



HAWAI'I CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 411 HONOLULU, HI 96813 · PHONE: 586-8636 FAX: 586-8655 TDD: 568-8692

February 5, 2013
Rm. 016, 10:00 a.m.

To: The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

From: Linda Hamilton Krieger, Chair
and Commissioners of the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission

Re: S.B. No. 856

The Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission (HCRC) has enforcement jurisdiction over Hawai'i's laws prohibiting discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, and access to state and state-funded services. The HCRC carries out the Hawai'i constitutional mandate that no person shall be discriminated against in the exercise of their civil rights. Art. I, Sec. 5.

The HCRC supports S.B. No. 856, which establishes January 30 of each year as "Fred Korematsu Day". Fred Korematsu is an American civil rights hero who should be remembered for his life of courage and love of justice.

After the bombing of Pearl Harbor, President Franklin Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066 in February 1942, authorizing the evacuation and internment of 120,000 Japanese Americans, the majority of them U.S. citizens. This mass incarceration without charge or trial was a deprivation of rights and liberty on the basis of race. A young man living in Oakland, California, at the time, Fred Korematsu refused to report for internment. After he was arrested and convicted for defying the internment order, he appealed his case to the U.S. Supreme Court. In three major decisions the Court overwhelmingly upheld the race-based curfew, evacuation, exclusion, and internment of Japanese Americans on the basis of military necessity. These cases, *Korematsu*, *Hirabayashi*, and *Yasui*, are widely acknowledged as civil liberties disasters.

In 1983, Korematsu's conviction was overturned by a San Francisco federal court, based on recently discovered evidence that the government had hidden evidence from the U.S. Supreme Court that showed that

Japanese Americans had committed no acts of treason to justify mass evacuation, incarceration and exclusion. In 1998 he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Bill Clinton, the nation's highest civilian honor.

When the U.S. District Court Judge Marilyn Hall Patel vacated his conviction in 1983, Korematsu stood before the court and said, "I would like to see the government admit that they were wrong and do something about it so this will never happen again to any American citizen of any race, creed, or color." After 9/11, he spoke out strongly against profiling of Arab, Middle Eastern, Muslim, and South Asians, stating in 2004, "No should ever be locked away simply because they share the same race, ethnicity, or religion as a spy or terrorist." He filed two "Friend of the Court" amicus briefs on behalf of Muslim inmates being held by the government, warning that incarceration without trial based on national security measures was reminiscent of the WWII internment.

Fred Korematsu was committed to justice, not just for Japanese Americans, but for all. He spoke in his own voice, plainly and directly, quietly but powerfully. With a voice of experience, good humor, and remarkably little bitterness, he gave meaning to the cautionary call, "NEVER AGAIN." His words and his life serve as constant reminders that in difficult times we have a responsibility to stand up to government abuses and racist attacks on unpopular minorities.

In pursuing the mission of the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission, to preserve the civil rights of Hawai'i's people and eliminate discrimination, we try to do as Fred Korematsu did, to imbue our work with a commitment to the principle of justice for all. We are humbled and honored to support S.B. No. 856, to establish January 30 of every year as "Fred Korematsu Day."



UNIVERSITY
of HAWAII®
MĀNOA

The William S. Richardson School of Law

Eric K. Yamamoto
Fred T. Korematsu Professor of Law

February 4, 2013

LATE TESTIMONY

TO: The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Committee on Judiciary and Labor

FROM: Eric K. Yamamoto, Fred T. Korematsu Professor of Law and Social Justice, William S. Richardson School of Law
Email: ericy@hawaii.edu; phone#: (808) 956-6548
Committee Date: Tuesday, February 5, 2013
10:00 am

RE: Support for S.B. 865 Fred Korematsu Day

I am writing to respectfully request your support of S.B. 856, a bill that will designate January 30th of each year as "Fred Korematsu Day" to honor Fred Korematsu's courageous struggle for civil liberties for the benefit of all and to stimulate public education about the U.S. Constitution and the delicate balance of national security and civil liberties during times of distress. Mr. Korematsu stood up to challenge the World War II Japanese American internment nearly alone. His struggle culminated 40 years later not only with personal vindication but also with the freeing of all Japanese American internees of the stigma of racial disloyalty. His persistence, along with that of Gordon Hirabayashi and Min Yasui, laid the cornerstone for U.S. redress (a presidential apology, reparations and public education fund) and opened the door to reconciliation initiatives around the world.

