



HCR23

Measure Title:	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.
Report Title:	WWII Filipino-American Veteran; Transportation and Burial Costs in the Philippines
Description:	
Companion:	hr5
Package:	None
Current Referral:	PSM, WAM
Introducer(s):	CACHOLA, AQUINO, BELATTI, CULLEN, EVANS, FUKUMOTO CHANG, ITO, JOHANSON, C. LEE, LUKE, MIZUNO, NAKASHIMA, RHOADS, SAIKI, SAN BUENAVENTURA, SOUKI

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 23 (HSCR 1507-16),
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 PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY
AFFAIRS

BY

MR. RONALD P. HAN, JR.
DIRECTOR OF STATE OFFICE OF VETERANS' SERVICES

April 14, 2016
1:30 p.m.

Aloha Chair Nishihara, Vice-Chair Espero, 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 HCR 23 (HSCR 1507-16), 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 \$2,500 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 (HSCR 1507-16).

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Subject: *Submitted testimony for HCR23 on Apr 14, 2016 13:30PM*
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HCR23

Submitted on: 4/11/2016

Testimony for PSM on Apr 14, 2016 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Date: Tuesday, April 12, 2016 12:33:43 PM

HCR23

Submitted on: 4/12/2016

Testimony for PSM on Apr 14, 2016 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amanda Kamakea	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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HCR23

Submitted on: 4/12/2016

Testimony for PSM on Apr 14, 2016 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Roberto Bernardo	Individual	Support	No

Comments: For the small number of WWII Filipino-American veterans who are still living, fulfilling their wish for a final resting place in the Philippines is a moral obligation of the U.S.

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