

HB 2071 HD1

RELATING TO GOLD STAR FAMILY DAY.

Designates the last Sunday in September as "Gold Star Family Day". (HB2071 HD1)

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2071 HD1
A BILL RELATING TO GOLD STAR FAMILY DAY

PRESENTATION TO
THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON
PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
AND
TECHNOLOGY AND THE ARTS

BY

MAJOR GENERAL DARRYLL D. M. WONG
STATE ADJUTANT GENERAL AND DIRECTOR OF STATE CIVIL DEFENSE
March 11, 2014

Chair Espero, Chair Wakai, and the Members of the Senate Committees on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs and Technology and the Arts.

I am Major General Darryll D. M. Wong, State Adjutant General and Director of State Civil Defense. I am testifying in **SUPPORT** of House Bill 2071 HD1.

This measure will designate the last Sunday in September as "Gold Star Family Day." This special day will honor the families of service members who sacrificed so much for the United States of America. This honor began with a joint congressional resolution on June 23 1936, designating the last Sunday in September as "Gold Star Mother's Day."

Hawaii will join with Illinois, North Dakota, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Tennessee, Wisconsin, and Guam, in celebrating this special day of remembrance.

I ask for your support to pass this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **SUPPORT** of House Bill 2071 HD1.

Date: March 7, 2014

To: The Honorable Will Espero, Chair
The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair
Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Chair
The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair
Committee on Technology and the Arts

From: Mike Golojuch, Lt Col, USAF (Ret), Chair, Advisory Board on Veterans' Services

Subject: Support for HB2071, HD1

As a veteran and Chair, Advisory Board, Office of Veterans' Services that represents over 170,000 Hawaii veterans, I strongly support HB2071, to recognize the family members of those women and men who gave their lives to their country while serving with the armed forces of the United States. A designation of a day will never repay the loss of a love one but it will let them know that we wish to thank the family members for the sacrifice their family made to our country.

I strongly urge that you pass this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to express the views of the Advisory Board.

**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Public Safety,
Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs, and
Committee on Technology and The Arts**

Tuesday, March 11, 2013

2:45 PM

Conference Room 2245

RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 2071, HD1, RELATING TO GOLD STAR FAMILY DAY

Chairs Espero and Wakai, Vice Chairs Baker and Nishihara, and members of the committees.

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 Bill No. 2071, HD1, Relating To Gold Star Family Day.

The measure proposes to amend Chapter 8, Hawaii Revised Statutes, by adding a new section to appropriately designate the last Sunday in September as "Gold Star Family Day" in recognition of family members of those men and women who gave their lives in the service of their country while serving with armed forces of the United States in time of war or during periods of hostilities.

Hawaii joins with Illinois, North Dakota, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Tennessee, and Wisconsin, and Guam, in celebrating an honor first observed by joint congressional resolution on June 23 1936. We believe that the proposal would honor the personal sacrifices made by service members and their families, especially during the wars fought in the Middle East over the past 12 years.

This designation is also consistent with Hawaii's state Medal of Honor recognition for those members of the armed services with Hawaii connections who gave their lives during Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operations Enduring Freedom.

In light of the above, we recommend the measure be approved.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



HAWAII CATHOLIC CONFERENCE
6301 Pali Highway
Kaneohe, HI 96744-5224

Submitted: Online
Hearing on: Tuesday, March 11, 2014 @ 2:45 p.m.
Conference Room: 224

DATE: March 7, 2014
TO: Senate PSM Committee
Sen. Will Espero, Chair
Sen. Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair
Senate TEC Committee
Sen. Glenn Wakai, Chair
Sen. Clarence Nishihara, Vice Chair
From: Walter Yoshimitsu, Executive Director
Re: Strong Support for HB 2071 HD 1 Relating to Gold Star Family Day

Honorable Chairs and members of the joint committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs and the Committee on Technology and the Arts, I am Walter Yoshimitsu, **representing the Hawaii Catholic Conference**. The Hawaii Catholic Conference is the public policy voice for the Roman Catholic Church in the State of Hawaii, which under the leadership of Bishop Larry Silva, represents Roman Catholics in Hawaii.

