

LATE

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 23 AND HOUSE
RESOLUTION 5, RELATING TO URGING CONGRESS TO AMEND FEDERAL LAW
TO ALLOW FUNDS FOR THE BURIAL OF QUALIFIED FILIPINO-AMERICAN
VETERANS IN NATIONAL AND STATE VETERANS CEMETERIES TO COVER THE
COSTS OF TRANSPORTING THE REMAINS OF FILIPINO-AMERICAN VETERANS
OF WORLD WAR II TO THE PHILIPPINES AND FOR FUNERAL AND BURIAL
SERVICES IN THE PHILIPPINES

PRESENTATION TO THE
COMMITTEE ON VETERANS, MILITARY, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, & CULTURE
AND THE ARTS

BY

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

February 8, 2016

Good morning Chair Ito, Vice-Chair Tokioka, and members of the Committee:

I'm Ron Han, Director of the State Office of Veterans Services. I appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony in support of the concepts in HCR23 and HR 5 with the following comments:

Eligible Filipino veterans have earned the right to be buried in a National or State Veterans Cemetery. This is the same entitlement as eligible military members and veterans of the United States Armed Forces. Currently, eligible U.S. Veterans do not receive State or federal compensation for transportation of their remains to their respective state of residency or home of record.

This proposed measure in accordance with HRS 363 and if State funds are available, the amount of \$2,000 dollars maybe provided for the transportation of the remains of eligible Filipino veterans. From the preliminary research with mortuary services in Hawaii, the approximate cost to ship the remains in a sealed casket with all of the proper safety measures adhered to would be approximately \$3,000 dollars. The transportation cost of shipping a casket from Hawaii to Manila in the Philippines would be approximately an additional \$5,000 dollars. Total estimate of the preparation and transportation of remains would be approximately \$8,000 dollars. The preparation and transportation of cremains in an urn would cost considerably less. Besides the cost factor, another point of interest would be the final requested burial location of the eligible Filipino veteran in the Philippines. For example, the cost of the casket transported from

Hawaii to any other location other than Manila in the Philippines could drive cost substantially higher.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of Hawaii's Veterans their families in support of HCR 23 and HR 5.

tokioka2 - Karina

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
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Subject: Submitted testimony for HCR23 on Feb 8, 2016 09:00AM



HCR23

Submitted on: 2/8/2016

Testimony for VMI on Feb 8, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Randy	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: Good Morning Chair Ito, Vice Chair Tokioka and Members of the Committee: My name is Randy Cortez and I am a member of the Filipino Jaycees. I strongly support HR 5 and HCR 23. The Filipino Veterans deserve to be honored through transportation of their remains back to their home country, the Philippines. More importantly, these veterans have always shared an affinity for their families. Their attempts to bring their family members to the US have proven unsuccessful. A majority of them are already in their 90's. Mr. Art Caleda, one of the veterans, is unable to attend today's hearing due to transportation issues. He sends his regrets. With the passage of time, the veterans continue to age and tragically pass away, never seeing their brothers, sisters, sons, and daughters. Let's give them the respect they need and deserve with the necessary appropriations. Thank you.

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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