

# HB 604

## Testimony –

Measure Title: RELATING TO SAKADA DAY

Report Title: Sakada Day

Description: Designates December 20 of each year as Sakada Day in Hawaii.

Companion:

Package: None

Current Referral: HEA

Introducer(s): MIZUNO, AQUINO, BELATTI, BROWER, CACHOLA, CREAGAN, CULLEN, HASHEM, ING, KOBAYASHI, LOPRESTI, MORIKAWA, NISHIMOTO, ONISHI, SAN BUENAVENTURA, TSUJI, WOODSON, YAMASHITA, Kong



CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
HONOLULU

*ITR- 45-2016*

16 March 2015

HAWAII STATE CAPITOL  
**Senator Brian T. Taniguchi**  
**Chairman**  
Senate Committee on Higher Education and Arts  
Fax No. (808) 586-6461

Dear Senator Taniguchi,

This is to register the support of the Philippine Consulate General for HB 604, a bill relating to Sakada Day in Hawaii.


On December 20, 1906, the first Sakadas arrived in Honolulu to work as contract laborers in the plantation industry. Approximately 120,000 Sakadas arrived in Hawaii between 1906 and 1934. These Sakadas paved the way for the great legacy of the Filipino community in Hawaii. Today, Filipinos and part-Filipinos constitute the largest ethnic group in Hawaii.

This bill is a fitting recognition of the role of the Sakadas in Hawaii's history and the legacy of hard work, dedication, and love for the land that they gave to generations of Filipinos that followed.

The Philippine Consulate General, therefore, supports HB 604, designating December 20 of each year as "Sakada Day" in Hawaii.

Thank you very much.

Very truly yours,

  
**GINA A. JAMORALIN**  
**Consul General**

COVO FOUNDATION  
77-6617 Kuakini Hwy.  
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740



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TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB604  
COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND THE ARTS

To: Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair  
Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

From: Jane Clement  
President, COVO Foundation and Kona Visayan Club

Subject: Sakada Day – Designates December 20 of each year as Sakada Day in Hawaii

My name is Jane Clement, president of COVO Foundation – the charitable arm of Congress of Visayan Organizations (COVO). I am also the president of the Kona Visayan Club on the Big Island of Hawaii.

I am in strong support of H.B. 604 designating December 20 of every year as “Sakada Day”. For more than a century, Filipinos have made valuable and significant economic, cultural, social and other notable contributions to Hawaii’s history and development. Our proud heritage and the richness of our ethnicity have added to the colorful, diverse, multicultural landscape of Hawaii.

Our Sakadas had persevered and endured hardships in the plantation fields in order to provide for a better life for their families. Their hard work, sacrifices and resilience had made it possible for our generation to succeed and thrive in Hawaii’s multiethnic and multicultural society.

Thank you for this opportunity to support this measure on behalf of our community. Your consideration for its passage is greatly appreciated.

Respectfully,

Jane Clement  
President, COVO Foundation and Kona Visayan Club

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**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB604 on Mar 17, 2015 13:15PM  
**Date:** Monday, March 16, 2015 2:00:51 PM

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**HB604**

Submitted on: 3/16/2015

Testimony for HEA on Mar 17, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lynne Gutierrez	United Filipino Council of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments: My name is Lynne Gutierrez, a legislative co chair of the United Filipino Council of Hawaii, we strongly support HB604 because most of the officers and members of all island councils and its town or civic organizations are beneficiaries of The Sakadas, who paved our way for a better life and live the American Dream. They are very instrumental for WHO WE ARE N WHAT WE ARE NOW. Having December 20 as the SAKADA DAY is something to behold and be proud of. Honoring them in a special day shows our appreciation for the hardships they went through just for the sake of us and the future generation. My sincerest thanks to my Late uncle Carlos Rol and Francisca Rol for the sacrifices they have done for us. Thank you to all the sponsors of this bill. Please support and pass it. This means a lot for all of us, Filipinos in Hawaii.

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**HB604**

Submitted on: 3/16/2015

Testimony for HEA on Mar 17, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Helen Sumoba Sapla	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**HB604**

Submitted on: 3/15/2015

Testimony for HEA on Mar 17, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
James Gauer	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Honoring the first immigrants to Hawaii and their laborious work in setting the pace and industrious environment that we work with today

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**HB604**

Submitted on: 3/16/2015

Testimony for HEA on Mar 17, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jonathan Hanks	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**HB604**

Submitted on: 3/15/2015

Testimony for HEA on Mar 17, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Roberto Bernardo	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I wish to support this bill because it is a recognition of the role of the Sakadas in Hawaii. They embody hard work and dedication to their jobs.

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