

RECEIVED
Date & Time
Mar 22, 2018, 3:08 pm

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 109/HOUSE RESOLUTION 97, URGING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO GRANT FULL VETERANS BENEFITS TO FILIPINO VETERANS WHO FOUGHT IN WORLD WAR II BUT WERE SUBSEQUENTLY DENIED THE BENEFITS TO WHICH THEY WERE ENTITLED

PRESENTATION TO THE
COMMITTEE ON VETERANS, MILITARY, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS & CULTURE
AND THE ARTS

BY

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

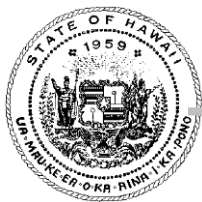
March 23, 2018
10:15 a.m.

Good morning Chair LoPresti and Vice Chair Fukumoto, and members of the Committee:

I am Ron Han, Director of the State Office of Veterans Services. I appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Concurrent Resolution 109/House Resolution 97 as long as its implementation does not impact or replace the priorities set forth in the Executive Budget.

According to the Federal Benefits for Veterans, Dependents and Survivor's Booklet (2012 edition), Chapter Nine (9) "Special Groups of Veterans"; World War II era Filipino Veterans are eligible for certain VA benefits. Generally, Old Philippine Scouts are eligible for VA benefits in the same manner as U.S. Veterans. Commonwealth Army Veterans, including certain organized Filipino guerilla forces and New Philippine Scouts residing in the United States who are citizens or lawfully admitted for permanent residence are also eligible for VA health care in the United States on the same basis as U.S. Veterans. Certain Commonwealth Army Veterans and new Philippine Scouts may be eligible for disability compensation and burial benefits. Other Veterans of recognized guerilla groups also may be eligible for certain VA benefits. Survivors of WW II era Filipino Veterans may be eligible for dependency and indemnity compensation. Eligibility and rates of benefits vary based on the recipient's citizenship and place of residence.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer my comments.



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Mar 22, 2018, 1:19 pm

HAWAI‘I CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

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

March 22, 2018
Rm. 429, 10:15 a.m.

To: The Honorable Matthew S. LoPresti, Chair
Members of the House Committee on Veterans, Military, & International Affairs,
& Culture and the Arts

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

Re: H.C.R. No. 109/ H.R. . No. 97

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.

The HCRC strongly supports H.C.R. 109 and H.R. 97, Urging the President of the United States and the United States Congress to Grant Full Veterans Benefits to Filipino Veterans Who Fought in WW II But Were Subsequently Denied the Benefits to Which They Were Entitled.

These resolutions ask 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 veterans benefits and naturalization as part of the 1942 enactment of the Second War Powers Act, however many were denied the ability to naturalize , as well as veterans benefits, such as health care, disability pensions and burial expenses..

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.

Those who fought with American troops deserve full benefits, however belatedly. Much of that generation has already passed, and this resolution seeks to right a wrong that it may soon be too late to remedy.

The HCRC strongly supports H.C.R. 109 and H.R. 97, which asks the U.S. Congress to grant full veterans benefits to Filipino WW II veterans.

RECEIVED
Date & Time
Mar 22, 2018, 10:52 am

HCR-109

Submitted on: 3/21/2018 8:02:32 PM

Testimony for VMI on 3/23/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Oahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

RECEIVED
Date & Time
Mar 23, 2018, 9:02 am

HCR-109

Submitted on: 3/22/2018 9:15:45 PM

Testimony for VMI on 3/23/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marcella Alohalani Boido	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, all.

My testimony on HCR 109 and HR 90 is identical. I am testifying as a private person.

These are such long-festering issues. They are like a wound that never heals for our community, because it has never been treated appropriately. Now these veterans are essentially aging past the point where appropriate legislation will do them some good.

From reading these resolutions, I am cheered to learn that correcting this injustice will perhaps benefit some surviving family members.

We should honor these veterans with more meaningful recognition of their heroism, toughness and sacrifices. From what little I know about their role, it seems to me that the non-Filipino troops in the Philippines would have been hard-pressed to accomplish all that much without their Filipino counterparts.

At the very least, the USA should do this because it is *pono*, it is the honorable and right thing to do.

Please support and pass HCR 109 and HR 90.

Thank you.

Marcella Alohalani Boido, M.A.

Hawaii State Judiciary Certified Spanish Court Interpreter, Tier 4

Resident, Senate District 10, House District 21, Moili'iili, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96826