

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 23 (SSCR 3659-16),  
RELATING TO URGING CONGRESS TO AMEND FEDERAL LAW TO ALLOW  
FUNDS FOR THE BURIAL OF QUALIFIED FILIPINO-AMERICAN VETERANS IN  
NATIONAL AND STATE VETERANS CEMETERIES TO COVER THE COSTS OF  
TRANSPORTING THE REMAINS OF FILIPINO-AMERICAN VETERANS OF WORLD  
WAR II TO THE PHILIPPINES AND FOR FUNERAL AND BURIAL SERVICES IN THE  
PHILIPPINES

PRESENTATION TO THE  
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

BY

MR. RONALD P. HAN, JR.  
DIRECTOR OF STATE OFFICE OF VETERANS' SERVICES

April 21, 2016

Aloha Chair Tokuda, Vice-Chair Dela Cruz, and members of the Committee:

I'm Ron Han, Director of the State Office of Veterans Services. I appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony in support of the concepts in HCR 23 (SSCR 3659-16), with the following comments:

Eligible Filipino veterans have earned the right to be buried in a National or State Veterans Cemetery. This is the same entitlement as eligible military members and veterans of the United States Armed Forces. Currently, eligible U.S. Veterans do not receive State or federal compensation for transportation of their remains to their respective state of residency or home of record.

This proposed measure in accordance with HRS 363 and if State funds are available, the amount of \$2,500 dollars maybe provided for the transportation of the remains of eligible Filipino veterans. From the preliminary research with mortuary services in Hawaii, the approximate cost to ship the remains in a sealed casket with all of the proper safety measures adhered to would be approximately \$3,000 dollars. The transportation cost of shipping a casket from Hawaii to Manila in the Philippines would be approximately an additional \$5,000 dollars. Total estimate of the preparation and transportation of remains would be approximately \$8,000 dollars. The preparation and transportation of cremains in an urn would cost considerably less. Besides the cost factor, another point of interest would be the final requested burial location of the eligible Filipino veteran in the Philippines. For example, the cost of the casket transported from

Hawaii to any other location other than Manila in the Philippines could drive cost substantially higher.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of Hawaii's Veterans their families in support of HCR 23 (SSCR 3659-16).