



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 04/10/2013

Committee: House Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Resolution: HCR 071,HD1(hscr1299)/HR 055, HD1(hscr1298) Philippine Student Exchange Program

Purpose of Resolution: REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO SUPPORT A STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS IN HAWAII PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND STUDENTS IN PROVINCES IN THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES WITH WHICH THE STATE HAS STATE-PROVINCE RELATIONSHIPS.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (DOE) supports this resolution and agrees that there is a viable connection between the State and the provinces of the Republic of the Philippines and that outbound foreign exchange opportunities, in particular, will help to increase global-mindedness and to strengthen college and career preparation and 21st century competencies and leadership of Hawaii's students.

Therefore, the DOE is willing to explore mutually beneficial options and partner with Filipino community organizations to develop and coordinate a program with schools in any of the provinces in the Republic of the Philippines with which the State currently has a State-Province relationship, subject to the availability of funding support and staff resources. Please note that the Hawaii-Okinawa Student Exchange Program referenced in this resolution, has been supported by external funds since school year 2011-2012.



CONGRESS OF VISAYAN ORGANIZATIONS
99-1325 Aiea Heights Drive, Aiea, Hawaii 96701

To: Rep. Roy Takumi, Chair
Rep. Takashi Ohno, Vice Chair
House Committee on Education

From: Jane Clement, President

Date: April 10, 2013, 2:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 309

Re: Testimony on HCR 71 HD1
Requesting the Department of Education to Support a Student Exchange Program for Students in Hawaii Public Schools and Students in Provinces in the Republic of the Philippines With Which the State Has State-Province Relationships.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HCR 71, Requesting the Department of Education to Support a Student Exchange Program for Students in Hawaii Public Schools and Students in Provinces in the Republic of the Philippines With Which the State Has State-Province Relationships.

My name is Jane Clement and I am the president of the Congress of Visayan Organizations (COVO), the umbrella of Visayan organizations in the state of Hawaii. COVO strongly supports this concurrent resolution.

COVO has been instrumental in establishing State-Province relationships between Hawaii and the Provinces of Cebu and Negros Oriental in the Philippines, and we believe that having this student exchange program would be very beneficial not only in expanding the minds of participating public school students and increasing their knowledge of other peoples and cultures, but also in promoting international understanding and peace between nations. The effects of such an exchange program will spill into other areas as well, as in increased cultural, economic and business relations, which will redound to the good of both countries.

Hawaii has a large Filipino community, and having such a student exchange will be beneficial for those Hawaii-born Filipinos who desire to rediscover their roots and understand their culture.

In view of these reasons, COVO strongly urges the members of this committee to pass this resolution.

TESTIMONY ON HCR 71 HD1

SERAFIN COLMENARES JR.

To: Rep. Roy Takumi, Chair
Rep. Takashi Ohno, Vice Chair
House Committee on Education

Date: April 10, 2013, 2:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 309

Re: Testimony on HCR 71 HD1
Requesting the Department of Education to Support a Student Exchange Program for Students in Hawaii Public Schools and Students in Provinces in the Republic of the Philippines With Which the State Has State-Province Relationships.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HCR 71 HD1 which requests the Department of Education to support a student exchange program for students in Hawaii public schools and students in provinces in the Republic of the Philippines with which the State has state-province relationships. My name is Serafin Colmenares Jr. and I am past president and currently executive director of the Congress of Visayan Organizations (COVO), the umbrella of Visayan organizations in the state of Hawaii

Hawaii's Visayan community has been instrumental in establishing State-Province relationships between Hawaii and the Provinces of Cebu and Negros Oriental in the Philippines, in addition to sister city relations between Honolulu and Cebu City and between the County of Hawaii and the City of Ormoc in the Philippines. We believe that having this student exchange program would be very beneficial not only in expanding the horizons of our students but also in promoting international understanding and amity between peoples of various cultures.

Hawaii is already involved in student exchange programs with other countries such as Japan, Korea, etc. Expanding this engagement with the Philippines will be of great value to both the Philippines and Hawaii given the large Filipino community in the State.

