



HAWAII

STATE FOUNDATION on
CULTURE and the ARTS

No. 1 Capitol District Building
250 South Hotel Street
Second Floor
Honolulu, HI 96813

Governor
David Y. Ige

Comptroller
Roderick K. Becker

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Commissioners
Jane Clement
Joel Guy
Noelle Kahanu
Michael Moore
Dean Sakamoto
Karen Tiller Polivka
Sherman Warner
Eva R. Washburn-Repollo

Executive Director
Jonathan Johnson

Telephone
808.586.0300

Fax
808.586.0308

Website
www.hawaii.gov/sfca

**TESTIMONY OF
THE STATE FOUNDATION ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
H. B. 942, H.D. 1, S. D. 1
RELATING TO FILIPINO VETERANS
To be heard Thursday MARCH 30, 2017
1:40pm at CR211**

Chairs Tokuda and members of the Committees, 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, S.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 priority of the Legislature for the SFCA 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.

The one SFCA project manager serving all departments statewide is at capacity. Additional project management staff are necessary to meet the current demands of construction projects awaiting integrated works of art. Implementing this project without additional project management staffing will result in projects within the Department of Education, Department of Transportation or the University of Hawai'i being delayed.

SFCA supports the future appropriation of funding to implement the proposed intent, provided doing so does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive budget. 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.

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 942, HD1, SD1 RELATING TO FILIPINO VETERANS

PRESENTATION TO THE
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

BY

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

March 30, 2017
1:40 p.m.

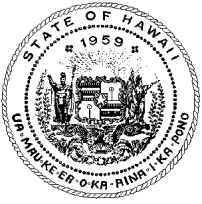
Good afternoon, Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and members of the Committee:

I'm Ron Han, Director of the State Office of Veterans Services. I appreciate this opportunity to provide written testimony **in support** of the concepts in House Bill 942, HD 1 and SD 1.

This measure appropriates funds for the Hawaii State Foundation on Culture and the Arts to commission an artist to design, build and to site a location for a monument that honors the distinguished service and dedication of Filipino veterans of World War II.

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 written testimony on behalf of Hawaii's Veterans and their families.



HAWAI‘I CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

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

March 30, 2017
Rm. 211, 1:40 p.m.

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

From: Linda Hamilton Krieger, Chair
and Commissioners of the Hawai‘i Civil Rights Commission

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

The HCRC strongly supports H.B. No. 942, H.D.1, S.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, S.D.1 which provides for a monument to recognize these Filipino Veterans. It is time to give them their due.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 2:15 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB942 on Mar 30, 2017 13:40PM*

HB942

Submitted on: 3/28/2017

Testimony for WAM on Mar 30, 2017 13:40PM in Conference Room 211

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

Comments:

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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