



**HAWAII**

STATE FOUNDATION on  
CULTURE and the ARTS

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250 South Hotel Street  
Second Floor  
Honolulu, HI 96813

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**TESTIMONY OF  
THE STATE FOUNDATION ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
FEBRUARY 23, 2017  
H. B. 942, H.D. 1  
RELATING TO FILIPINO VETERANS**

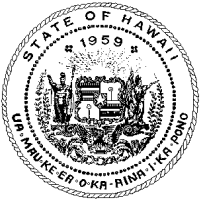
Chair Luke and members of the Committee, I am Jonathan Johnson, Executive Director of the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA), and I am grateful for the opportunity to comment on H.B.942., H.D.1.

The SFCA supports the concept to commission a monument to honor and recognize the Filipino Veterans who served alongside the Allied forces during World War II.

If it is the desire of the Legislature to commission the monument, the SFCA recommends forming an Art Advisory Committee (AAC) following the SFCA's collection management policy for all new works of art. AAC's assist with the selection of location, defining the medium and theme of the work of art, recommending an artist, and review of design proposals.

Funding to implement the proposed intent could be from the Works of Art Special Fund, provided expenditures are consistent with use of the fund as described in Section 103-8.5HRS.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this matter.



# HAWAI‘I CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 411 HONOLULU, HI 96813 · PHONE: 586-8636 FAX: 586-8655 TDD: 568-8692

February 23, 2017  
Rm. 308, 11:00 a.m.

To: The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
and Members of the House Committee on Finance  
From: Linda Hamilton Krieger, Chair  
and Commissioners of the Hawai‘i Civil Rights Commission

Re: H.B. No. 942, H.D.1

The Hawai‘i Civil Rights Commission (HCRC) has enforcement jurisdiction over Hawai‘i’s laws prohibiting discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, and access to state and state funded services. The HCRC carries out the Hawai‘i constitutional mandate that no person shall be discriminated against in the exercise of their civil rights. Art. I, Sec. 5.

H.B. No. 942, H.D.1 appropriates funds to commission an artist to design and build a monument to honor Filipino veterans who fought alongside Allied under U.S. command during World War II.

The HCRC strongly supports H.B. No. 942, H.D.1. The time has come for long overdue recognition of the heroic contributions of more than two hundred and sixty thousand Filipino veterans, surviving and deceased. With the building of this monument, Hawai‘i can join the United States in efforts to pay a debt of gratitude and justice, attempting to remedy a history of injustice, broken promises, and discriminatory treatment suffered by a now dwindling generation of heroic Filipino Veterans who served under US command, were promised citizenship and veteran’s benefits, and to this day continue to suffer the consequences of broken promises and belated remedies.

During WWII, members of the Philippine Armed Forces served in the US Armed Forces in the war against Japan. They were among a broader class of non-citizens serving in the US Armed Forces who were

offered naturalization as part of the 1942 enactment of the Second War Powers Act, which waived a number of usual naturalization requirements, including residence in the United States and literacy and education testing in English. The cut-off date for application was set at December 31, 1946.

The US authorized Vice Consul George H. Ennis in August 1945 to naturalize Filipino servicemen pursuant to the law. However, the applicability of the law to Filipino servicemen was questioned, and then Attorney General Tom Clark revoked Ennis' authority to naturalize in September 26, 1945. Eligible Filipino servicemen were then only able to naturalize from August through December, 1946. As a result, only about 4,000 out of more than 250,000 Filipino servicemen applied for and were granted naturalization during those few short months.

With the enactment of the Rescission Act in 1946, these Filipino Veterans who served under US Command were singled out and denied full and equal veterans status and benefits given to others.

This injustice spawned a host of litigated cases on behalf of Filipino Veterans, from the 1960s through the 1980s. Then, in 1990 Congress incorporated provisions for special naturalization for Filipino Veterans in the 1990 Immigration Act, followed by piecemeal legislation providing for limited benefits for Filipino Veterans, but not equity and full veterans benefits.

Many of those Filipino Veterans who naturalized since 1990 have waited for years for relative visas to become available, so their petitions to be reunited with their adult children in the United States can be approved and visas issued. Fewer and fewer remain with us, waiting, as those who fought under US command in WWII are now aged well into their 90s. The HCRC strongly supports H.B. No. 942, H.D.1, which provides for a monument to recognize these Filipino Veterans. It is time to give them their due.



Testimony in Strong Support of  
HB 942 hd1 RELATING TO FILIPINO VETERANS  
House Committee on Finance  
State Capitol, House Conference Room 308  
February 23, 2017, 11 a.m.

