

HCR 33, HD 1

URGING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE TO ALLOW "FLYOVERS" TO HONOR AND RECOGNIZE ARMED FORCES DAY, MEMORIAL DAY, VETERANS DAY, AND THE ANNIVERSARY OF PEARL HARBOR.

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 SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY,
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

BY
MAJ GEN DARRYLL D. M. WONG
STATE ADJUTANT GENERAL
March 20, 2014

Chair Espero, Vice Chair Baker, and Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs:

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.

The recent congressional budget compromise has put sequestration actions on hold for the next two years. The Secretary has 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.

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 33, HD1, URGING
THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND 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

SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND
MILITARY AFFIARS

BY

MR. RONALD P. HAN
DIRECTOR OF THE STATE OFFICE OF VETERANS SERVICES

March 24, 2014

Chair Espero, Vice Chair Baker and Committee members:

I'm Ron Han, Director of the State Office of Veterans Services (OVS). I appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony **in support** of the concepts in House Concurrent Resolution 33, HD1.

This measure recommends that the President of the United States and the Secretary of Defense to authorize "Flyovers" to honor and recognize Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Veterans Day and the Anniversary of Pearl Harbor.

The "Flyover" and the missing man formation at the end of one of these poignant and solemn ceremonies is a reminder for those living that our freedom was paid by the sacrifices and dedication of those who fought valiantly in our Nations Armed Forces.

Remembering their legacy and their sacrifice reflects favorably on a proud Nation who can never repay this debt and obligation to these warriors of many generations.

The OVS supports the intent expressed in this measure as long as its implementation does not impact or replace the priorities set forth in the Executive Budget for Fiscal Year 2015.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of Hawaii's Veterans and their families in support of HCR 33, HD1.

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

Monday, March 24, 2014

1:35 PM

Conference Room 224

**RE: HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 33, HD 1, URGING THE
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND 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 Espero, Vice Chair Baker, 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, HD 1, urging the President of the United States and 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 President of the United States and the Secretary of Defense to enable the U.S. military and the citizens of the Nation the traditional means by which to honor and recognize those who have served, and those who continue to serve, in the Armed Services and those who were killed in the service to the United States.

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 ceremonial "flyovers".

In light of the above, we recommend approval of this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Testimony

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

Monday, March 24, 2014 @ 1:35 p.m.

Testimony on House Concurrent Resolution 33, HD1, LURGING THE ASPRESEDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE TO ALLOW “FLYOVERS” TO HONOR AND RECOGNIZE THE ARMED FORCES DAY, MEMORIAL DAY, VETERANS DAY, AND THE ANNIVERSARY OF PEARL HARBOR.

Good Afternoon Chair Will Espero and Vice Chair Rosalyn Baker and members of the Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs.

I support HCR 33, HD1 which request the President of the United States and the Secretary of Defense to allow appropriate recognition on various recognized ceremonial days with military “Flyovers.” These Flyovers not only signify the special connection that the military has for its veterans, retirees and their family members, they remind each American of the sacrifices made by our armed forces to sustain the values and traditions which make America a great and wonderful country.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony **in support** of this Concurrent Resolution.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 20, 2014 11:27 PM
To: PSMTestimony
Cc: sonnyfernan@msn.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HCR33 on Mar 24, 2014 13:35PM

HCR33

Submitted on: 3/20/2014

Testimony for PSM on Mar 24, 2014 13:35PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stanley Y. Fernandez Sr.	Individual	Support	No

Comments: In support of Resolution. For these special national recognized holidays, it is only fitting that the US government provide military flyovers to honor those that gave the ultimate sacrifice for their nation.

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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