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RODERICK K. BECKER
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EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND
MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

WRITTEN ONLY
TESTIMONY BY RODERICK K. BECKER
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL,
AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 1417

February 7, 2019
2:00 p.m.
Room 229

RELATING TO FILIPINO VETERANS BURIAL ASSISTANCE

Senate Bill (S.B.) No. 1417 appropriates \$100,000 in general funds for FY 20 and for FY 21 for burial grants for qualified Filipino-American World War II veterans for funeral and burial services and for transportation of their remains to the Philippines. The bill also contains an unspecified lapse date where “funds appropriated and unencumbered as of July 30, 2021, shall not lapse but shall remain available for the purpose of the Act.”

The Department of Budget and Finance appreciates the intent of this bill to provide burial grants for qualified Filipino-American World War II veterans; however, this bill may have problems with the lapsing of funds. The Department of the Attorney General has opined that Article VII, Section 11, of the Hawaii State Constitution, provides that general funds may not be appropriated for a biennial appropriation with a lapse date more than one year beyond the biennial period. Thus, the FY 20 and FY 21 appropriations in S.B. No. 1417 must lapse no later than June 30, 2022, which is one year beyond the close of the Fiscal Biennium 2020-21.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

SB-1417

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 8:18:06 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/7/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Franz D. Juan	Testifying for The Filipino Community Center, Inc.	Support	No

Comments:



THE FILIPINO VETERANS RECOGNITION
AND EDUCATION PROJECT

P. O. Box 860654 Wahiawa, HI 96786 Phone: (808) 285-5143

Date: February 5, 2019

To: Senator Clarence Nishihara, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on PSM

Re: Testimony on SB 1417 – Filipino Veterans Burial Assistance
Hearing Date: 2/5/2019; 2:00 p.m.

The Filipino Veterans Recognition and Education Project, Region 11 (Hawaii and the Pacific Territories) appreciates the opportunity to submit this testimony in strong **SUPPORT** for S.B. 1417, which would provide a stable non-lapsing funding source to provide financial assistance for the burial and funeral costs for Filipino-American veterans living in Hawaii who served in World War II and wants to be repatriated to the Philippines upon their death.

Such stable funding is not only critical to lighten the heavy financial burden of transporting a veteran's remains to the Philippines – estimated to cost \$5,000 - \$12,000. It also serves as a symbolic gesture to help remedy a solemn injustice experienced by these brave and loyal servicemen - now in their 90s - as well as their families. We recommend that section 2 of the bill be amended to increase the individual burial assistance to \$10,00 instead of the \$5,000 contained in the bill. The cost of preparing the body (embalming, casket, etc.) and transportation will far exceed \$5,000.

Promised citizenship and veterans' benefits in return for their service, these Philippine Nationals put their lives on the line in the US Armed Forces. Not until *after* these Filipino veterans made great sacrifices to serve our country, did we see legislation and a series of political decisions that stripped away the benefits earned and promises made by our federal government – measures that some have regarded as racist and discriminatory.

Although there have been a few legislative and policy gains to make good on America's commitment to these servicemen, these efforts have been slow-incoming, burdensome to pursue, and falls far too short of what's been pledged and deserved.

It's been heart-breaking for our organization to learn about the sacrifices these veterans have made based on a well-founded expectation that the relevant petitions and visas needed to reunify families in the United States would be provided for, granted, and approved. Instead, they are aging here, alone, far from home and the family that would otherwise care for them.

We believe that passage of this bill will help rectify the indignity of this history; recognize the sacrifices made by these veterans and their families; and highlight the compassion with which our Aloha State understands their collective experience – which has too easily been forgotten on the national level. This measure is long overdue; and sadly, much too late for so many.

We thank you for your support in the passage of this bill.

Mahalo and Mabuhay,

Anita Loando-Acohido, FilvetREP Region 11 Director and

Wilfredo Tungol, FilvetREP Region 11 Deputy Director

Phone: 808-387-7412

DATE: February 5, 2019

TO: SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL &
MILITARY AFFAIRS
Senator Clarence Nishihara, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

FROM: Christine Quemuel
University of Hawai'i Pamantasan Council
(808) 221-7287

RE: Supporting SB 1417, Relating to Filipino Veterans Burial Assistance
Thursday February 7, 2019
2:00 pm
Conference Room 229

On behalf of the University of Hawai'i Pamantasan Council, I respectfully submit testimony for the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental & Military Affairs hearing on Thursday, February 7, 2019 in strong support of SB 1417 relating to Filipino Veterans Burial Assistance, to appropriate funds for burial grants for qualifying Filipino World War II veterans to provide funeral and burial services and transportation of their remains to the Philippines. The Pamantasan Executive Council is the UH systemwide organization concerned with the status of Filipinos on all UH campuses throughout the state.

