

HCR-16

Submitted on: 3/17/2023 3:51:52 PM

Testimony for CAI on 3/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrew Crossland	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I **strongly oppose** this Resolution that would commemorate a corrupt foreign Nation. We need to put HAWAII FIRST and stop with this toxic virtue signaling nonsense.

Testimony of Danny de Gracia, II in strong support of HCR16/HR19
“Proclaiming February 24, 2023 as ‘Remember Ukraine Day in Hawaii’”

to be heard before the House Committee on Culture, Arts, and International Affairs
Wednesday, March 22, 2023
10:00 a.m., Conference Room 309

Chair Tam, Vice Chair Martinez, Honorable Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of HCR16/HR19. As the author of the Hawaii Government Employees Association (“HGEA”) Resolution 1 referenced in these resolutions and were adopted unanimously at the 2022 HGEA General Assembly, I am grateful that the House of Representatives has introduced measures to show solidarity with the people of Ukraine as they continue to fight for freedom against Russian invaders.

One of the most common questions asked whenever resolutions like these are heard at the Hawaii State Legislature is “Why should the people care about something so far away, that has no immediate bearing on the livelihood of the ordinary Hawaii resident?” My response to that is that, in truth, the war in Ukraine affects us all because the precedent that will be set by what we do or fail to do as the free world has implications for the safety and security of every single one of us.

During the early 1970s, there was a concern that the Soviet Union was becoming increasingly effective at forcing the West into a “salami strategy” in which the United States or the United Kingdom, forced with the threat of nuclear retaliation, would slice off its friends and interests one by one until no friends or interests were left to support.

Russia’s current president, Vladimir Putin, as a former KGB agent during the Cold War understands this tactic well, and forced the United States into a salami strategy for the last 20 years. The invasion of Ukraine is the first time that the West has truly pushed back against Putin’s strategy of dividing allies and undermining the West. To be blunt, Mr. Chairman, we must morally *and* militarily defeat Putin in Ukraine to prevent not only him from repeating this type of aggression elsewhere in the world, but also, to discourage the People’s Republic of China from employing a similar playbook against Taiwan.

If Hawaii, as far away and far removed from the war in Ukraine can show solidarity with the suffering people of Ukraine, then we constitute one more indictment against Putin’s evil ways. We represent a belief that human life everywhere has a right to determine its own destiny, and that the rights of the weak must be protected against the evils of the strong. Declaring February 24th as “Remember Ukraine Day in Hawaii” is an opportunity for our people to learn and our people to stand for a world where evil does not go unrebuked.

The late former President George H.W. Bush, in speaking to Congress against Saddam Hussein’s illegal invasion of Kuwait in 1990, said, “We cannot allow a resource so vital to be dominated by by one so ruthless, *and we won’t!* Recent events have surely proven that there is no substitute for American leadership. In the face of tyranny, let no one doubt American credibility and reliability. Let no one doubt our staying power. We will stand by our friends ... Iraq will not be permitted to annex Kuwait. And that’s not a threat, that’s not a boast, that’s just the way it’s going to be.”

We need that same moral conviction in answering Putin’s invasion of Ukraine. Pass these resolutions, and let’s show the world that Russia will not be permitted to annex Ukraine. We will stand by our friends.

LATE

HCR-16

Submitted on: 3/21/2023 10:50:00 PM

Testimony for CAI on 3/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
J Ashman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this measure.

Thank you.