

March 17, 2017 9:00 A.M. Public Hearing for Resolution Nos. 51-34 (LS) and 52-34 (LS)

Senator Carmen Kasperbauer – 2:07:50

Thank you senators, please forgive me if I don't mention each individual names, so we can go faster, but honorable senators thank you for having this and senator Terlaje for spear heading these resolutions, and for all of you to be here, to hear us, before I go on, wanted to add a little of humor with your interaction with Mike Phillips, I told him just tell them to just rage war with them, and we'll use machete for our weapons, because them seem to always have the upper hand. Anyway, I'm Carmen Artero Kasperbauer, I'm here to support both resolutions, Resolution 51 and Resolution 52, namely the Davis case and the dispute on the Chamorro Land Trust. My stand on both issues is that the Federal Government has discriminated the indigenous people of Guam and their descendants since the beginning of their take over our island as a spoil of their war against Spain in 1898. We were made a colony of America and we are still a colony, never mind that Congress passed the law making the Chamorros of Guam U.S. citizens. It was a deceitful gift of the U.S. federal government. They had to hastily introduce that Bill and passed it without a public hearing with the people of Guam but the people of Guam did not know, that the bill was in the making, the bill was passed, until one day, as a child we was chorale in the school court, and they raise the American flag, and they told us to pledge the allegiance, because you are American, and I got mad, and I said NO, I'm Chamorro, and they said NO, you are American, I said I don't care, I am still Chamorro, I'm Chamorro. But for them to do that, I found out that they hastily introduced that bill, and passed it without public hearing, the natives of Guam, just to legitimize their force taking of Chamorro lands before 1950. They took Upi from the Artero family before 1950, and gave they forced the family to 1/8 of a penny of a square meter. They did not pay for the Ifil trees and you know Upi is not was not jungle, it was a forest, of Ifil trees, and Arteros own the land, and it takes about five to six men to stretch hand and that has it was used to measure the Ifil trees. And they were cutting them down, and dragging by bull cart to Tagua oh by the way Upi is Anderson Air Force base, and they are dragging it down to Tagua and of course Tagua is NCS now, and that was where the Artero's saw mill, the only commercial saw mill on the island, and so the Ifil lumber were being cut there and the Artero's were the providers of the lumber, Ifil lumber to all the churches and all the homes on Guam, there are others but you know the smaller scales, But the Artero's had the saw mill and the Ifil forest out there. The military forced my grandfathers family to take the money or else they were going to deport my grandpa to Spain because he was not U.S. citizen, he was married to my grandmother, before 1898. And during that treating, my grandfather had a right to be a citizen of the island, but yet he didn't know, and the family didn't know, and they were scared, that they will deport our grandfather, my grandfather so they accepted it reluctantly and we all cried, because let me tell you, all of you chamorro's here, hang onto your land, you know what my father said when I was a little girl during the war, he looked at Tagua which is NCS now, and he said, [2:12 "Katmen atanã esti na tano. Tanota Tago esti" I'll translate for those who did not understand, "Carmen, look at this land, this is my father's land." And he said, "Le tanota tahu, ti tanoña. Tano'hu'." But my father's land is not his father's land it is my land, then he looked at me and said "Le tanota tahu, ti tanomu. Tano'hu'." but my land is not my land it is your land, "Pues adahi I tano pat famago'un" then protect your land for the children "I hagu mamalagu" 2:13] the children are the future. But what do we do us Chamorro, we want money, we want to have beautiful houses, so we sell our land, and many of our own relatives are becoming homeless, we have to stop that, and no federal government, and no other government

should take our rights to our own lands and to provide homes to our own people, and we have to like I said if we have to wage war we will take our machete and war with the federal government because show case to the whole world we are made a colony and we are still a colony, I don't care what you say, we are still a colony, and they are talking about discrimination, we are still being discriminated, I introduced the law that we should vote for president and we do, but they never honored it, so they only care for us because of what they want from us, we should go to Sumay, and wage war there and take back the land and give back to the people of Sumay, and so when Davis says and any federal courts says discrimination they are the biggest bigots they are the biggest discriminators, and taking advantage of little people, and the whole world should know that. And so this is the part of my testimony, but we must continue the fight, and not let it rest. We are kind and generous; Chamorro's are always kind and generous. We allowed a lot of people to be here and we share with them but every country has their own rights to their identity, to their indigenusness. When you go to Japan you respect and adhere to the Japanese way of life and when you go to the Philippines you do the same thing, when you go to China or to Europe. Why should we lose ours? You young people I'm glad you are here, please fight hard, all of you that are here, I am eighty one, I'm at the end of the battle, but you are just emerging please continue to fight for our rights, because you need it not only for yourselves but for your children, your grandchildren, and your great grandchildren. Thank you and God Bless You.