More than 250,000 Filipinos fought on behalf of the United States during World War II, and many were never recognized nor compensated for their heroism. The veterans are now at least 95 years old, and our time to honor them is running out. We respectfully ask that the funding for the burial grants does not lapse to the general fund and remain available for the last remaining survivors. Funding for this bill will finally honor the legacies of Filipino American veterans who sacrificed and courageously fought for the United States during WWII.

We thank the legislature for introducing this important bill and for their continued commitment to Hawai'i's World War II veterans. This testimony does not represent the official testimony of the University of Hawai'i system, but reflects the support of the Pamantasan Council. We strongly encourage the passage of this bill. Please support SB 1417, relating to Filipino Veterans Burial Assistance.

SB-1417

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 10:34:59 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/7/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
amy agbayani	Testifying for Filipina Advocacy Network FAN	Support	Yes

Comments:

TESTIMONY IN SUPPPORT OF SB 1417 Relating to Filipino Veterans Burial Assistance

Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Wakai and members of the PSM committee:

My name is Amy Agbayani, Chair of the Filipina Advocacy Network (FAN). We support programs and policies that seek equity and social justice for Filipinos in Hawai'i. We strongly support SB1417 to provide stable funding for burial assistance for qualifying Filipino-American WW2 veterans. These funds would pay for partial funding for funeral and burial services and transportation of their remains to the Philippines; provided that federal funds remain unavailable and there remain eligible Filipino American veterans living in the State. The veterans living in our state do not have resources to transport their remains to the Philippines if that is their final wish. These veterans are in their 90's, most do not have family in Hawai'i and are low-income. Although burial grants to cover this cost were statutorily established, there are no funds available as unused funds lapsed at the end of the fiscal year.

We would recommend that the ceiling for amounts per burial be increased as the costs are high. The family and friends have difficulty paying for partial funding to cover the full cost of the burial. We request that the PMS committee ask B&F and Department of Veteran's Affairs to identify a mechanism to fund these costs beyond 2021 because it is highly likely that the amount requested may not be fully used during these fiscal years and the need will continue beyond 2021. We recommend that funds for WW2 Filipino Veterans burial assistance be included as a line item in the Department of Veteran Affairs.

We respectfully request you approve this bill providing stable funding that demonstrates Hawaii's recognition of our Filipino WW II veteran's service and sacrifice. These elderly veterans have faced many barriers and deserve our appreciation. Maraming salamat for hearing this bill and for the opportunity to offer our strong support.



O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities (OCCLP)

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair

Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

DATE: Thursday, February 7, 2019

TIME: 2:00 p.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 229, State Capitol

RE: SB 1417 Relating to Filipino Veterans Burial Assistance

To the Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair; the Honorable Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair; and Members of the Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs:

The O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities (OCCLP) of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i (DPH) hereby submits its testimony in **SUPPORT of SB 1417 relating to Filipino Veterans Burial Assistance.**

SB 1417 appropriates funds for burial grants for qualifying Filipino American World War II veterans to provide funeral and burial services and transportation of their remains to the Philippines. SB 1417 further requires that funds for burial grants to not lapse to the general fund and remain available as needed.

Our country has a sacred, moral responsibility to keep faith with all our veterans and wounded warriors. We must take care of those who have their lives on the line to defend us. That is why we will push for more educational benefits and job training, end chronic homelessness and combat suicide, and protect and preserve the post-9/11 G.I. Bill for future generations. We will also ensure that reservists and Guard members are treated fairly when it comes to employment health, education benefits, deployment, and reintegration.

DPH will fight for every veteran to have timely access to high-quality health care and timely processing of claims and appeals. We must also look for more ways to make certain the VA provides veteran-centric care, such as providing women with full and equal treatment, including reproductive health services; expanding mental health programs; continuing effort to identify and treat invisible, latent, and toxic wounds of war; treating post-traumatic stress; and

expanding the post-9/11 veteran's caregiver program to include all veterans. *Democratic Party of Hawai'i Platform (2018), p. 22, ln. 17-29.*

In this same light, appropriating funds for burial grants for qualifying Filipino American World War II veterans to provide funeral and burial services and transportation of their remains to the Philippines appears just, reasonable and well-deserved.

