



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 102

House Committee on Judiciary
February 24, 2016, 2:00 p.m., Conference Room 325

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Hawai'i Coalition for Immigrant Rights, the immigration arm of Faith Action for Community Equity (FACE), I would like to thank the Committee for this opportunity to testify. We would like to thank the Committee for hearing this measure and for the opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of H.R. 102, which urges the U.S. Congress to extend the right to vote for the President and Vice President of the United States to American citizens in the territories and commonwealths of the United States.

We strongly support H.R. 102, because this measure combats the political exclusion of four million people who reside in U.S. island territories and commonwealths but who do not have the fundamental right to vote in U.S. presidential elections. Government cannot be considered responsive or representative when millions of people are denied a formal political voice for little reason other than a series of legal roadblocks that were erected in the early 20th century. Residents in U.S. territories make countless economic, social, and cultural contributions to the United States, in the same ways as their counterparts within the continental United States, yet they possess fewer rights. The President and Vice President of the United States shape public policies crucial to the quality of these individuals' daily lives. Further, voting rights are linked to power and, although this was not always so, have become the essence of citizenship.

Accordingly, we request your favorable consideration of this resolution. Thank you again for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Khara Jabola-Carolus