

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

COMMENTS ON HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 33
& HOUSE RESOLUTION 17
URGING THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE TO ALLOW "FLYOVERS" TO HONOR AND
RECOGNIZE ARMED FORCES DAY, MEMORIAL DAY, VETERANS DAY, AND THE
ANNIVERSARY OF PEARL HARBOR.

PRESENTATION TO
THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS, MILITARY,
& INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, & CULTURE AND THE ARTS

BY
MAJ GEN DARRYLL D. M. WONG
STATE ADJUTANT GENERAL
February 12, 2014

Chair Takai, Vice Chair Ito, and Members of the House Committee on Veterans, Military, & International Affairs, & Culture and the Arts:

I am Maj Gen Darryll D. M. Wong, State Adjutant General. I want to offer comments about HCR33/HR17.

The Hawaii Air National Guard (HIANG) has always flown four-fighter aircraft fly bys for many years. In recent years prior to Sequestration, the Guard flew over the National Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl) on Memorial Day and Veterans Day. The HIANG flew the missing man formation over the USS Arizona on Pearl Harbor Day, December 7.

For each of these events, the HIANG needs to request and receive approval to fly these missions from the Office of the Secretary of Defense. The approval criteria centered on "events of national significance." The fighter squadron integrates fly bys into their training missions.

At the start of Sequestration and the drawdown of the defense budget, the Secretary of Defense banned all fly bys. The Secretary even grounded both the Air Force Thunderbirds and the Navy Blue Angels aerial demonstration teams.

Prior to December 7, 2013, the HIANG submitted a fly by request for the ceremony at Pearl Harbor. The Office of the Secretary of Defense was slow to respond. On the morning of December 7, the HIANG had four aircraft and crews prepped and ready to fly the mission.

The recent congressional budget compromise has put sequestration actions on hold for the next two years. The Secretary has only authorized the Thunderbirds and Blue Angels to do fly bys. Hopefully, the secretary will expand the authorization for fly bys when the defense budget issues are resolved.

Thank you for allowing me to provide comments about HCR33/HR17.

**Testimony to the House Committee on Veterans, Military and
International Affairs, and Culture**

Wednesday, February 12, 2013

8:30 AM

Conference Room 312

**RE: HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 33, URGING THE SECRETARY OF
DEFENSE TO ALLOW “FLYOVERS” TO HONOR AND RECOGNIZE
ARMED FORCES DAY, MEMORIAL DAY, VETERANS DAY, AND THE
ANNIVERSARY OF PEARL HARBOR**

Chair Takai, Vice Chair Ito, 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 House Concurrent Resolution No. 33, Urging the Secretary of Defense to allow “flyovers” to honor and recognize Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and the Anniversary of Pearl Harbor.

The measure proposes to urge the Secretary of Defense to enable the U.S. military and the citizens of the Nation the traditional means by which to honor, respect, and remember the sacrifices of our Armed Forces.

The proposed measure will ensure that U.S. national holidays that honor, respect, and remember the sacrifices of our Armed Forces will be afforded priority consideration in receiving approvals for “flyovers”.

In light of the above, we recommend approval of HCR 33.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

LATE

Roxanne Kamalu

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
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Subject: Submitted testimony for HCR33 on Feb 12, 2014 08:30AM

HCR33

Submitted on: 2/11/2014

Testimony for VMI on Feb 12, 2014 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Galen Yoshimoto	State Department of Defense	Support	Yes

Comments: submitted in behalf of Maj Gen Darryll Wong, Adjutant General

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