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IN REPLY, REFER TO:
OCS 22. _____

April 19, 2022

To: The Honorable Mark M. Nakashima, Chair,
The Honorable Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair, and
Members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

Hearing: Thursday, April 21, 2022, 1:30 pm, Conf Room 325 & videoconference

From: Jovanie D. dela Cruz, Executive Director, Office of Community Services

Position: Strong Support

Re: SCR 185, SD 1 – Denouncing Russia’s Actions in Ukraine

I. **OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

Proposed SCR 185, SD 1, would place the Legislature on record in denouncing Russia’s actions in invading and making unprovoked war on the independent nation of Ukraine, causing massive human suffering, deaths, and a refugee crisis, as well as billions of dollars in damages.

II. **COMMENTS ON PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

The Office of Community Services (OCS) is an agency attached to the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations. OCS was created by the Legislature by Act 305, SLH 1985, codified as Chapter 371K, Hawai‘i Revised Statutes.

The mission of OCS is to eliminate the causes and conditions of poverty for economically disadvantaged persons, immigrants, and refugees in the State of Hawaii, by facilitating and enhancing the development, delivery, and coordination of effective programs for these persons and communities to enable them to achieve and maintain greater economic self-sufficiency and integration into Hawaii’s society.

OCS currently administers a pair of federal programs for refugees, providing social services and financial assistance to refugees.

OCS strongly supports this proposed resolution. The Biden administration has announced that the United States government will accept the admission of 100,000 refugees from Ukraine. On a per-capita basis, that might result in 500 Ukrainian refugees coming to Hawaii. We will do our very best to help ensure that they receive a proper welcome, including working to

increasing the capacity of our local programs to adequately provide for the needs of these refugees.

SCR-185-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/19/2022 2:13:03 PM

Testimony for JHA on 4/21/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Only Communist would Support this. We the people of Hawaii do not want any thing to do with Communism. Ukrain is full of Natzies why would you Support NATZIES Unless you are ONE of Them!!!

My name is Oksana Enriquez (Klyuchnichenko) I am a proud Ukrainian-American born and raised in Ukraine, Donbas Region of Ukraine. I came to the United States as a high school exchange student under US DOS program FLEX (Future Leaders Exchange). I had an honor to attend local high school Nanakuli High and Intermediate and live with a local Hawaiian Host Family in Nanakuli.

My host family taught me the meaning of Mālama 'Āina, they taught me to be grateful for the privileges and opportunities we are given and the importance of service before self.

My natural family in Ukraine taught me to work hard, respect the laws, take care of myself and others, less fortunate ones in times of need.

I attended Hawaii Pacific University and built a life in the United States, while never forgetting where I came from and what opportunities I've been given in Hawaii, in the United States.

My entire family and my friends are still in Ukraine.

My father is 59 years old he cannot leave the country, my mother is staying by his side.

My brother is supporting my town's citizens and local defense team with internet connection (he is a small business owner wire internet provider). He is the reason many of loved ones still have a connection to those who simply cannot leave my small Ukrainian town in Donbas, Ukraine.

Many of my friends are in Ukraine, in territorial defense, or changed their professions to become volunteers for PEACE, for FREEDOM, for UNITY, for TERRITORIAL and CULTURAL INTEGRITY.

My niece and nephew and several female friends with children had to flee to Europe. I managed to find some of them shelters and temporary homes, but I know I can do more.

My 14 year old nephew Max wrote a letter today to U.S. Embassy in Germany asking if he could come to join with his aunt (me) in U.S. He is away from his father, his grandparents and his friends, needing to get accustomed to new language, culture, school in Germany.

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I am testifying in favor of SCR 185 DENOUNCING RUSSIA'S ACTIONS CAUSING A HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN UKRAINE AND URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO TAKE CONCRETE ACTION TO SUPPORT UKRAINIAN REFUGEES AND TO INCREASE THE REFUGEE LIMITS FOR THE UNITED STATES AND INCREASE FUNDING RELATED TO THOSE EFFORTS.

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Numerous of my friends and host family in Hawaii and in the United States have contacted me offering their homes and their help to support my family and friends in the United States.

Many keep asking how can we help.

I feel absolutely helpless unable to help my own family apart from financially supporting them in Germany and in Ukraine.

I am a volunteer, I volunteer for Ukraine. I fundraise and provide people with critical illnesses or terminal illnesses with important lifesaving medications in Donbas Region of Ukraine.

We find and deliver humanitarian aid.

However, over 11 million (6 million displaced internally in Ukraine) people out of 46 million Ukrainians were forced to flee their homes running away from bombs and death.

The UN says that as of 19 April, more than five million people have left Ukraine.

Thousands, including children, illegally taken to Russian Federation from occupied areas of Ukraine.

Women, children in Ukraine raped and murdered.

European Union has done an incredible job supporting refugees, but, given the size of European countries and their incredible efforts they too are getting overwhelmed both physically and financially.

Ukrainian refugees in Europe find ways to volunteer and work. My people are grateful for shelter for home away from home. My people want to go home, but it is unsafe.

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As an American, as a tax payer, privileged and grateful for the opportunities this great country has given me I ask the American people, because it is our great, compassionate people who rule this country through legislators can help Ukrainian people find temporary homes, hope and means to support themselves while this war lasts.

It is a tragedy, 21st century tragedy to have such war crimes and atrocities, pure hate and evil attack a sovereign independent nation with good people and rich lands.

What are we, the great American people, are doing to help and support those who are doing all they can to fight the injustice, cruelty and evil that has their lands?

What are we, the land of the free, are doing to support those who fight for freedom or run from the atrocities of war Russia has brought to peaceful Ukraine? Ukraine, the country that lost millions in the World War 2, country under that oppression of Soviet Union, but nonetheless, Ukrainians, who fought alongside the great American soldiers, and together brought down Nazism and freed the world from their despicable rule.

Please accept this testimony.

Please do not hesitate to contact me

Thank you!

Oksana Enriquez