

HB2383

HD1 SD1

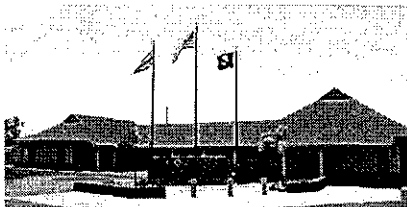
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OAHU VETERANS COUNCIL

OAHU VETERANS COUNCIL

President - Fred Ballard
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"a gathering place for veterans"
 OAHU VETERANS CENTER

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March 22, 2010

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 American Veterans Empowerment &
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 BPOE VAVS Hawaii Dist.
 China-Burma-India Veterans Assn.
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 Combat Veterans Motorcycle Club
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 Special Forces Assn. - Chapter VIII
 State Office of Veterans Services
 Veterans of Foreign Wars
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 Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 970
 Vietnam Veterans of America
 Chapter 858
 Waves National - Unit 131
 Women Veterans of America #26

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 2383 SD1 RELATING TO FLAGS

SENATE JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

HEARING TUESDAY, MARCH 23, 2010 9:30 A.M., ROOM 016

Aloha Senators Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair, Dwight Y. Takamine, Vice Chair, and members of the Committee. My name is Fred Ballard, President Oahu Veterans Council. The Oahu Veterans Council is comprised of over 35 Oahu veteran organizations that in turn represent over 80,000 veterans and their families.

The Council strongly supports SB 2383 SD1; however, requests that the bill be amended to include that on any other day, the POW/MIA flag may be flown at those locations. This provides a viable option for the POW/MIA flag to be flown and to be a visible reminder that those courageous men and women are not forgotten.

The flag is a symbol of those who have not returned. The possibility of becoming a prisoner of war, or missing in action is ever present as our troops continue to serve our country. In the words of the Pearl Harbor Survivors, "We will never forget," the same can be said for our POW's and Missing in Action. The flag is a constant reminder of their sacrifice and hope that they will come home.

Mahalo for allowing us the opportunity to comment on this very important bill.

Fred Ballard

Fred Ballard
 President
 Oahu Veterans Council



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