And Mr. Korematsu's experiences resonate in Hawai'i, as revealed by the tremendous response to the Korematsu Day this year. Nearly a thousand Hawai'i school students and teachers participated in the daytime ceremony and lectures (with more trying to get in); the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i, with its Honouliuli internment site restoration project, hosted the evening program, highlighted by a Hawai'i high school student's national award winning film on Korematsu's legal challenge, along with a distinguished Hawai'i panel reflecting the linkage of the internment justice struggle with Hawai'i justice issues (including Native Hawaiian self-determination, the 442nd commemoration, Hawai'i interactions with the Micronesian community, and more). I participated in these events and can say that there was electricity in the air and an enthusiastic and engaging response from a wide range of people. An annual Korematsu Day would open the doors to diverse and rich teaching-learning opportunities that are both engaging and fundamental.

I had the good fortune to serve as a member of Mr. Korematsu's coram nobis legal team that reopened his internment case in the 1980s. He was an ordinary, day-to-day hard-working humble man, with a stubborn belief in what is right and just. And his willingness to sacrifice and endure in acting on his belief inspired so many and will continue to do so. Last year I had the honor, with the support of the Korematsu family, to be named by the "Fred T. Korematsu Professor of Law and Social Justice" by University of Hawai'i Board of Regents – the only such professorship or chair in

Tel: (808) 956-6548
Fax: (808) 956-5569
Email: ericy@hawaii.edu

2515 Dole Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822
www.law.hawaii.edu

An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Institution

the country to bear his name. I and many others here anticipate involvement in Korematsu Day Hawai'i for a long while.

For all these reasons, I strongly support S.B. No. 856 and look forward to the extraordinary learning opportunities afforded by an annual Fred Korematsu Day in Hawai'i. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

Eric K. Yamamoto
Fred. T. Korematsu Professor of Law and Social Justice
William S. Richardson School of Law

KOREMATSU INSTITUTE

FOR CIVIL RIGHTS AND EDUCATION

February 4, 2013

Senator Clayton Hee
Chair, Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 407
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: SB 856 (Ihara, Ruderman, Solomon)—SUPPORT

Dear Senator Hee:

On behalf of the Korematsu Institute for Civil Rights and Education, a program of the Asian Law Caucus, I write in support of Senate Bill 856, which would establish a permanent "**Fred Korematsu Day**" in the state of Hawaii. Fred Korematsu Day would recognize an American civil rights hero who refused to comply with Executive Order 9066, which in 1942 mandated the unjust incarceration of 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry. After his arrest and conviction, Mr. Korematsu appealed his case to the US Supreme Court, which ruled against him, citing "military necessity" of the Japanese American internment. In 1983, nearly four decades later, Mr. Korematsu re-opened his case, and his conviction was overturned in federal court. His story is one of an individual who dedicated his life to protecting the civil rights of all people.

In 2010, the Korematsu Institute played a key role in gathering community support for the passage of California's AB1775, which established "Fred Korematsu Day of Civil Liberties and the Constitution" every January 30th, which was Mr. Korematsu's birthday. Fred Korematsu Day became the first permanent day named after an Asian American in US history.

It has been thrilling to see the movement grow since then. On January 30, 2013, the Governors of Hawaii and Utah both declared Fred Korematsu Day in their states. That same day, the Governor of Michigan also issued a certificate recognizing Mr. Korematsu. This past January, our third Fred Korematsu Day "season," there were 30 events commemorating Fred Korematsu Day across 12 states.

Fred Korematsu Day creates an educational opportunity to teach students and the community at large about Mr. Korematsu's story of standing up against injustice. The Korematsu Institute distributes FREE Korematsu Teaching Kits to K-12 teachers around the country. In the past two years, we have fulfilled 3,000 kit requests from 40 different states, including Hawaii. With a permanent Fred Korematsu Day in Hawaii, we would anticipate even more curriculum requests from Hawaii's teachers. We would be thrilled to meet the demand!

For these reasons, the Korematsu Institute supports SB 856. Thank you for considering this significant legislation.

