaii’s population grew by 100,000 residents between 2000 and 2010. Hawaii’s Latino community grew 40% -- from 87,000 in 2000 to 120,842 in 2010. That means we accounted for 35% of the state’s population growth.

Hawaii’s Latino community is very different from those on the mainland. The Census indicated 49% of Hawaii’s Latinos/Latinas have university or professional degrees. That’s a much higher percentage than typical mainland communities. The director of Honolulu Zoo, Dean of Students at UH, historian at the Arizona Memorial, and many other talented professionals here, are Mexican.

Since Hawaii’s tourism industry requires so much unskilled labor, a substantial portion of our community is also employed in the various tourist destinations from Waikiki to Kona to Kaanapali. Lahaina has two public elementary schools. One is 18% Latino and the other is 13% Latino. Sunday evening Spanish Mass in Kona has 450 attendees. Latinos own or manage several macadamia nut and coffee farms in the Kona hills. The vast majority of these Latinos are Mexicans, which comprise roughly 60% of the Latinos in the state.

The time difference/physical distance from the San Francisco Mexican Consulate sometimes causes gainfully-employed Mexican individuals and families living here undue suffering and stress. They may need crucial documents, but, in these recessionary times, cannot afford to make the expensive and time-consuming trip to San Francisco.

In the past few years, the Mexican government has made keeping in touch with their Mexican diasporas around the globe a priority. It has 73 embassies around the world and 51 consulates in the U.S. – including unlikely places like St. Paul, Minnesota and Boise, Idaho. They could establish a consulate here if they felt it would be welcome.

On behalf of Hawaii’s ever-increasing statewide Latino communities, I respectfully request you vote to **support** the establishment of a Mexican Consulate in Hawaii.

Sincerely,

José Villa

Publisher, Hawaii Hispanic News
President, Latin Business Hawaii (chamber of commerce)

Hispanic Center of Hawaii (Centro Hispano de Hawaii)
Nancy N. Ortiz, Executive Director

And

Alma Latina Radio, the longest running Hispanic Program on Hawaii's Airwaves
KWAI/K108, 1080AM, Sundays, 1-4pm
Nancy N. Ortiz, Radio Show Host
45-551-A Paleka Road
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

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To: Rep. Karen L. Awana, Chair; Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair; Members,
House Committee on International Affairs, via INTtestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

Re: **HCR 175/HR 151, Support**

Date: April 08, 2011, 10:10 a.m., Room 312

Thank you for hearing these Resolutions. I am of Puerto Rican decent, however, being a leader in the Hispanic community. I work with the Mexican community a lot in different events.

Hawaii's Mexican nationals as well as their local family and 'ohana (familia) members need a local Consulate. Mexican culture is very family oriented. **Mexican nationals in Hawaii often have a local spouse or partner and American-born children.**

These American, local family members need to have their Mexican spouse or parent obtain certain kinds of Mexican legal documents for the benefit of the family. These documents can *only* be obtained through a consulate or embassy.

Even though Mexican nationals usually come here because they are extremely poor, Mexico differs from the USA in several very important ways. *Poor people in Mexico may own land.* Sometimes this may be a fairly large piece by our Hawaii land-starved standards. Following the Mexican Revolution, there are legal limits on the extent to which foreign nationals can own land in Mexico.

Unless Mexican nationals register their American-born children with a Mexican consulate, their children may be legally unable to inherit any of their family lands.

They will also be unable to travel freely in the homeland of their Mexican parent to visit with family there. They will be cut off from the ***completely free higher education*** available to those able to pass their entrance exams. This education can be extremely valuable.

Hawaii's population of Mexicans started growing in the 1990s. Because of our geographic isolation, Hawaii's Mexican nationals and their local families need a Consulate here, even though the total number of Mexican nationals would not normally justify this.

Hawaii's Mexicans need identification documents so that they can travel. A Mexican Consulate can issue ID documents, including internationally recognized Consular ID cards (*Matricula Consular*), with which a person can travel, open bank accounts, and so on. These documents also mean that local police can be assured that the person with one of these documents is actually the person named in the document.

Our geographic isolation means that the **Mobile Mexican Consulate** which has become a feature of our life here is no longer sufficient to care for the needs of Hawaii's Mexican nationals and their family members. We need a Consulate here.

Thank you for your consideration. I urge you to pass these Resolutions, not only for the sake of our Mexican nationals who came here to work, but also for the sake of their families and 'ohana (familia).

Marcella Alohalani Boido, M. A.

Hawaii State Judiciary Certified Court Interpreter, Spanish and English

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To: Rep. Karen L. Awana, Chair; Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair; Members,
House Committee on International Affairs, via INTtestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

Re: **HCR 175/HR 151, Support**

Date: April 08, 2011, 10:10 a.m., Room 312

Thank you for hearing these Resolutions. I am part-Mexican through my father. Hawaii's Mexican nationals as well as their local family and 'ohana members need a local Consulate. Mexican culture is very family oriented. **Mexican nationals in Hawaii often have a local spouse or partner, and American-born children.**

These American, local family members need to have their Mexican spouse or parent obtain certain kinds of Mexican legal documents for the benefit of the family. These documents can *only* be obtained through a consulate or embassy.

