



**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SCR 24 SD1
STRONGLY URGING THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO MAINTAIN ALL
REFERENCES TO THE 100TH INFANTRY BATTALION AND 442ND REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM
ON ITS WEBSITES FOR THE PUBLIC**

Committee on Economic Development & Technology
Representative Greggor Ilagan, Chair
Representative Ikaika Hussey, Vice Chair

Friday, April 11, 2025 at 10:00 AM
Conference Room 423 & Videoconference
415 South Beretania Street

Dear Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Military Affairs Council ("MAC") **supports** SCR 24 SD1, which strongly urges the United States Department of Defense to maintain all references to the 100th Infantry Battalion and 442nd Regimental Combat Team on its websites for the public.

The MAC was established in 1985 when the Chamber was appointed by the State to serve as the liaison to the military. The MAC advocates on behalf of Hawaii's military, and is comprised of business leaders, academic institutions, State and County officials, members of the CODEL, community leaders, labor unions and organizations and retired U.S. flag and general officers. The MAC works to support Hawaii's location as a strategic U.S. headquarters in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region which is crucial for U.S. national and homeland security.

First and foremost, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team (RCT) are brave warriors who fought to prove their loyalty to this nation during World War II with their blood, and their lives. The recent removal of webpages honoring the 442nd RCT from the U.S. Army's official website sparked widespread protests and calls for immediate restoration. This action threatened to erase the legacy of the most decorated unit of its size in U.S. military history.



The 442nd RCT, composed primarily of Japanese American soldiers, fought heroically in World War II despite facing racism and the incarceration of their families at home. Their motto "Go For Broke" exemplifies their unwavering loyalty and sacrifice for a country that doubted them.

Sharing the story of the 442nd RCT on Department of the Army/ Department of Defense websites ensures that this vital part of American military history, honoring the contributions of brave Japanese American warriors is not forgotten. Patriotism is and should always be color-blind.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support.

SCR-24-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 9:43:05 AM

Testimony for ECD on 4/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Byrnes Yamashita	Nisei Veterans Legacy	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am the President of the Nisei Veterans Legacy. We are an educational NPO and our mission is to perpetuate the story of the Nisei soldiers of World War II.

We strongly support the passage of SCR24 SD1.

Besides their sacrifices on the battlefields of Europe during the war, the Nisei veterans returned to Hawaii to help transform it into a more equitable society with social and racial justice for all. It is important to keep the story of their contributions to the Nation and Hawaii available for all to learn about.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Byrnes Yamashita



100TH Infantry Battalion Veterans

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WEBSITE: www.100thibv.org | EDUCATION CENTER: www.100thbattalion.org

100TH INFANTRY BATTALION VETERANS

BEFORE THE
COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TECHNOLOGY
Representative Greggor Ilagan, Chair
Representative Ikaika Hussey, Vice Chair

HEARING DATE:

Friday, April 11, 2025, 10:00 a.m., Room 423 via Videoconference

April 9, 2025

RE: S.C.R. 24 (SD1 SSCR1552) STRONGLY URGING THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO MAINTAIN ALL REFERENCES TO THE 100TH INFANTRY BATTALION AND 442ND REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM ON ITS WEBSITES FOR THE PUBLIC.

Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and members of the Committee:

The 100th Infantry Battalion Veterans organization (a.k.a. Club 100) strongly supports approval of S.C.R. 24 (SD1 SSCR1552) STRONGLY URGING THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO MAINTAIN ALL REFERENCES TO THE 100TH INFANTRY BATTALION AND 442ND REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM ON ITS WEBSITES FOR THE PUBLIC.

The 100th Infantry Battalion, which would lead to the formation of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team (RCT), is uniquely called "One Puka Puka," giving a nod to their Hawai'i roots, since "puka" in Hawaiian means hole, which resembles a zero.

These American of Japanese ancestry (AJA) soldiers of the 100th Infantry Battalion were born in Hawai'i and served in the multi-ethnic, U.S. Army - Hawai'i National Guard. After the attack on Pearl Harbor, they endured discrimination and were segregated into the 100th Infantry Battalion because they looked like the enemy. They fought and died in Italy and France for America, the country they loved.

Despite early suspicion and questions of loyalty, they would become, with the 442nd RCT, the most decorated in U.S. military history. The 100th/442nd are the flagship units of the U.S. Army. S.C.R. 24 (SD1 SSCR1552) is a good reminder to keep the 100th/442nd in the forefront to show what these great Americans did for Hawai'i, America and the world.

The 100th Infantry Battalion Veterans organization supports approval of S.C.R. 24 (SD1 SSCR1552).

For Continuing Service,



Kathleen Hayashi
President, 100th Infantry Battalion Veterans
Daughter of Tokuichi Hayashi (Able Company)

SCR-24-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 3:36:50 PM

Testimony for ECD on 4/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nandita Sharma	Hawaii J20+	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii J20+, an organization that has re-formed itself after the election of Donald Trump in order to oppose his unjust and harmful actions, strongly supports SCR24, SD1 relating to the 100th/442nd presence on DOD websites. Trump's administration is actively trying to re-write US history to disappear people of colour and this must be resisted at every turn. In Hawaii, disappearing the 100th / 442nd only compounds the injustices of using the Alien Enemies Act to round up and incarcerate people racialized as "Japanese" regardless of their citizenship status (as you know, most were US citizens). We cannot allow this to stand.

