

TESTIMONY OF

LARRY S VERAY

TO THE COMMITTEE ON
PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

MOST STRONGLY SUPPORT SCR 18 / SR 12

**REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR CREATE A CITIZEN ADVISORY COUNCIL ON
FEDERAL AFFAIRS**

MARCH 24, 2022

Aloha, Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair DeCoite and committee members. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide testimony on SCR 18 / SR 12. I am Larry Veray, Chair for the Pearl City Neighborhood Board No. 21, and I am representing our board and community based on our board resolution that recommended the creation of a citizen advisory council on federal affairs that was passed at our neighborhood board meeting on September 23, 2021.

This resolution is so important to bring the community and the military together at lower levels with participation from Neighborhood Board representatives and from selected representatives from each of the military services and base locations to share perspectives on the environment, emergency planning, hiring policies, housing and mutual opportunities to help each other in keeping Hawaii safe, beautiful and clean. The Pearl City Neighborhood board already has a great relationship with the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Protocol Office and the Naval Facility Staff.

If this initiative is approved by the Governor, it would definitely bring the Military, State, City and Neighborhood Boards close together. The Pearl City Neighborhood Board has already experienced this great relationship with the military through community clean-ups of the Historic Pearl Harbor Bike Trail, Clean-up of homeless encampments in Pearl City Peninsula and grooming of Sunset Memorial Park Cemetery in Pearl City. Having quarterly meetings would allow more opportunity to coordinate mutual resources to improve the environment, improving recreational opportunities of the Pearl Harbor area and be ready to assist in emergencies and flooding. There are numerous military members that would like to work with the community but they just require more opportunities and coordination.

I most strongly believe that this Citizen Advisory Council on Federal Affairs will definitely bring the community together with the military for the Schofield Barracks, Camp H.M. Smith, Kaneohe Marine Corps Base, Hickam and the Pearl Harbor areas.

I most strongly urge you to approve SCR 18 / SR 12. Mahalo!

Very respectfully,

Larry S. Veray

SCR-18

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 10:56:10 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/29/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charmaine Doran	Testifying for Neighborhood Board	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Senator Nishihara, Chair

Honorable Senator DeCoite, Vice Chair

Aloha! Honorable Senators and Committee members. Thank you for considering SCR 18 / SR 12. I am Charmaine T. Doran, member of the Pearl City Neighborhood Board No. 21. It is an honor to submit testimony to your committee and on this important matter.

Our board adopted a resolution that recommended the creation of a citizen advisory council on federal affairs on September 23, 2021. Our resolution and the idea of a citizen body was put forth in the spirit of community empowerment and cooperation. The federal system is a significant force in the state. It presents the people of Hawai'i with both opportunities and challenges at every level. The hope is that with a greater community voice on federal issues, we can better address negative effects and harness the opportunities. For instance, creating a viable pipeline between our local education system and federal hiring. Capturing housing opportunities, strengthening veteran support, and organizing community-military interactions. Increasing community input on environmental and land use issues such as those at Redhill, Pearl Harbor, Makua, and more. Advocating for public access to special resource areas such a Pearl Harbor. It was witnessing yachting and canoeing in the harbor, something out of reach to Hawai'i for decades, that initially spurred the advisory council idea.

It is important to note, that throughout the US strong public access to areas and robust hiring programs already exists. Hawai'i is long overdue. However, a citizen advisory body for federal affairs does not exist anywhere. It would be the first of its kind and could be complementary to the government or military focused bodies that already exist.

A special thank you to Senator Misalucha, Representatives Nishihara and others for introducing this resolution.

I humbly ask for your support and passage of SCR 18 / SR 12.

Mahalo!

SCR-18

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 1:28:38 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/29/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shanda Delos Reyes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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