

BILL007(24)
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 72

COUNCIL

COUNCIL Meeting

Meeting Date: Feb 28, 2024 @ 10:00 AM

Support: 4

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 0

Name: Joel Brilliant	Email: kalanipuu16@gmail.com	Zip: 96825
Representing: Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH)	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 27, 2024 @ 03:44 PM
Testimony: I am Joel Brilliant, CAPTAIN, US Navy (ret) and current state commander of MOPH. Along with Edward Cruikshank, Colonel, US Army (ret), the current Oahu chapter commander of MOPH, we strongly urge the passing of this long overdue bill to minimally honor Hawaii's significantly large number of military service members who have been injured or killed in the many conflicts from WWII to present. The thousands of grave sites at Punchbowl attest to the sacrifices of Hawaii sons and daughters who are Purple Heart recipients. It is very appropriate that this city and county recognize this beyond the confines of Punchbowl and the annual Veterans' Day and Pearl Harbor Commemorative Day ceremonies and parades. Proudly and officially stating that we recognize these heroic sacrifices as a community and we embrace them all as our own is deserved. If asked, we are certain that the late Senator Daniel Inouye would have agreed that WE STAND for these heroes, the thousands who fought alongside me, and those who followed, ensuring freedom for all of Hawaii and America.		
Name: Christopher Lee	Email: cjlee9587@gmail.com	Zip: 96814
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 27, 2024 @ 04:55 PM
Testimony: I, Christopher Lee, local resident in Kaka'ako, devoted husband, loving father, and proud Purple Heart Recipient and US Army Infantry Combat War Veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Inherent Resolve, within the Global War on Terror give my unequivocal and undisputed support of Bill 007, Declaring the City and County of Honolulu a Purple Heart City. I am shocked that Honolulu, especially being in the island of Oahu, is not currently a Purple Heart City. Oahu is unique because of its capacity of calling home to all SIX branches of the military (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, and Space Force) to include several Department of Defense agencies and authorities. Honolulu has rich, deeply rooted history in the military and the Defense of this great Nation. This city and county is Home to several Veterans, Heroes, and their families. Punchbowl (National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific) honors the sacrifices of these warriors as their eternal resting place. The Purple Heart is not an award most strive to receive, however, earning the Purple Heart signifies that a service member has greatly sacrificed themselves and injured in combat, in the line of duty. These injuries and this Purple Heart is a reminder for the warriors that currently serve, honors and represents the fallen and the ultimate sacrifice they paid to a cause much greater than themselves. As a modern day Purple Heart recipient (Global War on Terror vs Vietnam/Korea/etc), there is a large age gap among the recipients. I can attest that the modern day service members do not know, appreciate, nor understand the tremendous meaning and significance of the Purple Heart and what/who it represents. Honolulu being a Purple Heart City will instill pride and give proper homage to those before us as we (America) continue to defend this country and the ever evolving threats throughout the Indo-Pacific. I humbly request you consider my testimony and continue to honor Veterans and those who have served with the intent of this Bill. Thank you for your time. Christopher Lee, Adjutant, Military of the Purple Heart (MOPH) Department of Hawaii, Hawaii Chapter, Life Member #L401197		
Name: Takumi Abe	Email: Takumi702@gmail.com	Zip: 96706
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 27, 2024 @ 05:01 PM
Testimony: Aloha! My name is Takumi Abe representing the Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH) Chapter 483 and I am submitting this testimony in support of Bill 7 relating to declaring the City and County of Honolulu a Purple Heart City. The purpose of submitting this Testimony is due to honoring all of our Wounded and Killed in action that is pinned a Purple Heart Medal on their chest for their services, sacrifices, and bravery while in combat theater ie: ww2, korea, vietnam, and the global war on terror. If this bill is passed not only will the City and County of Honolulu honor the past and present recipient of this prestigious award and also the		

military's oldest Medal, this will help find some closure to many of our Ohana that has family members that are no longer here or still around. Honoring our veterans and service Members is one thing, but being able to honor our Purple Heart Recipients living in Hawaii would be the highest of honor to the recipient themselves.

Mahalo,

Sergeant First Class (Ret.) Takumi Abe
Purple Heart Recipient (AFGHANISTAN).

Name: Barrett Taylor	Email: barrytaylor2009@gmail.com	Zip: 96786
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 27, 2024 @ 07:14 PM

Testimony:

I, Barrett Taylor, am a local resident on Schofield Barracks, and I am a proud retired US Army Veteran and Purple Heart recipient. I am a veteran of combat and peacekeeping operations in Kosovo and the Balkans, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Afghanistan, and Mosul, Iraq where I was wounded and lost men under my command. Additionally, I am the Senior Vice Commander for the Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH) Department of Hawaii and Chapter 483 here on Oahu. I hereby give my strongest and fullest support of Bill 007, Declaring the City and County of Honolulu a Purple Heart City. It has been an honor to live and work here on this beautiful island, and more to so learn with my family the rich heritage, traditions, and history of the amazing people of Hawaii. I have always been a military history lover, and to be able to live here and be surrounded by all rich history has been both amazing and humbling.

Hawaii's, and specifically Oahu's, connection to the US military is undeniable, and these two will forever be intertwined as the sacrifices of thousands of American servicemembers are on display all over this island. From the gravesites at Punchbowl cemetery, to the bullet holes still visible in buildings, to the oil "tears" that still seep to the surface from the USS Arizona, these are all testaments to the Purple Heart recipients and the ultimate sacrifices so many have made here.

By declaring Honolulu a Purple Heart City, it states that Hawaii stands up next to our Purple Heart recipients and our fallen heroes. That we support them and their families, and we honor them and their sacrifices for our country. This declaration would also go to continue to educate future generations about the Purple Heart and its recipients, and to forever honor them.

I humbly and respectfully request that you consider mine and my comrades testimony and honor our veterans and especially the Purple Heart recipients by passing this bill and declaring Honolulu a Purple Heart City now and forever.

Barrett Taylor
Senior Vice Commander,
MOPH Department of Hawaii and Chapter 483
MOPH Life Member #L60170