The Presidential Proclamation for this important day sums up the position of the Diocese of Honolulu...

*"On this day, we remember our commitment to the Gold Star mothers and families who carry on with pride and resolve despite unthinkable loss. We recall our sacred obligation to those who gave their lives so we could live ours. As a grateful Nation, we declare that we will never forget their sacrifice, and we renew our promise to build a future worthy of their devotion. We also recognize our countrymen and women who continue the fight, putting their lives on the line each day. Long after the battle is over, we will continue to give our military and Gold Star families the care and support they deserve -- in a listening ear, a comforting shoulder, a helping hand, and a moment given to keep alive the memories of their Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen." -
Presidential Proclamation -- Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day, 2013*

The Hawaii Catholic Conference can find no better way to show our appreciation for the members of the United States Armed Forces who gave their lives for this great country than to establish a Gold Star Family Day in Hawaii.

Let Hawaii become the 8th State to celebrate the men and women who are the very heroes to this great land of freedom that they lost their very lives defending.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!



ONLINE SUBMITTAL
Hearing on Tuesday, March 11, 2014 @ 2:45 p.m.
Conference Room #224

DATE: March 7, 2014

TO: Joint Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental & Military Affairs &
Senate Committee on Technology & the Arts
Sen. Will Espero, Chair Sen. Glenn Wakai, Chair
Sen. Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair Sen. Clarence Nishihara, Vice Chair

FROM: Eva Andrade, Executive Director

RE: Strong Support for HB 2071 HD 1 Relating to Gold Star Family Day

Hawaii Family Forum is a non-profit, pro-family education organization committed to preserving and strengthening families in Hawaii, representing a network of various Christian Churches and various faith-based groups. **We strongly support this bill because we support the families of fallen soldiers who gave their lives in the ultimate sacrifice to defend LIFE, FAMILY and RELIGIOUS FREEDOM in this great nation. This is a way to honor their courage and faithfulness!**

According to the U.S. Army website, mothers of fallen service members began calling themselves "Gold Star Mothers" during the First World War. Since then, many of our nations sons and daughters have left their families to go to war. In honor of their sacrifice, President Barack Obama issued a proclamation recognizing Sunday, Sept. 25, as Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day.

We support HB 2071 because we are very mindful of the sacrifice of every mother and father who has lost a son or daughter to the ravages of war. These lives are precious and their names and memory are etched in history even as back as far as the Revolutionary War. We honor these heroes whose lost lives remain the bedrock for the United States of America and the freedoms we cherish.

The United States began observing Gold Star Mothers Day on the last Sunday of September in 1936 and this year, we pray that Hawaii will join the nation each year in recognizing the sacrifice and strength of its Gold Star Families.

Mahalo for the opportunity to support this very important bill.

Testimony

Carswell J. Ross, Jr. M.A., Chief Master Sergeant, USAF Ret.
94-1020 Puana Street
Waipahu, HI 96797

Tuesday, March 11, 2014 @ 2:45 pm

Testimony on House Bill 2071, HD1, RELATING TO GOLD STAR FAMILY
DAY

Presentation to the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and
Military Affairs

Good morning Chairs Will Espero, Glenn Wakai and Vice Chairs Rosalyn Baker, Clarence Nishihara and members of the Committee on Veterans, Military & International Affairs & Culture and the Arts and members of the Committee on Technology and the Arts.

I strongly **support** HB 2071, HD1, which DESIGNATES THE LAST Sunday in September as “Gold Star Family Day.” This legislation is a small tribute to the family members who have lost a family member who was serving this great country when they were taken from them.

This is a fitting honor for the State to grant to these family members.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of this measure.