

SB 2843

Measure Title:
RELATING TO FLAGS.

Report Title:
Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Flag



CITY COUNCIL

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-3065

Charles K. Djou

Councilmember, District IV

Chair, Executive Matters & Legal Affairs Committee

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February 5, 2010

Will Espero, Chair
Public Safety and Military Affairs Committee
Hawaii State Senate
State Capitol, Room 207
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: SB2843, Relating to Flags

Dear Chairman Espero:

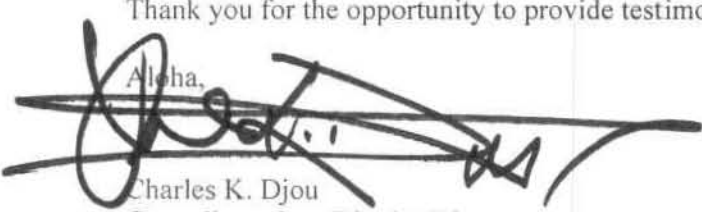
I would like to express my support for SB2843 that recognizes and requires the prisoner of war/missing in action flag to be flown with the U.S. and Hawaiian flags at the Hawaii State Capitol and Hawaii State Department of Defense Buildings.

As an officer in the United States Army Reserves, I understand and share in recognizing the honor and significant sacrifices our military members and their families endure on a daily basis. This measure appropriately pays tribute to the thousands of Americans who were officially captured or interned as Prisoner of War (POW), the thousands of others that were reported Missing in Action (MIA), and their families.

The Department of Defense is the second largest contributor to our state economy and honoring these brave men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice sends a resounding message to our military men and women who are currently serving in our Armed Forces today. It tells them that their sacrifices will never be forgotten.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

Aloha,


Charles K. Djou
Councilmember, District IV

CKD:kma

Cc: Representative Sharon E. Har, 40th Representative District
Mr. Robert A. Johnson

OAHU VETERANS COUNCIL

OAHU VETERANS COUNCIL

President - Fred Ballard
1st V.P. - Cecil Meadows
2nd V.P. - Jim Santos
Secretary - John Harms
Treasurer - Eugenia Woodward
Chaplain - Frank Lamson



"a gathering place for veterans"
OAHU VETERANS CENTER

OAHU VETERANS CENTER

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Sandy Ballard

February 7, 2010

TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF SENATE BILL 2843 RELATING TO FLAGS

SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

HEARING TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2010, 1:25 P.M., ROOM 229

Aloha Senators Will Espero, Chair, Robert Bunda, Vice Chair, and members of the Committee. My name is Fred Ballard, President Oahu Veterans Council. The Oahu Veterans Council is comprised of over 35 Oahu veteran organizations that in turn represent over 80,000 veterans and their families.

The Oahu Veterans Council strongly believes that the Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Flag should be flown with the U.S. and Hawaiian flags on all state buildings as it is on Federal installations and buildings. The flag is a symbol of those who have not returned. The possibility of becoming a prisoner of war, or missing in action is ever present as our troops continue to serve our country. In the words of the Pearl Harbor Survivors, "We will never forget," the same can be said for our POW's and Missing in Action. The flag is a constant reminder of their sacrifice and hope that they will come home. That flag deserves to fly on state buildings.

The Oahu Veterans Council strongly supports the passage of Senate Bill 2843.

Mahalo for allowing us the opportunity to testify in support of this very important bill.