Sincerely,



Karen Korematsu
Co-Founder, Korematsu Institute
Daughter of Fred Korematsu



Ling Woo Liu
Director, Korematsu Institute

FRED T. KOREMATSU INSTITUTE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS AND EDUCATION
AT THE ASIAN LAW CAUCUS

55 COLUMBUS AVENUE, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94111
T: (415) 896-1701 | F: (415) 896-1702
WWW.KOREMATSUINSTITUTE.ORG



Committee: Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Tuesday, February 5, 2013, 10:00 a.m.
Place: Conference Room 229
Re: Testimony of the ACLU of Hawaii in Support of S.B. 856, Relating to Holidays

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

The American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii (“ACLU of Hawaii”) writes in full support of S.B. 856, which establishes January 30th as “Fred Korematsu Day” to celebrate, honor, raise awareness, and educate about Fred Korematsu and his commitment to preserving civil liberties.

S.B. 856 will provide Hawaii with an opportunity to remember the simple courage in the face of grave injustice displayed by a quiet man who defied the World War II Executive Order in 1942 sending 120,000 Japanese-Americans to concentration camps. January 31 would have been Fred’s 94th birthday.

Mr. Korematsu’s decision to suffer the public condemnation of arrest and imprisonment to do what was right, his decision to allow the ACLU to represent him in the test case before the U.S. Supreme Court challenging the internment policy, and his role 40 years later in fueling the redress movement by reopening his case and seeking true vindication should continue to inspire us today, as should Mr. Korematsu’s perseverance. It took him nearly 50 years not only to get his own conviction overturned but to finally secure redress for all of those who had been incarcerated with the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which provided an official apology and reparations from the government and was signed into law by President Ronald Reagan.

Mr. Korematsu’s willingness to stand up against the treacherous collusion of racism, national security and unaccountable power provides an important narrative in the ongoing political and legal fight against government abuse that, almost seven decades later, we still confront today. Indeed, Mr. Korematsu returned to the U.S. Supreme Court in 2004 to file a brief supporting a challenge to the prolonged indefinite detentions of prisoners in Guantanamo Bay as part of the so-called “war on terror.” He saw that like the Japanese-Americans of his time, those deemed to be “enemy combatants” today continue to be held without formal charges, without any fair hearing to determine guilt or innocence and often without the assistance of counsel. One is

American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii
P.O. Box 3410
Honolulu, Hawaii 96801
T: 808-522-5900
F: 808-522-5909
E: office@acluhawaii.org
www.acluhawaii.org

Chair Hee and JDL Committee Members

February 5, 2013

Page 2 of 3

reminded of Federal District Court Judge Marilyn Hall Patel's prescient opinion when she overturned Fred Korematsu's wartime conviction in 1984: "Korematsu stands as a constant caution that in times of war or declared military necessity our institutions must be vigilant in protecting constitutional guarantees[...]. It stands as a caution that in times of international hostility and antagonism, our institutions, legislative, executive and judicial, must be prepared to exercise their authority to protect all citizens from the petty fears and prejudices that are so easily aroused."

When Fred Korematsu stood hopelessly alone in 1942 — an American citizen vilified and imprisoned in his own country — he could not have imagined that he one day would be seen as a hero and be honored with the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Presenting him with the medal in 1998, President Clinton proclaimed, "in the long history of our country's constant search for justice some names of ordinary citizens stand for millions of souls... Plessy, Brown, Parks... to that distinguished list... we add the name of Fred Korematsu."

It is fitting that Hawaii should have an official state holiday in Fred Korematsu's honor. Unfortunately, it is a bittersweet celebration. For while we recognize the ultimate vindication of Fred Korematsu's rights, we are reminded that post-September 11 America has slipped backwards. We will soon mark a decade of civil liberties abuses promulgated as a misguided policy that has once again forgotten the lesson taught by Fred's heroic example: The sacrifice of liberty does not ensure public safety. Indeed, it may ultimately undermine it.