For the foregoing reasons, OCCLP supports SB 1417 and urges its passage out of the Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs.

Mahalo nui loa

Me ka `oia`i`o

/s/ Melodie Aduja

Melodie Aduja

Chair, O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i

Ph. (808) 258-8889

Email: legislativepriorities@gmail.com

SB-1417

Submitted on: 2/1/2019 11:37:32 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/7/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mike Golojuch	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support SB1417.

Mike Golojuch, Sr., Lt Col, USAF (Ret)

Former Chair, Advisory Board for Veterans Services

DATE: February 5, 2019

TO: SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL &
MILITARY AFFAIRS
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice-Chair

FROM: Roderick Labrador
(808) 349-6473

RE: Supporting SB 1417, Relating to Filipino Veterans Burial Assistance
Thursday, February 7, 2019 2:00pm
Room 229

I respectfully submit testimony for the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs hearing on Thursday, February 7, 2019 in strong support of SB 1417 relating to Filipino Veterans Burial Assistance, to appropriate funds for burial grants for qualifying Filipino World War II veterans to provide funeral and burial services and transportation of their remains to the Philippines.

I am a professor in the Ethnic Studies Department at UH-Mānoa and I teach several courses related to Filipinos. In my courses, we talk about how more than 250,000 Filipino and Filipino American soldiers fought on behalf of the United States during World War II, even though many were neither honored nor compensated for their service and sacrifice. It has taken seven decades to recognize and provide the rights, privileges, and benefits afforded to those who served under the U.S. Armed Forces. The surviving veterans are now in their 90s and our time to acknowledge their heroism is both long overdue and expiring. I respectfully ask that the funding for the burial grants does not lapse to the general fund and remain available for the last remaining survivors. Funding for this bill will finally recognize the heroism of Filipino veterans who sacrificed and courageously battled for the United States during WWII.

I thank the legislature for introducing this important bill and for your continued commitment to Hawai'i's World War II veterans. This testimony does not represent the official testimony of the University of Hawai'i system or the UH-Mānoa Department of Ethnic Studies, but reflects my own individual support and I strongly encourage the passage of this bill. Please support SB 1417, relating to Filipino Veterans Burial Assistance.

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 1417, RELATING TO FILIPINO VETERANS BURIAL
ASSISTANCE

PRESENTATION TO THE
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, & MILITARY AFFAIRS

BY

MR. RONALD P. HAN
DIRECTOR OF STATE OFFICE OF VETERANS SERVICES

February 7, 2019
2:00 p.m.

Good morning, Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Wakai, and members of the Committee:

I'm Ron Han, Director of the State Office of Veterans Services (OVS). I appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony **in support** of the concepts in Senate Bill 1417.

This measure appropriates funds and establishes a special non-lapsing fund if authorized by governing administrative rules for burial grants to qualifying Filipino veterans to provide funeral and burial services and transportation of their remains to the Philippines. Eligible Filipino veterans have earned the right to be buried in a National or State Veterans' Cemetery. This is the same entitlement provided to eligible military members and veterans of the United States Armed Forces. Through Act 105, Sessions Laws of Hawaii 2017, the legislature with approval by the Governor appropriated initial funding for this measure. With coordination with the Hawaii State Attorney General's Office and public hearings throughout the State in 2017, a new Hawaii Administrative Rules Section has been created.

The OVS supports the intent expressed in this measure as long as its implementation does not impact or replace the priorities set forth in the Executive Budget.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of Hawaii's Veterans and their families.

Han, Ronald P Jr. VBAHON

From: ARTEMIO A. CALEDA <ARTCALEDA808@YAHOO.COM>
Sent: Monday, February 04, 2019 8:48 AM
To: Han, Ronald P Jr. VBAHON
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Please help submit your testimony to the Legislature

Aloha.To All.

Please accept my inability to submit my written testimony as desired because I am currently here with the Western Blind Rehabilitation Center in Palo Alto, Menlo Park, California, U.S, undergoing health medication evaluation/rehabilitation and advanced computer technology study. Records show that I submitted my testimony in support to the burial bill. Please reconsider my strong support for the veterans burial bill. I thank you all.-Art A. Cadleda