



JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

HONOLULU CHAPTER

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House Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs
Thursday, March 29, 2012
Hawai'i State Capitol – Room 309

Testimony in SUPPORT of HCR115/ HR87

Dear Chair Aquino, Vice-Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee:

The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) Honolulu Chapter strongly supports HCR115 and HR87, requesting the United States Congress repeal provisions within the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA; H.R.1540) allowing for mandatory military detention and indefinite detention.

NDAA FY 2012 was passed by Congress on December 15, 2011 and signed by President Obama on December 31, 2011. Within this legislation, Section 1021 affirms that the government and, by extension, the military have the right to detain certain individuals under the law of war without trial and until the end of hostilities. Language in this section has been expanded to include detention of persons “who substantially supported al-Qaeda, the Taliban, or associated forces.” We are concerned that the broadness of “associated forces” and the ability for the government to detain individuals, including U.S. citizens, without trial, is counter to the constitutional principles and ideals of this country.

In the aftermath of the bombing of Pearl Harbor during World War II, President Franklin Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 that authorized the forced, illegal detention of 120,000 Japanese American citizens in concentration camps. In Hawaii, Japanese Americans and German Americans were held at Honouliuli Internment Camp. The current NDAA similarly allows for indefinite detention by the government as well as the militarization of domestic law enforcement.

JACL is the nation's oldest and largest Asian Pacific American civil rights organization. Locally our organization worked with the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i (“JCCH”) to hold annual Days of Remembrance to commemorate the anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066, which led to the incarceration of more than 120,000 Japanese Americans simply because of their ancestry.

Thank you for allowing us to testify in support of HCR115/ HR87.

Respectfully,

Trisha Nakamura
President

LATE TESTIMONY

PBMtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 28, 2012 6:31 PM
To: PBMtestimony
Cc: jorywatland@att.net
Subject: Testimony for HCR115 on 3/29/2012 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for PBM 3/29/2012 10:00:00 AM HCR115

Conference room: 309
Testifier position:
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jory Watland
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jorywatland@att.net
Submitted on: 3/28/2012

Comments:

Chair Aquino and members of the committee:

My name is Jory Watland. I urge your support for HCR 115. It is shameful that the U.S. government can even consider indefinite detention for someone, who has not been accused, not found guilty of a crime.

How can we abandon the Bill of Rights?

Please help stop this flawed and irreverent activity.