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and members of the committee

From: Amy Agbayani, Co-chair Hawai'i Friends of Civil Rights (HFCR)  
3432 B-1 Kalihi St. Honolulu, Hawaii, 96819

Subject: Relating to Filipino Veterans.

HFCR supports programs and policies that seek to fair treatment for individuals and communities. We also support efforts of the Filipino and other ethnic communities to recognize diversity and inclusion in our multiethnic state. HB 942hd 1 identifies historical reasons for honoring the WW II Filipino veterans by providing a visual reminder of their service and sacrifices. HB 942 would provide funds to design and build a monument.

It has come to our attention that there is also a request to include historical information about Filipino and US participation in WW II to honor Filipino Veterans. We would like to incorporate some of the ideas in HB886 that are consistent with HB942 hd1 to honor the Filipino veterans with a visual reminder of their service and sacrifices. We support funding to establish a Filipino Veterans Legacy Exhibit as a permanent exhibit at the Honolulu International Airport as an visual educational reminder for Hawai'i residents and visitors.

I respectfully request approval of HB 942 hd1 which appropriately recognizes the historical role of Filipino veterans in our state and nation.



Testimony in strong support of HB 942 HD1  
RELATING TO FILIPINO VETERANS  
House Committee on Finance  
February 23, 2017, 11 a.m., State Capitol, House Conference Room 308

To: Chair Sylvia Luke, Vice Chair Ty J.K. Cullen  
House Committee on Finance Members

From: Charlene Cuaresma, Chair, NaFFAA-National Federation of Filipino American Associations Region 12

Subject: Monument to Honor Filipino WWII Veterans

My name is Charlene Cuaresma, Chair, NaFFAA Region 12, which represents the interests of Filipinos in Hawai'i, Guam, and the Commonwealth of Northern Marianas Islands. We are an affiliate of the National NaFFAA. Washington policy-makers, private industry and national advocacy groups recognize NaFFAA as the Voice of Filipinos and Filipino Americans throughout the United States. We are a non-partisan, non-profit national affiliation of more than five hundred Filipino-American institutions and umbrella organizations that span twelve regions throughout the continental United States and U.S. Pacific territories.

I am proud to submit strong support for this bill. Since 1946, Hawai'i's Congressional delegation has joined our Filipino leaders in leading and sustaining our fierce charge to reinstate veterans' benefits for our Filipino WWII veterans, but to no avail. As a result of the wrongful and cruel passage of the Rescission Act, today, some of our number of our Filipino WWII veterans, now in their 80's and 90's, are left with no relatives because the provision of family reunification was rescinded. We are saddened and angered that it has come to this indignant, pathetic quandary for our veterans to face their death in poverty and loneliness.

Given this, I extend deep gratitude to Rep. Ty Cullen for introducing HB 942, which aims to design and build a monument to honor and uplift our Filipino veterans' place in history for generations to come. I respectfully request that your Committee also review how elements of HB 886 might be integrated into the design and concept development to establish a monument at the Filipino Community Center and a dynamic Filipino Legacy Exhibit at the Honolulu International Airport. The aim would be to optimize exposure from domestic and international travelers at the airport, as well as from local foot traffic at community events held at the Filipino Community Center. This dual monument and digital exhibit would generate synergy toward the shared goal of educating the public and celebrating the legacy of our beloved Filipino WWII veterans.

Thank you for hearing this bill, and for the opportunity to offer our strong support.

Sincerely,

Charlene Cuaresma, Chair, National Federation of Filipino American Associations Region 12



## *Nursing Advocates & Mentors, Inc.*

*... a non-profit organization with a mission to address the global nursing shortage by providing guidance and assistance for nursing colleagues to obtain their professional license in nursing.*

P.O. Box 2034 Aiea, HI 96701

E-mail: [namihonolulu@yahoo.com](mailto:namihonolulu@yahoo.com)

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### Testimony in strong support of HB 942 HD1 RELATING TO FILIPINO VETERANS House Committee on Finance

February 23, 2017, 11 a.m., State Capitol, House Conference Room 308

To: Chair Sylvia Luke, Vice Chair Ty J.K. Cullen  
House Committee on Finance Members

From: Beatrice Ramos-Razon, RN, FACDA  
President, Nursing Advocates and Mentors, Inc.

