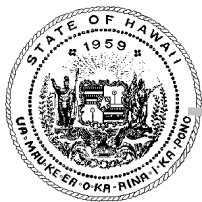


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Date & Time
Mar 22, 2018, 2:01 pm



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.

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HR-97

Submitted on: 3/21/2018 8:03:19 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: