

GUMIL Oahu
(Association of Ilokano Writers on Oahu)
1424 Uila Street, Honolulu, HI 96818

TESTIMONY FOR H.B. 1101

Gladys M. Menor
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Elizabeth Alimbuyuguen
Amado Yoro
Ric Agnes
Francis Ponce
Paul Taong
Fernando Agnes

Members

Precy Espiritu
Andy Barroga
Art Ignacio
Flor Martinez

We hereby express our endorsement for the passage of H.B. 1101 — the creation of Ilokano teaching position at the University of Hawaii.

GUMIL Oahu (GO) is an organization composed of Ilokano Writers residing in Oahu. There are similar organizations in Hawaii such as GUMIL Hawaii, GUMIL Big Island, and GUMIL Maui.

The primary objective of these organizations is to ensure the preservation of the Ilokano language and Ilokano culture in Hawaii.

Considering the increasing number of Ilokanos in Hawaii, young and old, it is believed that Ilokano be taught in the University of Hawaii in order to provide a bridge, in terms of communication, between the local born Ilokanos and the new immigrants from the Ilocos region in the Philippines, it is requested that H.B. No. 1101 be approved in order to ensure, in addition to the efforts of GUMIL Organizations, the preservation of Ilokano as a language and the Ilokano culture.

(Sgd) GLADYS M. MENOR
GO President

RAFAEL O. ALIMBUYUGUEN
Ilokano Court Interpreter and Notary Public
98-243 Pahemo St
Aiea, HI 96701

TESTIMONY FOR H.B. No. 1101

I am submitting this testimony to express in the strongest terms my unwavering support for the request of additional teaching positions for the Ilokano classes at the University of Hawaii.

As a registered and trained Court Interpreter for the State of Hawaii, there is a need for additional articulate interpreters in Ilokano considering the fact that there is an increasing number of court cases wherein Ilokanos in Hawaii are involved. It is my strong belief that the classes in Ilokano presently being held at the UH will certainly ensure the source of trained Ilokano interpreters.

Similarly, there are few notary publics in Hawaii who are Ilokanos and this could hamper the accurate and correct translation of documents written in English which many Ilokanos who, unfortunately, had not attained higher education could hardly comprehend. Thus, therefore, the Ilokano classes will be the solution to these inadequacies.

In resume therefore, we should increase the number of teaching positions for the Ilokano classes if only to meet the increasing demand for learning the Ilokano language.

(Sgd) RAFAEL O. ALIMBUYUGUEN
Ilokano Court Interpreter and Notary Public
98-243 Pahemo St
Aiea, HI 96701

TESTIMONY FOR H.B. No. 1101
February 10, 2005

I am submitting this testimony to signify my interest in the approval of Senate House Bill 1101 into which an additional teaching positions for the Ilokano classes at the University of Hawaii be created.

I am of Filipino parentage and was born and raised in Waialua, Hawaii. Ilokano was the first language I learned. My knowledge in Ilokano proved to be very helpful to plantation workers and immigrants from the Philippines when I started working as a bank cashier (I retired as a corporate officer of American Security Bank). Most Ilokanos, who was deficient in English, took advantage of my communication skills in the Ilokano language. In my humble way, Ilokanos learned with ease to negotiate with the bank in purchasing homes and keeping their savings as well.

Being aware of the significance of Ilokano language to bolster Hawaii's economy, keeping the Ilokanos in their traditional way of life and, in like manner, preserving their cultural heritage, I volunteered to offer scholarship, thru the University of Hawaii Foundation, to students taking up Bachelor of Arts in Philippine Languages and Literature with Concentration in Ilokano.

To increase the number of teaching positions for the Ilokano classes at UH to meet the increasing demand for learning the Ilokano language is highly recommended.

(Sgd) Mrs. Lolinda D. Ramos
1001 Ala Kapua Pl.
Honolulu, Hawaii 96818
Telephone: 808-839-7682

Recipient:

Lifetime Achievement Award, United Filipino Council of Hawaii Progress Awards 2004
Business Woman of the Year, Filipino Business Women's Association 2002
Entrepreneur of the Year, United Filipino Council of Hawaii Progress Awards 2002

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EXCERPTS FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF GUMIL Oahu HELD ON MAY 26, 2004 AT HONOLULU AT 8:00 O’CLOCK P.M.

Present: All present.

GO President Gladys Menor – Presiding

RESOLUTION NO. 003, S.2004

WHEREAS, the United Filipino Council of Hawaii (UFCH) is the umbrella of all civic and social community councils and organizations of Filipinos in the State of Hawaii whose noble aim is to unify and assist their fellowmen for better life and living;

WHEREAS, GUMIL Oahu (Gunglo dagiti Mannurat nga Ilokano it Oahu) is one of several Filipino organizations actively affiliated with UFCH and strongly supportive of the goals of the latter;

WHEREAS, GUMIL Oahu’s main objective is to promote the Iluko language by assisting and encouraging their fellowmen to speak and write articulately in their native tongue and likewise, to preserve the cultural heritage of the Filipinos wherever they are;

WHEREAS, through the efforts of Prof. Prescila Espiritu and Dr. Teresita Ramos, in May 17, 2002, the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii approved a new Program, the Bachelor of Arts in Philippine Languages and Literature with Concentration on Ilokano (Iluko).

WHEREAS, GUMIL Oahu has put up a modest amount of money with the UH Foundation for the scholarship of qualified Filipino students who enroll in the BA degree in Philippine Languages and Literature with Concentration on Ilokano (Iluko);

WHEREAS, despite diligent efforts on the part of GUMIL Oahu to raise the needed funds for the project thru several cultural presentations, its financial resources have been insufficient to meet the increasing need of those qualified Filipino students;

NOW THEREFORE, on motion of Rafael O. Alimbuyuguen and duly seconded by Ric Agnes, it has been resolved, as it is hereby resolved, that GUMIL Oahu is appealing to UFCH to share and appropriate for the scholarship fund of the Ilokano program of the University of Hawaii so that the number of qualified Filipino students will be increased; and provided further that this amount

will be under the custody of the UH Foundation and will only be withdrawn for the specific purpose it has been allotted for.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that copies of this resolution be given to the Governing Board of UFCH thru its President, Atty. Don Guzman, for their kind consideration on the matter.

CERTIFIED CORRECT BY:

(SGD) LORENZO FIESTA
Secretary

APPROVED:

(SGD) GLADYS MENOR
GO President

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July 1, 2004

Atty. Don Guzman
President, United Filipino Council of Hawaii
P.O. Box 498, Honolulu, HI 96809-0498

Dear Mr. President:

GREETING!

Attached herewith are copies of Resolution No. 003, s. 2004 of GUMIL Oahu, the contents therein are self-explanatory and requesting appropriate consideration on the matter, it being meritorious and therefore, deserves favorable action.

Dios-ti-agngina!

Very truly yours,

(SGD) GLADYS MENOR
GO President