

Testimony to the House Committee on Veterans, Military, and International Affairs and Culture and the Arts

Wednesday, March 27, 2013

8:35 AM

Conference Room 312

**RE: HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 164/HOUSE RESOLUTION 132,
RELATING TO SUPPORTING THE AEGIS BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENSE
SYSTEM AND THE GROUND-BASED MIDCOURSE DEFENSE SYSTEM**

Chair Takai and Vice Chair Ito, and members of the committee.

My name is Charles Ota and I am the Vice President for Military Affairs at The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii (The Chamber). I am here to state The Chamber's support of House Concurrent Resolution 164/House Resolution 132, Relating To Supporting The Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense System and The Ground-Based Midcourse Defense System.

The measure proposes to encourage the US Department of Defense and US Congress to complete development of a ground-based missile defense system to protect the islands of Hawaii and the US mainland against ballistic missile attack.

The Aegis missile defense system is currently being developed and tested at the Pacific Missile Range Facility on Kauai.

North Korea's recent successful launching of a ballistic missile capable of reaching Hawaii and the US mainland has received the attention of the Congress and Pentagon. It is imperative that the US complete testing the Aegis missile defense system that is currently being developed on Kauai.

Such a defense system is critical to Hawaii because the state serves as the home base for US military operations in the Pacific. The ground-based Aegis missile defense system is specifically designed to protect the state from ballistic missile attack.

In light of the above, we recommend approval of the resolutions.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.