



LATE TESTIMONY

CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Dear Chairman of the House Committee on Water, Land, & Ocean Resources,

It is a great pleasure and honor for the Consulate General of the Republic of Korea to express its support for HCR 87/HR61 before the Committee. The Consulate General of the Republic of Korea submits this testimony to strongly support the bill introduced by Representative Sharon Har to establish a Koreatown in Hawaii.

As you well know, the Korean community in the United States started with a small number of 102 people disembarked on this island on January 13, 1903. And over the last century, the Korean community all across the United States have rapidly evolved into an exemplary immigrant group over the last century, constituting one of the major pillars of the multi-ethnic, multi-cultural society of Hawaii, and contributing to the economic, cultural and social development of Hawaii.

Furthermore, the State of Hawaii has been a close partner of Korea in many aspects. Exchanges on various levels have been rapidly increasing over the years, and a great number of tourists including businessmen and students are going to and fro between Korea and Hawaii every year. In addition, and more importantly, there are currently about 40,000 Korean Americans living in the State of Hawaii. According to the 2010 Census, the number of Korean Americans in Hawaii ranked 12th largest in the United States.

In addition, the relationship between Korea and the United States is now stronger than ever, prospering in every fields. The Korea-US Free Trade Agreement which recently took effect in March is expected to provide another good momentum for our bilateral investment and trade to expand further in the future.

Despite such a growing people-to-people exchanges and economic partnership, there has yet to be a Koreatown in Hawaii. As the resolution states, we strongly believe that the establishment of the Koreatown in Hawaii is a great way to recognize the above-mentioned long history of the Korean immigration as well as the close bond forged between the Korean community and the local community in Hawaii. Establishing the Koreatown in Hawaii will serve as a great venue for the people of Hawaii to become better acquainted with the Korean people and its culture, reinforcing our already strong bond and cooperative partnership that has served us so well so far.

Moreover, it will also help Hawaii become a truly diverse, and culturally global place, building bridges of understanding with each other.

In this regard, the Consulate General of the Republic of Korea strongly support HCR87/HR61 and kindly ask for your strong support and interest with regards to this bill.

Thank you very much.



LATE TESTIMONY

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HCR 87/HR 61

**With a recommendation to place original language back into the Resolution
RELATING TO NATIVE HAWAIIANS**

Hearing, Thursday, April 5, 2012, Conference Room 325, State Capitol

Representative Jerry L. Chang, Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Vice Chair
Members, Committee on Water, Land and Ocean

From: Kitty M. Simonds, President Maunalua Hawaiian Civic Club

RE: HCR 87/HR 61

Aloha,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure. We ask that the original language of this resolution be put back in. We do not oppose the development of a Koreatown in Honolulu. Perhaps another vehicle is available for this endeavor.

The Maunalua Hawaiian Civic Club (MHCC) supports HCR 87 and HR 61 in its original form, urging recognition of the recovery of the honu and supporting management of this resource. MHCC have been involved with the effort to delist the Hawaiian Green sea turtle from "threatened" to recovered, in earnest, since 2006. The Hawaiian green sea turtle, honu, was listed as threatened, under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), in 1978. The State of Hawaii prohibited the commercial take and only allowed home consumption harvest for the residents of Hawaii prior to being listed under ESA. The commercial harvest of green sea turtles is responsible for the decline of our honu.

In a 2004 publication, George Balazs and Dr. Milani Chaloupka reported that our honu, the distinct population of green sea turtle in Hawaii, was reaching the foraging capacity of their environment. That meant that the species was recovering, if not fully recovered from the impacts of intensive commercial harvest in Hawaii. The Maunalua Hawaiian Civic Club members began reviewing the process to petition for the delisting of the honu. Through participation in community workshops, fishers forums, engagement with the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs (AHCC), the Puwalu series and other public forums community support was initiated to delist the honu. In 2011, the AHCC approved a resolution to petition the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to delist our honu. As a result the Association of

Maunalua Hawaiian Civic Club
P.O. Box 240388, Aina Haina Station
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96824



Hawaiian Civic Clubs (AHCC) has petitioned the NMFS and FWS in February of this year to delist our honu. A requirement for delisting is approval of a management plan for the honu by NMFS and FWS. MHCC and the AHCC are working with communities to develop recommendations for the management of our honu to be forwarded to the State. A resource management plan is part of the delisting process.

The Hawaiian community has continually asked for cultural rights to take honu since the listing. Hawaiian green sea turtles are a traditional food of the Hawaiian people. Lawai'a honu was a traditional practice. Honu was the kinolau of 'aumakua for some families and honu was the kinolau of Kanaloa, the Hawaiian God of the Sea. Access to honu, another of our traditional resources, is severely restricted under ESA.

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Regarding HCR 87

I am in support of House Concurrent Resolution 87, recognizing the full recovery of the Hawaiian Green Sea Turtle, and requesting active management of the species.

Last November the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council held a Puwālu at the Pagoda Hotel. In attendance was more than 100 fishing representatives from all islands, including Niihau.

There was substantial anecdotal evidence of green sea turtles beginning to overpopulate some areas around the islands. For example, turtles were observed going upstream in Haleiwa, feeding on grass. In a healthy population they normally feed on algae and other food sources out on the reef. But apparently they've consumed most of what they normally eat and are seeking other food sources.

Having lived through the results of excessive harvesting, the kupuna present were especially sensitive to the need to properly manage the green sea turtle when it is eventually delisted. Proper management was discussed at length, and many good ideas regarding this were brought forward.

With more than two decades of absolute protection, the species has come back, much to the delight of everyone. Now that they're no longer at risk, those protections can be lifted. And with the wisdom gained from understanding how the Hawaiian Green Sea Turtle was endangered, then recovered, the people of Hawaii are ready to provide workable management plans that will ensure its viability for the foreseeable future.

Aloha,
Dean Sensui, executive producer
Hawaii Goes Fishing

LATE TESTIMONY

har2-Samantha

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, April 05, 2012 10:39 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: damagicjuice@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HCR87 on 4/5/2012 11:45:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 4/5/2012 11:45:00 AM HCR87

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Stan. Ruidas
Organization: Individual
E-mail: damagicjuice@gmail.com
Submitted on: 4/5/2012

Comments: