

From: Janice M. Tashiro, Past JWSF (Japanese Women's Society Foundation) President

Submitted on : March 23, 2015

Testimony in support of Bill # HCR191/HR 126, Related to "Adopt-A-Mom" Resolution 126

Submitted to: Representative Ken Ito's Committee on Veterans Military & International Affairs and  
Culture and the Arts

Hearing held on March 23, 2015, at 10:30am. in Conference Room #312

Aloha Representative Ken Ito and Committee Members,

I SUPPORT this Adopt-A-Mom Resolution 126 with sincere and wholehearted belief that this program works!

I am Janice Tashiro, Past President of the Japanese Women's Society Foundation, better known as JWSF. I have been a JWSF member for 15 years and would like to give you a brief overview of our "Adopt-A-Mom Program" so you get a better idea of this wonderful program and why we want to promote this great idea. "Adopt-A-Mom" is one special activity that began in 1996, (19 Years ago) when our past president Lillian Yajima started monthly activities called "Friendship Teas". "Adopt-A-Mom" is a very special activity that occurs on the third Sunday of May. JWSF members & Mrs Yajima plan entertainment, food and interactive interviews with residents at Kuakini Home. For the last 19 years Lillian has chaired this celebration and has planned activities, entertainment and food for Kuakini Home residents on the second and third floors. Today, she also invites the Cherry Blossom Queen and Court as well as dignitaries from the various Consulates to join and observe this special Adoption of resident Mothers by our JWSF Members. The Adoption activity bonds the residents to JWSF members who interview and report about their Adopted Mom's personal life.

As the group listens to each interviewer, we hear about the great things such residents have done for their children, spouses and families. JWSF Members Adopting -A-Mom who no longer receives visitors during Mother's Day is an exciting, wonderful idea. The program pays tribute to those mothers who have given so much to their families and society. The smiles and appreciation that women in Care Homes show when one visits with them are heart warming and precious experiences. Being able to visit, talk and hug women with no family visitors brings happiness and satisfaction to patient and visitor.

Placing "Adopt-A-Mom" day on Calendars will bring happiness to MOM patients but will also teach our younger generations to value and appreciate our Mothers who did so much to make our life comfortable, successful and happy.

Testimony to support House Resolution No. 126 Adopt-A-Mom

Submitted by Lillian Yajima, founding member and president of the Japanese Women's Society, (phone 396-8092)

When the Japanese Women's Society was founded in 1954, Alice Noda, president, proposed as a long-term goal the establishment of a care home for women and to provide care for its residents. It became a reality in 1980 when the society's first Open House was held at Hale Pulama Mau at Kuakini Hospital.

The Adopt-A-Mom Program was started when it was noted that some of our care home mothers did not have visitors, flowers, gifts, etc. on Mother's Day. Families are gone or live far away. So it was decided to have the Japanese Women's Society members "adopt" the mothers one week after Mother's Day to remember them and make them feel special. The mothers are so happy when they were asked to talk about themselves and important events in their lives. Some of these women had amazing stories about their hard lives on the plantations and their struggles to survive and provide for their families.

The program includes performances by ethnic groups such as Japanese, Korean, Filipino, Hawaiian, Tahitian dances, taiko drums, and the Chinese lion dance. Special guests include wives of Consul Generals from the Japanese, Filipino, and Korean Consuls, Chinese Chamber President, OHA, and May Day Queen. 2015 will be 20<sup>th</sup> Adopt-A-Mom program!

Therefore, I am endorsing the inclusion of "Adopt-A-Mom Day" on the Hawaii State calendar one week after Mother's Day to honor those mothers who have contributed so much to our families and community. We encourage other organizations to honor mothers who have no family to celebrate Adopt-A-Mom Day with them. Other calendars highlight days such as Secretary's Day, Boss's Day and Grandparent's Day, please let our Hawaii calendar include an "Adopt-A-Mom Day".

**LATE**

TO: REPRESENTATIVE KEN ITO, COMMITTEE ON VETERANS MILITARY AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND CULTURE AND THE ARTS

FROM: IRENE NAKAMOTO, PRESIDENT-ELECT, JAPANESE WOMEN'S SOCIETY FOUNDATION

**TESTIMONY ON BILL #HCR 191/HR 126, RELATED TO "ADOPT-A-MOM" RESOLUTION 126**

Hearing Date: Monday, March 23, 2015

Hearing to be held at 10:30 a.m. in Conference Room 312

I am Irene Nakamoto, President-Elect of the Japanese Women's Society Foundation (JWSF)

I am testifying in support of House Resolution 126, Adopt-A-Mom Day

As a member of the Japanese Women's Society Foundation, I have had the first hand experience of being a part of the Adopt-A-Mom Day program organized by Lillian Yajima. The purpose and motivation in starting this program was because Lillian felt strongly that all females should be recognized and appreciated on Mother's Day. Since many mothers are unable to celebrate Mother's Day with their family, this Adopt A Mom day at the care facility at Kuakini has touched the life of the many female residents who could not celebrate this important day.

On an annual basis, Adopt-A- Mom day has been held at Hale Pulama Mau on the Sunday following Mothers Day. JWSF members partner with an elderly resident to share interesting stories. We learn from them and they learn about us. It is a special bonding that occurs during this brief encounter which can have a lasting relationship. I had a 100 year old and a 95 year old Adopt-A-Mom and they have become very special to me. Learning during the Adopt-A-Mom Day that they like to read, I have taken many large print books for them to read and share. And whenever we have Friendship Teas, I get to share a few special moments with them. Since losing my mother, these Adopt-A-Mom have played an important part in touching my life so the benefits of this program is both ways.

Hawaii's Adopt-A-Mom Program will bring forth our spirit of Aloha, our caring ways and respect for all including our elders. Through this program, we will acknowledge and value the contributions made by our older population and extend our appreciation.

Having Adopt-A-Mom Day placed on the statewide calendar will, hopefully, encourage everyone to recognize all moms and even those without their own children to be appreciated for their caring and loving ways. What a positive way to encourage filial piety and the values of appreciation to moms who have helped to build this land of Aloha.

I strongly encourage you to support House Resolution 126, Adopt-A-Mom Day.

Irene Nakamoto

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Japanese Women's Society Foundation