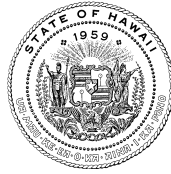


DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



LAUREL A. JOHNSTON  
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EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND  
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**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE**

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ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE  
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND  
MANAGEMENT DIVISION  
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION  
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

**WRITTEN ONLY**

TESTIMONY BY LAUREL A. JOHNSTON  
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE  
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND  
MILITARY AFFAIRS  
ON  
HOUSE BILL NO. 1944, H.D. 1

**March 13, 2018  
1:30 p.m.  
Room 229**

**RELATING TO FILIPINO VETERANS BURIAL ASSISTANCE**

House Bill No. 1944, H.D. 1, establishes the Filipino-American Veterans of World War II Burial Assistance Program; establishes the Filipino-American Veterans of World War II Burial Assistance Program Special Fund; and provides an unspecified general fund and special fund appropriations. The measure further provides that the fund is to be administered by the Office of Veterans Services, into which shall be deposited appropriations by the Legislature, and for which funds shall be used for operating expenses of and burial grants provided by the burial assistance program.

While the Department of Budget and Finance does not take any position on the establishment of the Filipino-American Veterans of World War II Burial Assistance Program, as a matter of general policy, the department does not support the creation of special funds which do not meet the requirements of Section 37-52.3, HRS. Special funds should: 1) serve a need as demonstrated by the purpose, scope of work and an explanation why the program cannot be implemented under the general fund appropriation process; 2) reflect a clear nexus between the benefits sought and charges

made upon the users or beneficiaries of the program or a clear link between the program and the sources of revenue; 3) provide an appropriate means of financing for the program or activity; and 4) demonstrate the capacity to be financially self-sustaining.

With regards to House Bill No. 1944, H.D. 1, it does not appear that the special fund meets the criteria of Section 37-52.3, HRS.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

**LATE**

**HB-1944-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2018 10:58:49 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/13/2018 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Hawaii Filipino Lawyers Association	Testifying for Hawaii Filipino Lawyers Association	Support	No

Comments:

**Testimony in Support of HB 1944 Relating to Filipino Veterans Burial Assistance**

**Chair Nishihara and Members of the PSM Committee:**

The Hawaii Filipino Lawyers Association submits our testimony in **strong support** of HB1944 which will create a special fund to help Filipino Veterans with transportation expenses for their burial in the Philippines should they elect to be buried there.

The background of these gallant men who fought alongside the U.S. Army in the Philippines during World War II is well stated in the preamble of this bill. The least that we can do for these veterans is to honor their wish to be buried in their mother country when the time comes.

The number of surviving Filipino veterans in Hawaii is less than 150 and many are in their early to mid-nineties. Time is running out on them. We ask that you act favorably on this bill.

**LATE**

Testimony in Strong Support of

HB 1944hd 1 RELATING TO FILIPINO VETERANS BURIAL ASSISTANCE

State Capitol, House Conference Room 229

Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Wakai and Committee Members

From: Amy Agbayani, chair Filipina Advocacy Network

Subject: HB 1944 hd1 Relating to Filipino Veterans Burial Assistance

Filipina Advocacy Network supports programs and policies that seek to equity for Filipinos and the status of Filipinos in Hawai'i. We strongly support HB 1944 hd1 to provide stable funding for burial grants for qualifying Filipino-American veterans. These funds would pay for funeral and burial services and transportation of their remains to the Philippines; provided that federal funds remain unavailable and there remain eligible Filipino American veterans living in the State. The veterans living in our state do not have resources to transport their remains to the Philippines if that is their final wish. Although burial grants to cover this cost were statutorily established, there are no stable funds available. These veterans are in their 90's, most do not have family in Hawai'i and are low-income.

We respectfully request you approve this bill that demonstrates Hawaii's recognition of our Filipino WW II veteran's service and sacrifice. Thank you for hearing this bill and for the opportunity to offer our strong support.

**HB-1944-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2018 10:52:12 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/13/2018 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
wilfredo tungol	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Chair Nishara and members of the PSM Committee:

I submit my testimony in strong support of this bill.

This bill will help us honor the wishes of the aging Filipino veterans living in Hawaii who wishes to return to their mother country to be buried. For the sacrifices that they have made helping us during the war, it is only fitting that we honor their wish to be returned to the place of their birth.

I asked you to act favorably on passage of this bill.

Wilfredo Tungol (LTC, USAR, Ret.)

Pearl City, HI

**HB-1944-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2018 2:06:52 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/13/2018 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Calvin John Bagaoisan	Individual	Support	No

Comments: