

## LATE TESTIMONY

Good morning ladies and gentlemen. I am cadet Florian Kanoho-Taong and it is my privilege to be here today. I am currently a Senior at Roosevelt High School and have been in the JROTC program for almost four years. I am here today to /share my testimony about my experiences in JROTC and to hopefully further your understanding about what JROTC has to offer. //provide testimony and house support for bill SB1300.

JROTC has become a huge part of my life and has made a positive impact on who I am. When I first heard about the JROTC program, I was terrified. My cousin, who was a senior at the time, told me that he saw the cadets running around school everyday. Now, I almost did not enroll my first year, because I believe I wasn't fit for anything. The closest thing to physical training I had at that time was delivering the news paper. It was until a close friend of mine told me more about what JROTC was and convinced me to join. Looking back to my physical training scores, here are my statistics before and after one year in the JROTC program:

PUSHUPS: Before-barely 3;	After-25
SIT UPS: Before-2;	After-25
PULL UPS:Before-0;	After-3
1MI RUN: Before-Never Finished;	After-7:30

I'm not saying that the improvement was significant, but it was.

I became very determined and started to set goals for myself. Everyday during lunch, while my friends would eat their \$1.00 school lunches in the cafeteria, I would be on the dirt track running until the lunch bell rang. In PE class, my classmates would be jogging a steady three-minute lap and I would be three laps ahead, sprinting. I'm not trying to say that JROTC forced me to try and run like the wind, but instead it helped me to set goals to better myself physically, academically, and socially. I became especially determined to improve myself in school and the community physically, mentally, and in JROTC.

Another aspect to my experience in Junior ROTC was the numerous opportunities that were accessible to me as a cadet. I was given a wide variety of leadership roles like class leader, squad leader, boat cruise planning committee, awards banquet planner, ranger team and drill team commander. We were involved with the community through service learning projects like Relay For Life, Pennies For Pearl Harbor, and the Kanaha stream clean up. We served as escorts and flag bearers for Memorial Day and Veterans' Day events. We provided parking details and color guards for elementary school events like the Noelani Craft Fair and Pauoa Elementary Graduation. My unit was also heavily involved with school services like Roosevelt's freshman-day, homecoming game, and graduation. I have also participated in events to support and inform our feter schools including Stevenson Middle and Kawananakoa Middle Schools. Our unit had its

own supply service and a host of other activities for cadets to partake in.

Most importantly, Junior ROTC highly encourages students to continue their education upon graduation from high school. JROTC provides preparation for life through lessons like the NEFE Financial Planning Aid, college scholarships, and experiences as a springboard for life in general. The instructors are always available to help positively influence and educate students through high school, college, and generally in all aspects of life.

JROTC has been one of the most rewarding educational experiences I've ever had. It has provided me the opportunity to learn from others who have helped me grow and has influenced my goals in life.