Even though Mexican nationals usually come here because they are extremely poor, Mexico differs from the USA in several very important ways. *Poor people in Mexico may own land.* Sometimes this may be a fairly large piece by our Hawaii land-starved standards. Following the Mexican Revolution, there are legal limits on the extent to which foreign nationals can own land in Mexico. Unless Mexican nationals register their American-born children with a Mexican consulate, their children may be legally unable to inherit any of their family lands.

They will also be unable to travel freely in the homeland of their Mexican parent to visit with family there. They will be cut off from the *completely free higher education* available to those able to pass their entrance exams. This education can be extremely valuable. My father graduated from medical school in Mexico. I have a cousin who graduated from a dental school in Mexico City, as well. Our family would not have been able to pay the educational expenses for my father or my cousin in the USA. Both my late father and my living cousin used their education to work in the USA—a benefit for the USA.

Hawaii's population of Mexicans started growing in the 1990s, but is still small. The Census undercounts this group, for reasons not important for this discussion. However, because of our geographic isolation, Hawaii's Mexican nationals and their local families need a Consulate here, even though our total number of Mexican nationals would not normally justify this.

Hawaii's Mexicans need identification documents so that they can travel. A Mexican Consulate can issue ID documents, including internationally recognized Consular ID cards (*Matricula Consular*), with which a person can travel, open bank accounts, and so on. These documents also mean that local police can be assured that the person with one of these documents is actually the person named in the document.

Our geographic isolation means that the Mobile Mexican Consulate which has become a feature of our life here is no longer sufficient to care for the needs of Hawaii's Mexican nationals and their family members. We need a Consulate here.

Thank you for your consideration. I urge you to pass these Resolutions, not only for the sake of our Mexican nationals who came here to work, but also for the sake of their families and 'ohana.

April 7, 2011

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

Dear Representatives Awana and Hashem:

Re: HR 151 and HCR 175: "REQUESTING THE SAN FRANCISCO MEXICAN CONSULATE TO CONSIDER ESTABLISHMENT OF A MEXICAN CONSULATE IN HAWAII."

My name is Ruben Juarez. I am a US and Mexican citizen, professor at the University of Hawaii and have lived in Hawaii for three years. I am very happy living in Hawaii and have seen the increasing flow of new Hispanic coming to live in the islands, especially Mexicans. I am one of the 120,842 Latinos in Hawaii, and one of the new Latinos who accounted for the 35% in the state population growth since the last census.

I **strongly support** the establishment of a Mexican Consulate in Hawaii. As you know, according to the Census, Hawaii's population grew by 100,000 residents between 2000 and 2010. Hawaii's Latino community grew 40% -- from 87,000 in 2000 to 120,842 in 2010. That means Latinos accounted for 35% of the state's population growth.

Hawaii's Latino community is very different from those on the mainland. The Census indicated 49% of Hawaii's Latinos/Latinas have university or professional degrees. That's a much higher percentage than typical mainland communities. This includes the increasing populations professors at UH who are Mexicans. I have also seen the new flow of Hispanic students who come into my classrooms every semester.

There are also other Latinos over the different island who will benefit from a consulate. Including multiple workers in the Tourism industry in Oahu, Maui, Big Island and Kauai. Many more workers who are in the construction and farming sector.

I have no doubt the increasing population of Mexicans would benefit from having a branch of the Mexican consulate in the islands, especially those hard work employees from the farming and tourism industry who cannot afford the money and time to travel to San Francisco.

Mexico is the country with more embassies and countries all over the world, so I am very optimistic that the Mexican consulate will consider the state legislature request very seriously, as we are one of the most isolated population of Mexicans without a consulate.

Sincerely,

Ruben Juarez
Assistant Professor in Economics
University of Hawaii at Manoa

hashem1 - Angleica

From: Sue Haglund [shaglund@hotmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 07, 2011 8:10 AM
To: INTtestimony
Subject: Testimony for HR 151/HCR 175 April 8, 2011--Strong Support

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

**Committee on International Affairs
Rep. Karen L. Awana, Chair
Rep. Mark j. Hashem, Vice Chair
House Of Representatives
Hawaii State Legislature
April 8, 2011
10:10AM, RM 312**

**RE: HR 151 and HCR 175
Position: Strong Support**

My name is Sue Haglund. Unfortunately I am unable to be present for the hearing due to my work schedule, so please accept my written testimony for today's hearing.

I am in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HR 151 and HCR 175 "Requesting the San Francisco Mexican Consulate to Consider Establishment of a Mexican Consulate in Hawaii."

As a graduate research assistant of Dr. Monisha Das Gupta, Associate Professor of Ethnic Studies and Women's Studies at University of Hawaii at Manoa, we conducted a pilot study project on the demographics and needs of assessments of Mexicans living in Hawaii. During this research project, one of the main concerns expressed by the Mexican community and community advocates is the strong need for the establishment and presence of a Mexican Consulate.

