

SCR-24

Submitted on: 3/27/2025 5:36:02 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/28/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa H. Gibson	Testifying for Indivisible Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong support for SCR24 SD1 regarding the 442nd and 100th



DANIEL K. INOUE
INSTITUTE

Testimony before the
Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs – Chair Brandon Elefante
Senate Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs – Chair Glenn Wakai

Relating to SCR24 Proposed SD1
442nd Regimental Combat Team
March 28, 2025 at 3:00 pm

Chairs Elefante and Wakai, and members of the Committee:

My name is Jennifer Sabas, and I am the Director of the Daniel K. Inouye Institute. I am pleased to submit testimony in strong support of SCR24 Proposed SD1 regarding the 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

The U.S. Army had briefly removed, but a loud outcry from across the nation, added back, the page on its website about the famed 442nd Regimental Combat Team - the most decorated unit of its size in military history. The 442nd suffered enormous loss of life, and in Senator Dan Inouye's case, loss of limb, proving their loyalty to this county with their blood, while this same country imprisoned Japanese American families solely because of the color of their skin. Senator Inouye would often share his father's words to him as he prepared to leave the islands, "This country has been good to us. If you must give your life, so be it. Do not dishonor your country. And, do not dishonor your family."

The story of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team is not "radical" Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. How insulting, especially as it comes from those who never put on the uniform or never saw combat. Rather, they are part of the Greatest Generation - brave, understated warriors who loved their country and were willing to shed blood and give up their lives. Many of them did.

DANIEL K. INOUE INSTITUTE FUND

Let me close with the statement of President Roosevelt when he established the 442nd Regimental Combat Team by Executive Order.

“The principle on which this country was founded and by which it has always been governed is that Americanism is a matter of mind and heart; Americanism is not, and never was, a matter of race or ancestry.”

President Franklin Delano Roosevelt

February 1943, upon signing the Executive Order that created the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. The only All Japanese Unit during World War II.

Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to share my views.

Aloha

Jennifer Sabas

Director

Daniel K. Inouye Institute



**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SCR 24 PROPOSED 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**

Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs
Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs
Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

Friday, March 28, 2025 at 3:00 PM
Conference Room 225 & Videoconference
415 South Beretania Street

Dear Chairs Elefante and Wakai, Vice Chair Chang, and Members of the Committees:

The Hawaii Military Affairs Council ("MAC") **supports** SCR 24 Proposed SD1, which strongly urges the United States Department of Defense to maintain all references to the 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 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.

LATE

SCR-24

Submitted on: 3/28/2025 5:47:27 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/28/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Byrnes Yamashita	Testifying for Nisei Veterans Legacy	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I am testifying in support of SCR24 as amended. I am the President of the Nisei Veterans Legacy, a non-profit organization dedicated to keeping alive the story of the Nisei soldiers of WWII. We honor the contributions of all of the Nisei soldiers, regardless of which Army unit they served in: 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, Military Intelligence Service, 1399 Engineer Construction Battalion and others. We believe in the values of the Nisei soldiers to struggle for social equity and racial justice for all. The contributions of all racial and ethnic minorities to the defense of United States should be recognized in its training curriculum and media outlets. Thank You.

HAWAII COALITION FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

LATE

BEFORE THE

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

HEARING DATE:

Friday, March 28, 2025, 3:00 PM, Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

SCR24 (SD1 Proposed) 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 Elefante, Chair Wakai 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 Proposed) 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.

REQUESTED AMENDMENT: Please mention and recognize the 100th Infantry Battalion, the initial AJA army unit which was then combined with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

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

HCCR Contact:
William Kaneko
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808-222-5389

SCR-24

Submitted on: 3/27/2025 3:45:40 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/28/2025 3:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daphne Barbee-Wooten	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Senators,

My name is Atty. Daphne Barbee-Wooten and I am a member of the African American Lawyers Association of Hawaii. We testify in supprt of SCR 24 SD1. In additiion to the 422 nd troops we add that other military "minority" troops, members and organizations such as the Tuskegee Airmen and Navajo Code Takers who provided significant military assistanced to the U.S. during war times should be included in ths bill as they were also taken off the US. DOD website for improper discriminatory reasons. They should be honored because they were discrimated at home, yet fought for this country and for freedom of others. They should not be excluded and puposefully erased from history. They should be honored for their heroism.

Thank you.

Daphne Barbee-Wooten

ALA Board member



100TH Infantry Battalion Veterans

520 KAMOKU STREET HONOLULU, HAWAII 96826-5120 | PHONE: (808) 946-0272 | E-MAIL: info@100thibv.org
WEBSITE: www.100thibv.org | EDUCATION CENTER: www.100thbattalion.org

100TH INFANTRY BATTALION VETERANS

BEFORE THE
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

HEARING DATE:

Friday, March 28, 2025, 3:00 p.m., Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

RE: S.C.R. 24 (S.D. 1 Proposed) 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 Elefante, Chair Wakai and members of the Joint Committee:

The 100th Infantry Battalion Veterans organization (a.k.a. Club 100) strongly supports approval of S.C.R. 24 (S.D. 1 Proposed) STRONGLY URGING THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO MAINTAIN ALL REFERENCES TO THE 442ND REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM ON ITS WEBSITES FOR THE PUBLIC.

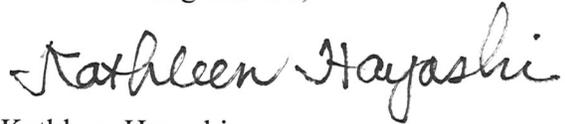
The 100th Infantry Battalion, which would lead to the formation of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team (RCT), is uniquely called "One Puka Puka," giving a nod to their Hawai'i roots, since "puka" in Hawaiian means hole, which resembles a zero.

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 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 (S.D. 1 Proposed).

For Continuing Service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathleen Hayashi". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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

Enclosure(s): 1

Strong Support for SCR24 SD1

Aloha, Chairs Elefante and Wakai and Members of the PSM and EIG Committees:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of the Proposed SCR 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.

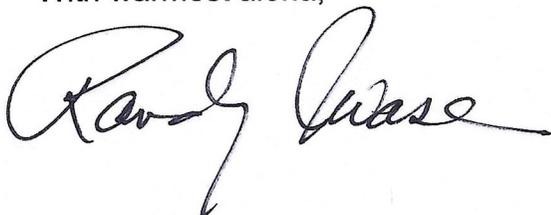
I am a father and a grandfather and often think about what I would say to a son who wanted to volunteer to fight as I, and the rest of my family were in prison camps. What would I have said? I read that some parents told their sons as they sent them off to war, "Don't shame the family." Would I have 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randy Quase". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and a long, sweeping underline.

SCR-24

Submitted on: 3/25/2025 5:29:59 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/28/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elliot Miles	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I think they already reposted the site.

But, I was looking and I could not pull up a page for Senator Inouye under the Medal of Honor Monday (MoHM). Maybe the site was wonky when I searched. Maybe no one has gotten around to writing the article yet. They did have pages under the MoHM banner for other Hawaiian and Japanese-Americans, so who knows.

SCR-24

Submitted on: 3/28/2025 8:31:09 AM
Testimony for PSM on 3/28/2025 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lorna Takehara Strand	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in full support of 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 fact that edicts by the Trump Administration could threaten and put pressure on the Army to withdraw the page regarding the 442nd from its website this month necessitates this resolution.

It's shocking that this kind of resolution needs to be written, but alas, its clear that there are biased and ignorant forces at play in our nation today. I support this resolution with vigor.