Fred Ballard
President
Oahu Veterans Council

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

5th Regimental Combat Team
45th Infantry Division Assn.
Air Force Assn. - Chapter 138
Air Force Sergeants Association
American Legion Aux. Dept. of HI
American Legion - Dept. of HI
American Legion Post 32
American Veterans Empowerment &
Support Community Operations
BPOE VAVS Hawaii Dist.
China-Burma-India Veterans Assn.
Chosin Few - Aloha Chapter
Combat Infantrymen's Assn.
Combat Veterans Motorcycle Club
Disabled American Veterans -
Chapter 3
Fleet Reserve Association Branch
And Unit 46
Hawaii Multiple Schools Unit - Jr. ROTC
Korean War Veterans Assn -
Chapter 1
Military Officers Assn. of America -
Aloha Chapter
Military Officers Assn. of America -
Hawaii State Chapter
Military Order of the Purple Heart
Military Order of World Wars
National Assn. for Atomic Veterans
National Assn. of Uniformed Services
National Sojourners - Hawaiian # 9
National Sojourners - Honolulu # 11
National Sojourners - Kamehameha #439
Pearl Harbor Survivors Association
Radiated Veterans
Samoan Providers
Society of Military Widows -
Aloha Chapter
Sons & Daughters of
Pearl Harbor Survivors
Special Forces Assn. - Chapter VIII
State Office of Veterans Services
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Dept. of Hawaii
Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 970
Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter 858
Waves National - Unit 131
Women Veterans of America #26



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THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF HAWAII
1132 Bishop Street, Suite 402
Honolulu, HI 96813

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs
Tuesday, February 9, 2010
1:25 PM
Conference Room 229
RE: SENATE BILL NO. 2843, RELATING TO FLAGS

Chair Espero, Vice Chair Bunda, and members of the committee.

My name is Charles Ota and I am the Vice President for Military Affairs at The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii (The Chamber). I am here to state The Chamber's support of Senate Bill 2843, Relating To Flags.

The Chamber's Military Affairs Council (MAC) serves as the liaison for the state in matters relating to the US military and its civilian workforce and families, and has provided oversight for the state's multi-billion dollar defense industry since 1985.

The measure proposes to recognize and require the prisoner of war (POW) and missing in action (MIA) flag to be flown with the US and State of Hawaii flags.

We believe that this measure would enhance state recognition of the thousands of brave Americans who were officially captured and interred as prisoners of war, and the thousands of others who were officially reported as missing in action. This would be an appropriate honor and tribute to the Hawaii residents as well as the other Americans that were reported as POW/MIA.

The Chamber supports this proposal provided that it doesn't violate any state or federal policies to the contrary.

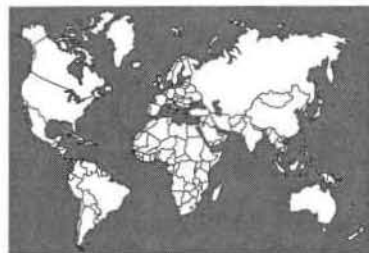
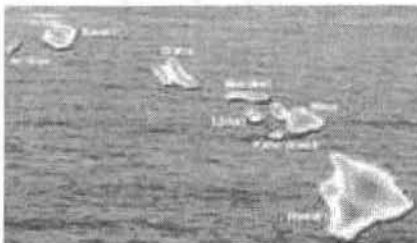
For these reasons, we respectfully request that the proposed measure be approved for further review and adoption.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

The Johnson Ohana

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Kapolei, Hawaii 96707

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Written Testimony to the Senate PSM Committee Hearing – Room 229 Tuesday, February 9, 2010

RE: SENATE BILL SB2843, RELATING TO FLAGS (POW/MIA Flag)

Chairman Espero and Vice Chair Bunda, and Members of the Committee:

The Johnson Family, Bob (former Marine), Billy (former Marine), Betty (former USO Volunteer), Eleanor, proudly testify and express our support for **SB2843** that recognizes and requires the Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Flag (**POW/MIA Flag**) be flown with the U.S. and Hawaiian Flags at the Hawaii State Capitol and the Hawaii State Department of Defense Buildings.

Hawaii is a special place and millions of tourists visit the Islands each year. Hawaii's economy relies significantly on the military. Thousands of Hawaii's families have loved ones and/or friends who sacrificed their life for our Country and have never returned home. **SB2843** would enhance and boost the State's recognition of those who served and were taken from us.