The State of Hawaii's geographical location makes it difficult for many Mexican residents to travel between the islands and out-of-state to seek consular services. Currently, on a temporary short-term basis, the San Francisco Mexican Consulate conducts a two-day visit to the islands once-a-year or twice-a-year to offer limited and temporary consular services in two counties: Maui County and Hawaii County. However, mobile consulate's visits are not enough in the long term.

The mobile consulate visits two of the islands, Maui County and Hawaii County, for two-days and only on the weekends. This creates a few challenges. The limited time frame of the mobile consulate visits is not enough to meet all the needs of a growing population. Secondly, the location of the sites that the mobile consulate

selects to visit is a disadvantage for many Mexican nationals. Hawaii County, for example, the visits are conducted only on the Kailua-Kona, and for Mexican residents who live on the Hilo-side of the Big Island usually cannot find transportation to Kailua-Kona or they receive late notification of the 2-day mobile consulate—as a result, they are left out and not having the opportunity to take care of necessary documents. And for Mexican nationals living on Oahu, well they would have to take time off from work, fly to Maui or the Big Island, pay for hotel and car rental in order to attend the 2-day mobile consulate event—all of these events place a burden on individuals and families who have to take time off in order to get necessary documents completed.

This resolution is for all Mexican residents who live in Hawaii, work in Hawaii and contribute to state and federal income taxes. This resolution bridges our communities together. This resolution also calls upon the Mexican Government and US Federal Government to pay attention and recognize the needs of Mexican nationals living in Hawaii. The Mexican community is a growing community here on the islands; and it is a community that is often forgotten or targeted as a socio-political scapegoat. It is a community that needs a permanent consulate to provide not only services for birth registries of U.S. born children whose parents are Mexican nationals and passport services, but there is a strong need for consular protection.

The closest consulate to offer consular protection for visiting Mexican nationals or Mexican nationals living in Hawaii is the San Francisco consular office. The establishment of a Mexican consulate in Hawaii with consular protection can better assist their nationals if they are arrested, detained, or hospitalized. Also consular protection ensures that the rights of Mexican nationals are not being violated or targeted by foreign authorities based solely on national origin.

I strongly recommend the committee to pass and support HR 151 and HCR 175 because it is at least the first step in building the bridge of our communities.

Thank you,

Sue Haglund

Doctoral Candidate, Political Science UHM

Email: shaglund@hotmail.com

hashem1 - Angleica

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, April 07, 2011 11:06 AM
To: INTtestimony
Cc: helpustoo@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HR151 on 4/8/2011 10:10:00 AM

Testimony for INT 4/8/2011 10:10:00 AM HR151

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Anonymous
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: helpustoo@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 4/7/2011

Comments:
April 6, 2011

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

Dear Representatives Awana and Hashem:

Re: HR 151 and HCR 175: "REQUESTING THE SAN FRANCISCO MEXICAN CONSULATE TO CONSIDER ESTABLISHMENT OF A MEXICAN CONSULATE IN HAWAII."

The establishment of bureaucracies always has some sort of justification based on "need". But that is only 1/2 of the matter. There's also the "cost" to cover that need. The cost is finally reflected in the fees charged for processing.

In my experience, dealing with the Mexican Consulate in San Francisco, brings up another aspect of the matter: the organizational EFFICIENCY of any Mexican governmental organization or institution. You can always talk to a bureaucrat, but to get anything real done, there's a back and forth inefficiency, in my experience.

What the San Francisco Mexican Consulate really needs is to get well organized and professional, with a secure and expeditious way of handling documents, and an excellent web page, and paid secretaries who explain policies & procedures in Spanish. Mexican Consulates have a priority: and that is to provide double citizenship to persons who used to be of Mexican nationality.

Please note that this matter has nothing to do with Puerto Ricans, but only with people who are or were at one time of Mexican nationality. It also has little to do with people who are of Mexican heritage or descent, but were born in the USA or are USA citizens. Be careful interpreting statistics from the census.

Hawaii is the nearest contact to Asia, and should be free and encouraged to express its Hispanic, and even Mexican, and now very American-Mexican traditions. Yet Mexico constitutes Hawaii's foremost competitor for beach resort tourism from Mainland USA, and if you are hoping for much tourism from Mexico itself, that would be unrealistic.

Just because lots of people know Spanish as their first language, and there's many residents of Hawaii who are of citizens of Mexican descent, the people who mostly could use a Mexican Consulate in Hawaii, would be those who started out staying on US soil, after their work permit expired, for example.

What the Mexican Consulate in San Francisco needs to do is to pay a secretary to efficiently handle documents, locally, and have a Consul travel from San Francisco once every two weeks to officially process them, either locally, or at the San Francisco Mexican Consulate office, where they have all the necessary official connections to the Secretaria de Relaciones Exteriores in Mexico City.

I hope this helps you see the other side of the story, for Mexican bureaucrats from San Francisco would cherish an appointment to Hawaii - but there's a better, less costly, and more efficient way.

I prefer to remain anonymous,

Attentively.