Subject: Monument to Honor Filipino WWII Veterans

We are proud to support this bill. My name is Beatrice Ramos-Razon. As the founder and president of NAMI (Nursing Advocates & Mentors, Inc.), I am proud to submit our strong support for this bill. NAMI's membership is comprised of over 75 volunteer nurses, instructors, allied health care professionals, and Filipino leaders, who are dedicated to improve the health of Hawai'i's people through education, mentoring, advocacy and service.

We are grateful that this bill will design and build a monument at the Filipino Community Center to perpetuate the legacy of Filipino WWII Veterans' role in American and world history. We would also greatly appreciate your consideration to incorporate concepts in HB 886 to complement this monument with an educational component in the form of a permanent exhibit at the Honolulu International Airport, the Filipino Veterans Legacy Exhibit. We hope that the busy traffic of local and global peoples alike at the airport might draw visitors interested in the heroic service and sacrifices of our Filipino Veterans to seek out the monument at the Filipino Community Center as a point of historical importance.

Thank you for hearing this bill and for the opportunity to submit testimony to strongly encourage its passage.

Sincerely,

Beatrice Ramos Razon, RN, FACDA  
President, Nursing Advocates and Mentors, Inc.

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2017 11:10 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** kit.zulueta@mauicounty.us  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB942 on Feb 23, 2017 11:00AM

**HB942**

Submitted on: 2/21/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 23, 2017 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kit Zulueta	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure. I am proud to strongly support this. The recognition is long overdue. The contributions of the heroic Filipino Veterans who served are part of the strong foundation of what the country is today. Their sacrifices are tremendous, as well as their families. Monuments are tangible representations of history and for the sake of the future generations, they must remember, honor and be reminded of the heroic acts our Filipino forefathers have done. Like how the monument of the Philippines' national hero Dr. Jose Rizal, who once said "He who does not know how to look back at where he came from will never get to his destination," has inspired, a monument of our Filipino heroes will help us never to forget. Salamat po, especially to Rep. Ty Cullen, for advocating for the Filipino American community. Kit Zulueta Wailuku, Maui

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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STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 942 HD1, RELATING TO FILIPINO VETERANS

PRESENTATION TO THE  
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

BY

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

February 23, 2017  
11:00 a.m.

Good morning, Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, 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 House Bill 942, HD1.

This measure authorizes the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts to commission an artist to design and build a monument to honor and commemorate Filipino veterans of World War II, with all costs to be expended from the Works of Art Special Fund.

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

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of Hawaii's Veterans and their families.



**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 22, 2017 7:48 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** bautista.aprilk@icloud.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB942 on Feb 23, 2017 11:00AM\*

**HB942**

Submitted on: 2/22/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 23, 2017 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
April Bautista	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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# Filipino American Citizens League

Jake Manegdeg, President  
P. O. Box 270126 \* Honolulu, Hawai'i 96827

Testimony in strong support of HB 942 HD1  
RELATING TO FILIPINO VETERANS  
House Committee on Finance  
February 23, 2017, 11 a.m., State Capitol, House Conference Room 308

To: Chair Sylvia Luke and Vice Chair Ty J.K. Cullen  
House Committee on Finance Members

From: Jake Manegdeg, President, Filipino American Citizens League

Subject: Monument to Honor Filipino WWII Veterans

My name is Jake Manegdeg. I am the president of the Filipino American Citizens League. The Filipino American Citizens League was formed over twenty years ago to contribute to the advancement of civil rights and social justice for minority groups, underserved populations, and vulnerable communities through education, advocacy, and social action.

The League strongly supports this bill, which aims to design and establish a monument to commemorate the historical contributions to world peace through the bravery and sacrifices of our Filipino WWII veterans. We also respectfully ask for you to vet the merits of HB 886, and see if there might be an opportunity to utilize the concept and design phase to explore the possibility of complementing the monument at the Filipino Community Center with a digital, educational, Filipino Veteran Legacy exhibit at the Honolulu International Airport.

Thank you for hearing this bill and for the opportunity to offer our strong support.

Very Sincerely,

Jake Manegdeg  
President  
Filipino American Citizens League

House Committee on Finance

Hawai`i State Capitol, House Conference Room 308  
February 23, 2017, 11 a.m.

Testimony in Strong Support of HB 942 HD1  
RELATING TO FILIPINO VETERANS

To: Chair Sylvia Luke, Vice Chair Ty J.K. Cullen  
House Committee on Finance Members

From: Jean Jeremiah, Private Citizen

Subject: Strong of Filipino Veterans Monument

My name is Jean Jeremiah. I am speaking as a private citizen. I am proud to submit my full support of this bill. I served as former President of the Oahu Filipino Community Council, where many of our Filipino cultural events aimed to raise scholarship funds for deserving Filipino youth to pursue their education and career aspirations.