It would be heartening and inspirational to those who are currently serving in the military and to their families to see the **POW/MIA Flag** flying on State of Hawaii Buildings as stated in **SB2843**.

The **POW/MIA Flag** does not represent any State, military branch, or any other exclusive group. The Flag belongs to everyone; it is a powerful symbol.

Freedom isn't free! The **POW/MIA Flag** conveys to the World that Hawaii remembers the sacrifices and pain that the families still endure. The Flag's presence is an unwavering reminder of the thousands of courageous Americans who were seriously injured or killed in action (KIA); those who remain missing and unaccounted for and those who were taken prisoners and held against their will by our enemies of Freedom. Those brave American military men and women sacrificed their freedom to defend liberty for all of us and they should never and will never be forgotten.

The Johnson Family strongly supports **SB2843** and we respectfully request your support for this measure.

We thank you for the opportunity to submit our written testimony and if you may have questions, please feel free to call us at 672-3122.

Robert A. "Bob" Johnson
William A. "Billy" Johnson
Betty L. Johnson
Eleanor Johnson



Meadow Gold Dairies



Testimony by: Glenn Muranaka
SB 2843, Relating to Flags
Senate PSM Hearing – Room 229
Tuesday, February 9, 2010 – 1:25 pm

Position: Strong Support

Chair Espero and Members of the Senate PSM Committee:

My name is Glenn Muranaka, President and General Manager of Meadow Gold Dairies. Our company has been in Hawaii since 1897, providing Hawaii consumers with a variety of milk products and juices. We have withstood the test of time as Hawai'i became a U.S. territory; played a vital role in World War II; became the 50th state; saluted the sacrifices of its sons and daughters who fought in the Korean, Vietnam, and Gulf wars; and now struggles along with the rest of our country as we resist world terrorism. The foundation of Meadow Gold's resiliency rests with the 350 employees that are committed to providing superior quality products.

As an organization with a long and ongoing relationship with the armed forces in Hawaii, we are proud to support this measure that would so visibly acknowledge appreciation for the many brave Americans that were captured and interred as Prisoner Of War or reported Missing In Action.

Flying the Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Flag with the United States and the State of Hawaii flags flown at State buildings respectfully communicates Hawaii's aloha for those currently serving in the Military. Moreover, it demonstrates that we will never forget the service and sacrifice of loved ones who have never returned from war.

Your support of this measure is urged. Please feel free to call me at 944-5911 if you have any questions. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony.

CLAY CHAPMAN
IWAMURA &
PULICE &
NERVELL
Attorneys at law

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February 9, 2010

The Honorable Will Espero, Chair
Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs
State Capitol, Conference Room 229
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: S.B. 2843 – Relating to Flags

Dear Chair Espero and Committee Members:

I am Gordon Arakaki. As the son of a 442nd Regimental Combat Team Veteran and the uncle of a Captain in the U.S. Air Force, I proudly testify in support of S.B. 2843, which requires that the National League of Families' Prisoner of War/Missing in Action flag ("POW/MIA flag") be flown with the United States and Hawaiian flags at most State buildings to honor American prisoners of war and military personnel who are missing in action.

The POW/MIA flag is a powerful symbol of our commitment to resolving as fully as possible the fates of Americans still prisoner, missing, and unaccounted for. As noted in the prefatory language of S.B. 2843, it is important to honor the extraordinary heroism of the men and women who risked or sacrificed their lives or their freedom in the past, as well as those who place their lives in harm's way on a daily basis in Afghanistan, Iraq, and elsewhere throughout the world.

Thank you for this opportunity to present written testimony in support of S.B. 2843 and for your long-standing support of our military men and women.

Sincerely,

**CLAY CHAPMAN IWAMURA PULICE &
NERVELL**



GORDON M. ARAKAKI

GMA:ga
#411453-v1