It would be a fitting honor on this "Fred Korematsu Day" to be inspired by Mr. Korematsu's example and to reaffirm our commitment — not only to stand up but to join the march for justice — no matter how long or daunting the journey appears. Fred Korematsu would have insisted.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Laurie A. Temple
Staff Attorney
ACLU of Hawaii

About the American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii

The American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii ("ACLU") has been the state's guardian of liberty for 47 years, working daily in the courts, legislatures and communities to defend and preserve the individual rights and liberties equally guaranteed to all by the Constitutions and

American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i
P.O. Box 3410
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96801
T: 808-522-5900
F: 808-522-5909
E: office@acluhawaii.org
www.acluhawaii.org

Chair Hee and JDL Committee Members

February 5, 2013

Page 3 of 3

laws of the United States and Hawaii.

The ACLU works to ensure that the government does not violate our constitutional rights, including, but not limited to, freedom of speech, association and assembly, freedom of the press, freedom of religion, fair and equal treatment, and privacy.

The ACLU network of volunteers and staff works throughout the islands to defend these rights, often advocating on behalf of minority groups that are the target of government discrimination. If the rights of society's most vulnerable members are denied, everyone's rights are imperiled.

American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i
P.O. Box 3410
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96801
T: 808-522-5900
F: 808-522-5909
E: office@acluhawaii.org
www.acluhawaii.org



JAPANESE CULTURAL CENTER OF HAWAI'I

Honoring our heritage. Embracing our diversity. Sharing our future.

2012-2013

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
TYLER TOKIOKA

VICE CHAIR
BRENNON MORIOKA

VICE CHAIR
EUGENE NISHIMURA
HAWAII REPRESENTATIVE

VICE CHAIR
GORDON KAGAWA

SECRETARY/ VICE CHAIR
HOWARD HANADA

TREASURER/VICE CHAIR
DIANE MURAKAMI

AT-LARGE DIRECTORS
DAWN DUNBAR
DAVID ERDMAN
DENNIS ESAKI
KAUAI REPRESENTATIVE
GLENN INOUE
KYOKO KIMURA
MAUI REPRESENTATIVE
MICHELE SUNAHARA
LOUDERMILK
LEIGH-ANN MIYASATO
LANCE MIZUMOTO
KEN NIIMURA
SHANNON OKINAKA
LYNNE HANZAWA O'NEILL
CURT OTAGURO
CHRISTINE YANO

PRESIDENT/
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
CAROLE HAYASHINO

February 4, 2013

TO: The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Committee on Judiciary and Labor

FROM: Carole Hayashino, President and Executive Director
Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i
Email: hayashino@jcch.com; Phone#: (808) 945-7633 Ext. 23

Committee Date: Tuesday, February 5, 2013
10:00 am

RE: **Support for SB 856 Fred Korematsu Day**

On behalf of the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i, I am writing to ask for your support of SB856, a bill that will designate January 30th of each year as "Fred Korematsu Day" to celebrate, honor and encourage public education around Fred Korematsu and his commitment to preserve civil liberties.

For the past ten years, the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i has been documenting the World War II internment of Japanese in Hawai'i through oral histories, personal diaries and historical documents of Hawai'i internees. We have educated the public on the story of Hawai'i interment through curriculum materials, teacher trainings, publications, photo exhibits and production of the first full-length documentary on the subject, "The Untold Story: Internment of Japanese Americans in Hawai'i."

Fred Korematsu's life story and the Japanese American incarceration in Hawai'i are linked and together, their lessons are significant to our state and nation. Remembering the legacy of Fred Korematsu and efforts to preserve Hawai'i's confinement sites provides the opportunity to learn from the past and reminds us of our shared responsibility to uphold the civil and constitutional rights of all people, at all times.

The Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i strongly supports S.B. No. 856 and looks forward to commemorating Fred Korematsu Day in Hawai'i. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely Yours,

Carole Hayashino
President and Executive Director



LATE TESTIMONY

3599 Wai'ala'e Avenue, Room 25 • Honolulu, HI 96816 • phone 808.732.5402

February 4, 2013

To: The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile Shimabukuro, Vice-Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

From: Robert G. Buss, Executive Director, Hawai'i Council for the Humanities
Email: rbuss@hihumanities.org; Phone: 808-732-5402 ext 4

Committee Date: Tuesday, February 5, 2013

Regarding: **Support for SB-856, Establishing Fred Korematsu Day of Recognition**

On behalf of the Hawai'i Council for the Humanities (HCH), an affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities Council for the Humanities, I would like to write in support of SB-856 to establish a day of recognition for Fred Korematsu and his pivotal role in contesting the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II. Such a day would encourage community and K-12 teacher and student educational activities exploring aspects of civil rights, good citizenship, social justice, and constitutional issues related to due process of law, "military necessity," and individual liberties, using history to better understand the complexity of such rights and responsibilities. And has great potential to explore how American leadership here has served as a model for international responses to movements of redress and reconciliation from South Africa to Ireland and elsewhere.