Thank you, Rep. Ty Cullen for introducing HB 942, which seeks to design and develop a monument, established at the Filipino Community Center, in honor of our Filipino Veterans. I support this bill, because our Filipino WWII Veterans deserve to have their stories of bravery and sacrifice kept alive. I would also humbly ask this Committee to review how any part of HB 886 can be re-imagined into the design and concept to incorporate a dynamic, digital Filipino Veteran Legacy exhibit at the Honolulu International Airport. Their bravery should be remembered and honored by generations of visitors and locals.

Thank you for hearing this bill and for the chance to offer my strong support for its passage.

Very Sincerely,

Jean Jeremiah

Testimony in strong support of HB 942 HD1  
RELATING TO FILIPINO VETERANS  
House Committee on Finance  
February 23, 2017, 11 a.m., State Capitol, House Conference Room 308

To: Chair Sylvia Luke and Vice Chair Ty J.K. Cullen  
House Committee on Finance Members

From: Davelyn Quijano, Private Citizen

Subject: Monument to Honor Filipino WWII Veterans

I strongly support this bill. I am speaking as a private citizen. My name is Davelyn Quijano, president of the Sinait National High School Alumni Association of Hawaii. Our alumni association was established in 1995 and has grown to 60 members in Hawaii. I also serve as the secretary of the Anak ti Sinait of Hawai`i (Children of Sinait). Our alumni association prides itself in volunteerism both in Hawai`i and the Philippines, where we perpetuate our culture, join in disaster relief efforts, finance medical missions to the Philippines, foster good health through outreach programs to our Filipino community, empower our youth through scholarship programs, offer aid to deceased members and their beneficiaries, and engage network opportunities to contribute successfully to Hawaii's economy through entrepreneurship.

Many of our organization members have family members who are World War II veterans. We were very, very grateful when we heard that Rep. Ty Cullen had introduced this bill to establish a monument at the Filipino Community Center to remember the gallant service and bravery of our Filipino World War II veterans to America and the world. We kindly request that your Committee also take a look at HB 886, which proposes to memorialize the stories of our Filipino veterans stories in an educational Filipino Veterans Legacy exhibit at the Honolulu International Airport. How can we maximize the design process to come up with a coordinated and appealing concept that will uplift the status of our Filipino veterans, while at the same time perpetuate public education and appreciation of our Filipino veterans in world history?

Thank you for hearing this bill and for the opportunity to express my full support of this bill.

Warmest regards,

Davelyn Quijano

**LATE**

TO: House Finance Committee

FROM: Wilfredo Tungol, Esq. (Phone 387-7412)

RE: HB 942, HD 1 Date of Hearing: February 24, 2017, 11:00 a.m. (Room 305)

Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullens and Members of the Committee:

I am a retired army officer of Filipino ancestry with almost thirty years of service with the U.S. Army Reserves. I testify in STRONG SUPPORT of this bill. This bill will give long deserved recognition to the almost 250,000 Filipino veterans who fought against the Japanese in World War II. The Filipino veterans included two of my deceased uncles who fought alongside the U.S. Army and gave the ultimate sacrifice in defense of the Philippines and the United States. One was a member of the Philippine Scouts and the other is a member of the U.S. Armed Forces of the Far East. The latter is the organization that promised the Filipino veterans that they will receive same type of benefits that the American soldiers will after the war. Of course that promise was broken in 1946 when Congress pass the Recission Act. The least that we can do now for our Filipino veterans is to honor their service by creating this monument to honor and remember their contribution in defense of liberty and democracy.

I also want to point out that this bill honors all Filipino veterans, including the American Filipino veterans from Hawaii who serve ably in the Philippines and who later became leaders in our community and state such as the late Associate Justice Menor, late Representative Peter Aduja, late attorney Bernard Bicoy, former district superintendent Domingo Los Banos and others.

I asked you to act favorably to move this bill and to show our Filipino veterans that the State of Hawaii has not forgotten their sacrifice and contribution in World War II.

**LATE**

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2017 9:10 AM  
To: FINTestimony  
Cc: rustonu@gmail.com  
Subject: \*Submitted testimony for HB942 on Feb 23, 2017 11:00AM\*

**HB942**

Submitted on: 2/23/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 23, 2017 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ruston Utu	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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