



CONGRESS OF VISAYAN ORGANIZATIONS

99-1325 Aiea Heights Drive, Aiea, Hawaii 96701

To: Rep. K. Mark Takai, Chair
Rep. Ken Ito, Vice Chair
House Committee on Veterans, Military and International
Affairs and Culture and the Arts

From: Jane Clement, President

Date: March 27, 2013, 8:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Room 312

Re: Testimony on 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.

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 a State-Province relationship between Hawaii and the Province of Cebu in the Philippines, and we believe that having this student exchange program would be very beneficial in not only expanding the mind and vision 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.

To: Rep. K. Mark Takai, Chair
Rep. Ken Ito, Vice Chair
House Committee on Veterans, Military and International Affairs and
Culture and the Arts

From: Serafin Colmenares Jr.
Executive Director
Congress of Visayan Organizations

Date: March 27, 2013, 8:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Room 312

Re: Testimony on HCR 71, Support with Amendment
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 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 the executive director of the Congress of Visayan Organizations (COVO), the umbrella of Visayan organizations in the state of Hawaii. I strongly support this concurrent resolution with a proposed amendment to include the Province of Negros Oriental, which signed a sister state-province relationship with Hawaii in 2011 in the list of Philippine provinces mentioned in the resolution. The amendment is as follows:

Line 21: “Negros Oriental, Ilocos Norte, Ilocos, and Pangasinan...”

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 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.

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

vmitestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2013 8:10 PM
To: vmitestimony
Cc: tabraham08@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HCR71 on Mar 27, 2013 08:30AM

HCR71

Submitted on: 3/26/2013

Testimony for VMI on Mar 27, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Troy Lopaka Abraham	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support urgent passage of bill to allow foreign student exchange in Hawaii which helps expand the hawaiian island culture and new languages into the economy.

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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**TESTIMONY OF
THE STATE FOUNDATION ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS
TO
THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS, MILITARY AND
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND CULTURE AND THE ARTS
ON
MARCH 27, 2013**

HCR 71 / HR 55

Chair Takai and members of the Committee, I am Eva Laird Smith, executive director of the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts. I am pleased to support House Concurrent Resolution 71 / House Resolution 55, provided passage of these resolutions do not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget.

The State Foundation on Culture and the Arts strongly advocates for cultural appreciation and understanding as a way of increasing global peace. An effective way to promote international relations is to impress upon our future citizens and leaders an awareness of cultural diversity; to experience firsthand how our values and customs are different and similar; in short, an appreciation of the universal.

Technology has brought us closer to other countries in virtual time, space and communication. Yet, there is no substitute for the actual experience of being in a place and in the presence of real people to encourage learning. This is especially so with cultural exchange. For culture to be real, it must be lived.

The 2010 census shows the Filipino population in Hawaii surpassing the Japanese as the state's largest ethnic group. Having

arrived here to work the plantations back in 1906, Filipinos have grown Hawaii's diversity and industry and since then, have added significantly to our skilled and professional work force.

HCR 71 / HR 55 will provide rare opportunities for educational exchanges and the sharing of experiences between the youth of Hawaii and the youth of the Philippines through the richness of our sister-city relationships. Only good things can result from such an initiative.

Our youth are our future. Hawaii's history, society, political landscape, and cultural diversity have been forged from the citizenry of our state over centuries and generations of migratory peoples that have found home here. Years ago, only diplomats traveled to represent their governments. Today, these younger ambassadors carry with them the gifts of two cultures: the future of Hawaii and the Philippines.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.