For example, HCH earlier this year facilitated a workshop for K-12 teachers entitled "Civil Liberties and the U.S. Constitution: Lessons of Japanese American Internment," held on Saturday January 12, 2013, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Chaminade University featuring historian Mieko Matsumoto from Honolulu Community College on "Anti-Asian Racism and Executive Order 9066," professor of law and social justice Eric Yamamoto from the William S. Richardson School of Law on "The Story Behind the Legal Challenges to Japanese American Internment," and educators Karen Korematsu, from Korematsu Institute for Civil Rights and Education, Linda Menton, professor emerita from UHM College of Education, Lilian Yamasaki from McKinley High School, and Jane Kurahara from Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i. This mix of humanities and curriculum specialists demonstrates some of the diverse and timely possibilities for community and K-12 education of these issues and questions.

For these reasons, HCH strongly endorses the spirit of SB-856, supports its passage, and thanks you for setting forth legislation aimed at enhancing civic and community dialogue, education, and understanding of our democratic government in action.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert G. Buss", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Robert G. Buss, Executive Director, Hawai'i Council for the Humanities

LATE TESTIMONY

Hon. Senator Clayton Hee
Chair
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii State Senate
State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator Hee:

I only learned about SB 856 in the last couple of days and I didn't know about it until someone called my attention to it. I hope this last-minute letter is not too late as an input in support of the bill.

As an immigrant academic now retired, I've long been involved, mostly in university settings, with social movements in my 40-year career, especially with regards to the restoration of democratic rights in the Philippines during the 14-year martial law dictatorship under Ferdinand Marcos in the 70s and 80s, and even after that. Just like the painstaking work of Fred Korematsu in his struggle for human rights in his day, our own movement against the Marcos regime took a long time, but we never gave up. In 1986 we finally got our ultimate reward with the ouster of the regime by the "people power revolution," the first of its kind in the modern history of the world, which served as an inspiration to future upheavals via the peaceful route in many countries of the world, notably South Korea, Czechoslovakia and many of the Eastern European countries long suffering under oppressive communist regimes. They just needed a "spark" that would catch on in inspired movements for peace, justice and freedom. We Filipinos are very proud of "people power," our singular contribution to the theory of modern revolutions.

It is, therefore, with great pride and honor that I support the legacy of Fred Korematsu on behalf of the basic right of humankind to be free, never to be threatened again by evil and insidious forces in society. If there were more courageous souls like him who would risk their very lives against injustice and oppression against humanity, the world would be such a peaceful and wonderful place forever.

May his tribe increase! I support the pending bill without any reservations whatsoever. Please give me a call (947-7011) or send me an email if you need to authenticate this message.

Sincerely yours,

BELINDA A. AQUINO, Ph.D.
Professor Emeritus (Ret. Professor of Political Science and Asian Studies)

Founding Director, Center for Philippine Studies
School of Pacific and Asian Studies
University of Hawaii at Manoa

First Recipient of Dr. Jose Rizal Award for Peace (June 2011)
Knights of Rizal, Hawaii Chapter
(Knights of Rizal is an international organization)

LATE TESTIMONY

Carolyn Ogami
3339A Manoa Road
Honolulu, HI 96822

February 4, 2013

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile Shimabukuro, Vice-Chair
Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: Support for S.B. 856 Fred Korematsu Day
Committee Date: Tuesday, February 5, 2013 at 10:00 a.m.

Aloha e Senators Hee and Shimabukuro,

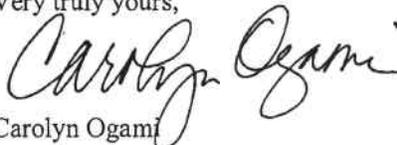
I am writing to you as a proud Sansei daughter of a Nisei medic who served with the 100th Regimental Combat Battalion during WWII to ask for your support of the S.B. 856, a bill that is seeking to establish January 30th of each year as “Fred Korematsu Day” in Hawai’i. It was my distinct privilege to represent the William S. Richardson School of Law and the Fred Korematsu Professorship in Law and Social Justice on the committee that planned the recent events celebrating Fred Korematsu Day on January 30, 2013.