HAWAII COALITION FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

BEFORE THE

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

Rep. Greggor Ilagan, Chair
Rep. Ikaika Hussey, Vice Chair

HEARING DATE:

Friday, April 11, 2025, 10:00 AM, Conference Room 423 & Videoconference

SCR24, SD1 STRONGLY URGING THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO MAINTAIN ALL REFERENCES TO THE 442ND REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM ON ITS WEBSITES FOR THE PUBLIC.

Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey and members of the Joint Committee:

The Hawai'i Coalition for Civil Rights (HCCR) is a coalition of leading civil rights organizations and leaders in Hawai'i. HCCR members include: ACLU of Hawai'i; Japanese American Citizens League of Honolulu; Muslim Association of Hawai'i; SILAH; Hawai'i Commission on the Status of Women; Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission; Hawai'i Friends of Civil Rights; Hawai'i Coalition for Immigrant Rights; Honolulu-Hawai'i NAACP; The Refugee and Immigration Law Clinic; African American Lawyers Association; and others.

We support SCR24, SD1 STRONGLY URGING THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO MAINTAIN ALL REFERENCES TO THE 442ND REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM ON ITS WEBSITES FOR THE PUBLIC.

The 100TH Infantry Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, comprising of Japanese American soldiers in Hawai'i and the US continent, proudly served our country during WWII. Meanwhile, 120,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry on the West Coast, including 2,000 AJAs from Hawai'i, were incarcerated in concentration camps throughout the US.

The US Army, in response to a federal Executive Order, removed all references to the 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team under the auspices of the Executive Branch's mandate to eliminate diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) references and initiatives. After much outcry, the US Army restored the historic achievements of the 442nd/100th – the most decorated military unit of its size and service in US history.

A statement from the Hawai'i State Legislature which recognize Japanese Americans as well as all ethnic groups is essential to acknowledge the contributions that diverse communities provide our nation.

We encourage you to support HCR24, SD1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

HCCR Contact:
William Kaneko
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808-222-5389

SCR-24-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 1:45:03 PM

Testimony for ECD on 4/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carole Hayashino	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

April 9, 2025

Committee Chair Greggo Ilagan, Vice Chair Ikaika Hussey

Members of the House Committee on Economic Development and Tourism

I am pleased to express my support of SCR24 SD1, to strongly urge the U.S. Department of Defense to maintain all references to the 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat team on its website.

For decades, many of us have worked to preserve and teach the World War II history of Japanese Americans. The history of the Nisei soldiers who bravely served in the 100th, 442nd, and MIS during World War II is an integral part of America's history. Their legacy of service and sacrifice to protect our democracy, in the face of racial prejudice and war hysteria, is a lesson and inspiration for current and future generations. I oppose the erasure of their legacy and respectfully ask for your support of SCR24 SD1.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Carole Hayashino

Randy Iwase
95-711 Lewanuu Street
Mililani, Hawaii 96789
April 9, 2025

To: Committee on Economic Development and Tourism

Re: Strong Support for SCR24 SD1

Aloha Chair Greggor Ilagan and Vice Chair Ikaika Hussey and Committee Members:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of the SCR24 SD1 urging the U.S. Department of Defense to maintain references to the highly-decorated 442nd Regimental Combat Team on its website for the public to view and to be educated.

On February 19, 1942, the President of the United States signed Executive Order 9066 authorizing the forced relocation of Japanese Americans (AJAs) to internment camps. The AJAs lost their freedom, their property, their livelihood, and their dignity, all because they were AJAs. Yet the Nisei sons of those families volunteered to fight for America. They fought two battles - the enemy who made war on America, and here at home, the internal enemy of bigotry.

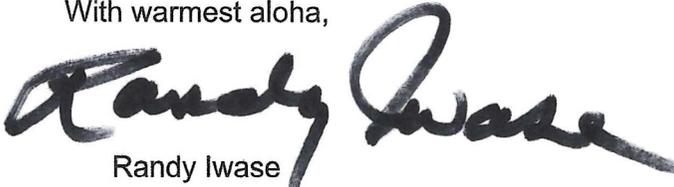
I am a father and a grandfather and often think about what I would say to a son who wanted to volunteer to fight as I, and the rest of my family were in prison camps. What would I have said? I read that some parents told their sons as they sent them off to war, "Don't shame the family." Would I have said those words or would I, as a father, say "Don't go!" The Nisei sons chose to fight the enemy from without and within. Many did not come home.

It is sad and disturbing that in 2025, the Federal government has chosen to bleach the history of the 442nd from its website. Why? What cogent reason?

America is a diverse nation. And our history, sadly, includes treating that diversity with disdain and cruelty. Yet we also have a record of facing these evils, working to address them and progressing, albeit slowly, to become a community that recognizes the oneness of humanity and celebrating that diversity.

The recent action by the Federal government is a step backwards towards a dark, painful, and ugly period in our history. Let's not let that happen. SCR24 SD1 is a step in the right direction. We must continue to move our country forward and honor the work of the many who came before us, who went through hell for the cause of unity in diversity.

With warmest aloha,


Randy Iwase

SCR-24-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 4:21:57 PM

Testimony for ECD on 4/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alan Suemori	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a high school history teacher for over 30 years, I feel we are at an important inflection point in our nation's story. The Trump administration's attempt to erase the legacy of the 100th Battalion and the 442nd RCT is part of a sweeping strategy to reduce all Americans of color to second class citizenship. The diminishment of the sacrifices of the nisei generation is a clear declaration that Japanese Americans deserve to be marginalized and treated like outsiders rather than stakeholders who have a true seat at the table. These attacks on the diversity and richness of our country have only just begun and will not stop unless people speak up and let their voices be heard at this time. As our political leaders. I urge you to make a strong statement in support of this resolution.