

March 17, 2017, 9:00 a.m. 34th Guam Legislature Public Hearing of Resolution No. 51-34 (LS) and 52-34 (LS)

Written Testimony for Oral Testimony provided on 03/17/17, Public Hearing—sent via e-mail:

Testimony from Shannon McManus

1 message

Sun, Mar 19, 2017 at 1:57 PM

To: "Vice Speaker Therese M. Terlaje" <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com>

Ungil Kebesengei, Hafa Adai senators and vice speaker. My name is Shannon Kedei McManus Im the daughter of Steven Camacho Castro Familian Loddo from the village of Chalan Pago, and Andresina Obak Sengebau from the hamlets of Ngaraard and Peleliu in the Republic of Belau. I am here as a daughter of Micronesia to stand in solidarity in support of both bills with the self determination plebiscite and with The Chamorro Land Trust. My fathers family along with many Chamorros who suffered and continue to suffer displacement in their own home haps yet to receive land since applying in 1995. My mothers family is a different story of displacement and immigration post WWII. She has invested her life here as an educator but she has made it adamantly clear that this plebiscite is not her right or the right of the non-Chamorros. We celebrate our independence as a Palauan community every year here in Guam as well as our Filipino Kababayans, while our Chamorro people celebrate Liberation or rather our recolonization by the US. The people of Belau had their turn and made their choice. It's the Chamorro people right and your duty to uphold that right. So we thank you for taking up this cause. I just wanted to read something that I think reflects today's gathering. This is a poem by my grandfathers brother, Palauan author Valentine Sengebau. It's called Microchild.

-Poem-

Si Yu'us Ma'ase and Ke mal mesulang.

Microchild

In the emerging island nations
Where multi-national footprints
Have crisscrossed the souls
Of the indigenes and the children
In addition to their cultural heritages.
Drowning in a sea of exploitation;
The fruits of the future
Become transplanted in its native soils
As if through the artificial insemination.
The native cultures have been marred
With importations and assimilation
Of foreign enigmas.
Within this dissonant milieu
Microchildren are nurtured
With greater hope for tomorrow.
Alas! the abundance of the land and sea
Becomes second to imported luxury
And inferiority complex walk in
And effeminates the future heroes
And further mutilates the sacred ground
Of cultural and traditional destiny
Where our forefathers consecrated
And affixed and confirmed as a guiding star
To the Micronations.
But the tide of time has been altered
And the children of the island nations
With matured guidance of their elders
And the world around them
Will be able to reach maturity
And will be soundly proud of being islanders
And members of mankind
With even greater hope
Of achieving peace and harmony
For the sake of brotherhood
Of man and his environment.
Old folks only see visions
Of the world that would've been
Youth dream dreams of things to come.
Because a child is a father of a man.