

# **SCR 165**

# **SR 101**

**SUPPORTING THE CO-NAMING OF A SECTION OF 33RD STREET IN  
NEW YORK CITY TO FATHER DAMIEN WAY IN HONOR OF SAINT  
DAMIEN DE VEUSTER.**



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Government Operations  
Tuesday, March 31, 2015 at 1:30 P.M.  
Conference Room 414, State Capitol**

**RE: SCR165/SR101 SUPPORTING THE CO-NAMING OF A SECTION OF 33<sup>RD</sup>  
STREET IN NEW YORK CITY TO FATHER DAMIEN WAY IN HONOR  
OF SAINT DAMIEN DE VEUSTER.**

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Nishihara, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Patti Danko and I am writing in strong support of SCR165/SR101. I live in New York City and am on the Board of Hālāwai. We are committed to building and supporting a community of people who share a common background or interest in Hawai'i. In the tradition of extended 'ohana (family), Hālāwai perpetuates the aloha spirit by bringing people together and providing a gathering place.

Flanders House contacted Hālāwai in March of 2014 and asked for support in the street co-naming project. Father Damien Way, located on 33<sup>rd</sup> Street between 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenues, is in the immediate proximity of three important hospitals, including the Mid-Atlantic Regional Hansen's Disease Center at Bellevue Hospital, which provides testing and treatment of Hansen's disease.

Flanders House was formed and is funded by the Government of Flanders, a regional government of the federal country, which is Belgium. Flanders House promotes a better understanding of the region of Flanders through the arts, science, technology and education. Flanders was instrumental in the establishment of "New Amsterdam" 400 years ago and has built a strong historical and cultural link with the US.

Father Damien was born as Joseph De Veuster in Tremelo in Flanders, Belgium in 1840. He entered the Congregation of the Sacred hearts of Jesus and Mary in Leuven, took the name of Damien and left for Hawai'i as a missionary in 1864. He arrived in Kalaupapa on May 10, 1873 and ministered to the people of the Hawaiian Kingdom who were exiled there because they had leprosy, now known as Hansen's disease. He contracted leprosy and died in 1889. His legacy of faith, compassion and dedication for the most vulnerable among us is an inspiration to us all. He was a priest and healer, a community leader, early human rights activist, and a catalyst for the current movement to eradicate neglected infectious diseases.

Mahalo for allowing me to testify in strong support of SCR165/SR101.

Aloha piha,

Patti Danko



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The Public Policy Voice for the Roman Catholic Church in the State of Hawaii

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**HEARING:** Senate Committee on Government Operations

**SUBMITTED:** March 24, 2015

**TO:** Senate Committee on Government Operations  
Sen. Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair  
Sen. Clarence Nishihara, Vice Chair

**FROM:** Walter Yoshimitsu, Executive Director

**RE:** Support for SCR 165 | SR 101 Supporting the Co-Naming of a Section of 33<sup>rd</sup> Street in New York City to Father Damien Way in Honor of Saint Damien DeVeuster

Honorable Chair and members of the Senate Committee on Government Operations, I am Walter Yoshimitsu, **representing the Hawaii Catholic Conference**. The Hawaii Catholic Conference is the public policy voice for the Roman Catholic Church in the State of Hawaii, which under the leadership of Bishop Larry Silva, represents Roman Catholics in Hawaii. We strongly support this resolution.

In 1873, Fr. Damien arrived in Hawai'i and served the people of Molokai with determination and compassion. He left a strong legacy of care for the physical, medical and spiritual needs of a community in need. He taught the world to become an effective advocate for the voiceless.

Although his Feast Day is celebrated on May 10<sup>th</sup> of every year, this year, on May 11, 2015, a street-naming ceremony will be held in New York City. This celebration is to honor his legacy by co-naming a section of 33<sup>rd</sup> Street between 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenues to Father Damien Way. The street is near to the Bellevue Hospital in New York City which opened in 1736 as a six bed hospital. Bellevue continues to provide care to those not only with Hansen's disease, but also the poor and underserved. Having a street named after Fr. Damien so near to a hospital like Bellevue is a true legacy of not only the spirit of Fr. Damien, but the people of Hawai'i.

We appreciate that New York City is aware of the faith and purpose exemplified by Fr. Damien in his total commitment to people in need. Co-naming a section of the street near to Bellevue Hospital in his memory is a great way to show the solidarity between Hawai'i and New York City.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [GVO Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [mkhan@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:mkhan@hawaiiantel.net)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SCR165 on Mar 31, 2015 13:30PM  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 24, 2015 7:05:13 PM

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**SCR165**

Submitted on: 3/24/2015

Testimony for GVO on Mar 31, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leimomi Khan	Individual	Support	No

Comments: What an honor! Mahalo to New York for honoring Father Damien! Our people are forever grateful to him for his unselfish service! Fully support this resolution.

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.

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**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** GVO Testimony  
**Cc:** [mkhan@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:mkhan@hawaiiantel.net)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SCR165 on Mar 31, 2015 13:30PM  
**Date:** Friday, March 27, 2015 4:15:52 AM

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**SCR165**

Submitted on: 3/27/2015

Testimony for GVO on Mar 31, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leimomi Khan	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Additional testimony. I have since learned that the Father Damien statue is located in the Hall of Columns, not Statutory Hall. Thus, please correct the last Whereas clause to delete "National Statutory Hall" and in its place insert, "THE HALL OF COLUMNS" where the Father Damien statue is located.

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**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [GVO Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [lindaemsjpsb@yahoo.com](mailto:lindaemsjpsb@yahoo.com)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SR101 on Mar 31, 2015 13:30PM\*  
**Date:** Sunday, March 29, 2015 9:33:39 PM

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**SR101**

Submitted on: 3/29/2015

Testimony for GVO on Mar 31, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Linda Rosen	Individual	Support	No

**Comments:**

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