I, therefore, urge the members of this committee to pass this resolution.



April 10, 2013

The Honorable Roy Takumi, Chair
The Honorable Takashi Ohno, Vice Chair
and Members of the House Committee on Education
House of Representatives
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

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Subject: **House Concurrent Resolution 71, HD1 / HR 55, HD1**

My name is Randy Cortez, president of the JCI-Hawaii Filipino Junior Chamber of Commerce. Our organization's mission is to empower young active citizens with developmental opportunities to create positive change and perpetuate the local Filipino heritage. We strongly support House Concurrent Resolution 71, HD1 and House Resolution 55.

Creating and establishing student exchange programs between Hawaii and provinces in the Republic of the Philippines will foster growth and provide educational opportunities for our local students. The City and County of Honolulu and the Philippines have established five sister city relationships with Baguio, Cebu City, Laoag, Manila, and Vigan.¹ In February, Lieutenant Governor Shan Tsutsui joined the Filipino Chamber of Commerce, business executives from Hawaii, and the Philippine Consulate on its annual trade mission to strengthen partnerships with municipalities from the Philippines. As a result of these strong partnerships, students from Hawaii would greatly benefit from this new cultural exchange program by gaining a better understanding of the Filipino culture and lifestyle.

The Filipino population is the second largest ethnic group in our state and is continuing to grow. It is important that we continue to provide our students invaluable learning opportunities to connect with other students in the Philippines and to establish lifelong friendships and goodwill. I humbly ask for your favorably support for these measures. Thank you.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Randy Cortez

RANDY CORTEZ
President



¹ <http://www1.honolulu.gov/council/sistercitiessummitng.pdf>

Jenna Takenouchi

From: Maurice Morita [mauricetmorita@me.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 09, 2013 7:47 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: *****SPAM***** HCR 71 / HR 55

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Maurice T Morita, President
Dance Hawaii, Inc.

RE: HCR 71, HD1 / HR 55, HD1
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2013
CONFERENCE ROOM 309
2:00 P.M.

Chair Takumi & Members of the Committee:

My name is Maurice Morita, President, Dance Hawaii, Inc. and I strongly support HCR 71, and HR 55 which is the student exchange program from the Philippines.

Our membership in Dance Hawaii, Inc. has a strong membership from the Filipino community, and our members support the student exchange program from the Philippines.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sent from my iPad

Jenna Takenouchi

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, April 08, 2013 3:05 AM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: dmelloj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HR55 on Apr 10, 2013 14:00PM*

HR55

Submitted on: 4/8/2013

Testimony for EDN on Apr 10, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jared Dmello	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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Jenna Takenouchi

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 09, 2013 11:25 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: mestralynne@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HR55 on Apr 10, 2013 14:00PM

HR55

Submitted on: 4/9/2013

Testimony for EDN on Apr 10, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lynne Gutierrez	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Student exchange programs for students in Hawaii school will have the opportunity to learn diverse cultures of other countries. They will also learn to appreciate what they have rather. It will also provide closer ties between the state and its sister provinces.

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To the Respected Members of the Education Committee,

As an educator and counselor, I can see the positive benefits of multicultural education and an exchange program can do for the students and in our community. Each of us develops and influenced our views about certain issues through our individual experiences and practices. This writer believes that having the opportunity to make the most of these experiences and practices through an exchange program with the Philippines allows us to have a better understanding of one's culture and the multicultural relationships and diversity. As a third-generation Filipino-American, many of the people in my generation doesn't know the benefits of cultural influences that may affect social and educational development of the community through such exchange programs like this one. I strongly believe that the program will strengthen students' high self-esteem and confidence in their cultural identities. This program will exceed the potential to be an effective, confident and contributing member in their community. The program will prepare students to be college and career-ready. It will give students the opportunity to practice cultural sensitiveness to promote acceptance of diversity among others so they can search for commonality between them and in turn provide cultural awareness and identity.

Thank you for your consideration,

Zhoydell Cortez Magaoay, **MAEd, MSCP**