



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

# LATE TESTIMONY

Submitted: Online  
Hearing on: Tuesday, February 25, 2014 @ 1:30 p.m.  
Conference Room: 414

**DATE:** February 24, 2014  
**TO:** Senate Committee on PSM & Senate Committee on TEC  
Sen. Will Espero, Chair  
Sen. Rosalyn Baker, Vice-Chair  
Sen. Glenn Wakai, Chair  
Sen. Clarence Nishihara, Vice-Chair  
**From:** Walter Yoshimitsu, Executive Director  
**Re:** Strong Support for SB 3046 Relating to Gold Star Family Day

Honorable Chair & members of the joint Committees on Public Safety, Intergovernmental & Military Affairs and the Senate Committee on Technology & 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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!

# **hawaii family forum** **LATE TESTIMONY**

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**FROM:** Eva Andrade, Executive Director

**RE:** Strong Support for SB 3046 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 an 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 who 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.

February 25, 2014

LATE TESTIMONY

**SUBJECT: SB 3046 RELATING TO GOLD STAR FAMILY DAY**

**FROM:** Allen K. Hoe

**TESTIMONY FOR:** Chair, Senator Will Espero, Vice Chair, Senator Rosalyn Baker, Members of the Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs.

Aloha Chairs Espero and Baker and committee members. My name is Allen K. Hoe, I am here today to speak in support of SB 3046. As a keiki o ka aina, when it came my time to serve my country, in 1966 I did so with a lot of pride following in the "local" tradition of many of my ohana and friends. I thought I knew what being a "Gold Star Family" meant in the days of my youth.

In combat in Vietnam I experienced the horrors of war as I witnessed buddies standing next to me lose their lives. In Vietnam the casualties we took made us all a little numb to the cruel realities of war. I thought that I understood what being killed in combat was all about.

On January 22, 2005, when the two Army Officers came to my home in beautiful Maunawili Valley, I was not prepared for that message and the reality that my son Nainoa, had given his last full measure devotion, as President Lincoln would say, for his country in a place so foreign and so evil.

It still puzzles me why little is known about one of our Nation's most revered symbols, the "Gold Star Lapel Button" which Congress approved in 1947 to recognize the families of service members who lost their lives while engaged in action against an enemy of the United States. In 1973, Congress added the Lapel Button for the Next of Kin of Deceased Personnel to honor those who lose their lives while serving on active duty or while assigned in a Reserve or National Guard unit in a drill status.

Senate Bill 3046 which proposes to designate a special day in honor of the families of the men and women who have sacrificed so much for our great nation is a very fitting tribute and a way to remind all of us that freedom is not free.

I respectfully submit my testimony in support and urge the members of this committee to adopt this measure.

Allen K. Hoe  
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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 24, 2014 3:54 PM  
**To:** PSMTestimony  
**Cc:** dne39@isp.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB3046 on Feb 25, 2014 13:30PM\*

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**SB3046**

Submitted on: 2/24/2014

Testimony for PSM/TEC on Feb 25, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dennis Egge	NAUS Hawaii Chapter	Support	No

**Comments:**

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