

SCR-220-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/12/2021 1:31:24 PM

Testimony for JHA on 4/14/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
amy agbayani	Hawai`i Friends of Civil Rights	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Amy Agbayani, co-chair of the Hawai`i Friends of Civil Rights (HFCR). We strongly support HCR154 and respectfully urge you pass the resolutions.

I am an immigrant Filipina; researcher on Asian Americans; Emeritus UH Manoa director for student diversity; and community advocate for civil rights. I want to express my appreciation to your committee for hearing these resolutions. Your past and continuing attention to issues of discrimination, hate crimes and civil rights are critical to our state and the nation. These resolutions are timely and urgent because of the history and increase in anti-Asian attacks, harassment and discrimination.

A majority of our state is of Asian American ancestry with Filipinos as the largest sub group of Asian Americans (AA). At the national level, AA account for 6% of the US population and are the fastest growing major racial/ethnic group in the US. The largest US racial group is White (60%), followed by Hispanics (18%), Black Americans (12%), Native Americans (1%), Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders (< 1%) (Kaiser Family Foundation, 2019). The AA category is diverse and includes 19 ethnic groups. Six groups constitute 86% of all AAs: Chinese (23%), Filipino, (19%), Indian (19%), Vietnamese (9%), Korean (9%), Japanese (7%). Asian Americans make up 28% of immigrants,.

Anti-Asian hate crimes and harassment have increased significantly in schools, neighborhoods, and workplaces during the pandemic. President Trump and other officials referred to COVID-19 as the "Chinese virus" and blamed AAs for the pandemic. AAs were more likely than any other group to report being subjected to slurs or jokes because of their race or ethnicity since the coronavirus outbreak: 31% reported experiencing slurs, compared with 21% of Black adults, 15% of Hispanic adults, and 8% of White adults. Undeniably, in 2020 COVID-19 dominated nearly every aspect of life globally, with the US leading the world in COVID-19 deaths and infections. The pandemic impacted all US ethnic groups with disproportionate numbers of infections and deaths among communities of color. Many AA are essential health workers: 1 in 5 physicians and 1 in 11 nurses. Although only 4% of the nation's nurses are Filipino, 30% of the nurses who died in the pandemic were Filipino. Income inequality only widened during the pandemic because many AA immigrants were frontline low-income workers and small business owners.

American's history of struggles for equality and to "belong" has not been well documented or visible.. Individuals and institutions must do more to address inequality and racism facing Asian Americans. These resolutions are a clear and valuable commitment to inclusiveness, diversity and equality. I respectfully urge you to pass these resolutions.

Amy Agbayani, co-chair Hawai'i Friends of Civil Rights.

SCR-220-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/12/2021 1:50:05 PM

Testimony for JHA on 4/14/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amy Agbayani	Filipinx Advocacy Network (FAN)	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony in support of SCR220 sd1

Amy Agbayani, co-chair Filipinx Advocacy Network (FAN)

We support SCR220 sd1 Recognizing the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the United States and the Philippines.

The Philippines, the United States and the state of Hawai'i have a long shared history as it relates to annexation, recruitment of laborers to work on sugar plantations, World War II, immigration and the growth of the Filipino-American community in Hawai'i. The ties between the people of the Philippines and the state of Hawai'i are strong and mutually beneficial.

We support this resolution recognizing the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between two sovereign independent countries on July 4 and request your support.

April 12, 2021

The Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

House of Representatives
State of Hawaii

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Honorable Representatives:

My name is Raymund Liongson, a resident of Ewa Beach. I am a retired professor of Philippine & Asian Studies at the University of Hawaii, Leeward Community College.

I am here to testify in support of SRC 220, **RECOGNIZING THE SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE PHILIPPINES.**

July 4th has been referred to in the Philippines as Philippine-American Friendship Day. It marks the day when the United States "handed back" to the Philippines in 1946 its hard-fought independence from their Spanish colonial masters in 1898 which was taken over by the United States in 1902 after more than three years of Filipino-American War (1899-1902). During World War II, Filipinos and Americans fought side by side in defense of freedom and democracy. Since then, Philippine-American relations were cemented, opening even wider doors for economic, cultural, and security partnerships.

The Philippines has become the oldest security ally of the US in Southeast Asia and one of the treaty allies of the US in the Pacific region.

This year, the Philippines and the United States mark the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries and I support this Senate Resolution recognizing the Diamond Jubilee of this historic event.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of this Resolution.

Mahalo . . . *maraming salamat*, po.



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