I grew up in Honolulu, and throughout my childhood I would hear about the bravery and brotherhood of the 442nd, the 100th Infantry Battalion, and the Military Intelligence. But it was not until 1979, when I was a junior in college, that I first learned about the Japanese American internment camps and the “No-No Boys” who were unwilling to serve in the Armed Forces of the United States on combat duty wherever ordered or to swear unqualified allegiance to the United States after the civil liberties of those interned had been so flagrantly violated. To this day, most Hawai’i residents who grew up here during the 1950’s, 1960’s or 1970’s do not know about Fred Korematsu or his story. Even undergraduate and graduate students currently enrolled at the University of Hawai’i do not know who he is. Yet, Fred Korematsu and the other internment camp resisters were as courageous in their fight for equal rights as my father and his 442nd brethren who were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in 2011 for their service in battle.

Although Mr. Korematsu’s story seems vastly different from my father’s, they are simply opposite sides of the same coin. There are valuable lessons in their diverse experiences to be taught to their grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and future generations of keiki in Hawai’i – all opportunities for learning about justice, civil rights, and taking action that is pono. This is what I want my children and grandchildren to know and understand.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to support S.B. No. 856 and designate January 30th as “Fred Korematsu Day” to celebrate, honor, and encourage public education and awareness of Fred Korematsu and his commitment to preserving civil liberties for Americans of Japanese ancestry and actions to promote equal rights for all citizens.

Very truly yours,



Carolyn Ogami

CO:

LATE TESTIMONY

February 4, 2013

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Committee of Judiciary and Labor

Re: SB 856 (Ihara) Support

Dear Senator Hee and Members of the Committee of Judiciary and Labor:

I strongly support and recommend passage of SB 856 that “establishes January 30 of each year as "Fred Korematsu Day" to celebrate, honor, raise awareness, and educate about Fred Korematsu and his commitment to preserving civil liberties.”

Though I am writing testimony today as a private citizen, I am the Educational Specialist for Social Studies in the Hawaii Department of Education. In this position, I know well that the students of Hawaii can learn many important lessons; not only about Mr. Korematsu, but about the larger story of Japanese American Internment during World War II, both on the west coast and in Hawaii. This is a story that is just now emerging from the shadows in history books and on college campuses. By recognizing Fred Korematsu in this way, it will encourage greater scholarship around the incredible story of what one man did in standing up for what is right. We want our keiki to understand the lesson that one person can make a difference, even if they are small. . or young. . .or do not look like everyone else.

If this is passed, lessons about Mr. Korematsu can be created within the Hawaii Department of Education that will be distributed to schools across the state. Teacher workshops, in partnership with local universities, museums, and organizations such as the Hawaii Council for the Humanities and the Hawaii Bar Association, may be planned to educate our teachers about this to an even greater degree.

Because Mr. Korematsu stood up for the unjust internment of Japanese Americans, because our children need to learn what one person can do, and because the lessons of this part of history are still vital today, I urge you to pass SB 856.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Rosanna P. Fukuda

Andria Pakele

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 04, 2013 5:51 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: mitzie.higa@ewamakai.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB856 on Feb 5, 2013 10:00AM

SB856

Submitted on: 2/4/2013

Testimony for JDL on Feb 5, 2013 10:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mitzie Higa	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As a teacher of 12 years in Hawai'i, I completely support Senate Bill 856 to establish January 30 of each year as "Fred Korematsu Day" to celebrate, honor, raise awareness, and educate about Fred Korematsu and his commitment to preserving civil liberties. I teach my students about our rights as citizens and how we need to be active and engaged in our communities. Sometimes being an active citizen means standing up for what is right, even when it is difficult. Fred Korematsu is a model for our students and knowing about him raises awareness about civil liberties for our students. It is a part of history that needs to be recognized and not forgotten so that we will remember to never repeat the history of internment camps of our own citizens.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov