



March 14, 2016

Dear Senator Kouchi:

We are sending this letter on behalf of the membership of the Sons and Daughters of the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team, as approved at our March 3, 2016, monthly meeting.

**Sons & Daughters  
of the 442 RCT**

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Noboru Kawamoto, a combat veteran of Company B, 100th Battalion, 442 Regimental Combat Team (left, in middle of photo), put his life on the line in World War II for the freedoms we and our children enjoy.

Now, at the age of 95, he needs your help. For over a year, he has been separated from Elaine, his beloved wife of 68 years, due to Hawaii statutes that govern Community Care Foster Family Homes.

*The state should not have the right to deny a married couple the right to live together in a Community Care Foster Family Home. It is cruel treatment indeed to inflict this separation on a patriotic American couple who worked hard to provide financially for their own elder care.*

A bill to right this wrong, HB600 HD1 SD2, was introduced last year, but has not made it to Governor Ige for his signature. The bill provides a simple amendment to Section 321-481, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and requires no state or federal funding. It follows a similar Senate Bill 190 that was signed into law in 2009, but had a sunset provision and lapsed in 2011.

In the 2015 legislative session, HB600 HD1 SD2 ended up in conference committee. It was referred to this 2016 legislative session, where it still sits waiting to be scheduled for a hearing. If not passed and sent to the governor before the end of the current session in May, it will die. The failure to act now will almost certainly hasten an end to the days of the Kawamotos on God's Green Earth. Their forced separation, not contemplated or intended by the regulations that HB600 HD1 SD2 will correct, will continue unabated. No one wants this tragic outcome.

The Sons and Daughters of the 442nd RCT ask for your awareness of the urgency of this matter; we implore that you support this bill; and we request that you act to pass HB600 HD1 SD2 out of conference committee and to Governor Ige for his signature.

Please let us not continue to deny beloved kupuna Noboru and Elaine the right to happiness in their final days.

Aloha and mahalo for your support,



Grace Tsubata Fujii, Acting President

Wesley Deguchi, Vice President

Juanita Wright Allen, Recording Secretary

Shirley Igarashi, Treasurer