



**Sons & Daughters  
of the 442 RCT**

## **FAQs for Noboru & Elaine Kawamoto Petition Drive – Passage of HB600**

- 1. What's this all about?** This elderly couple has been separated, not allowed to live in the same elder care facility, the unintended consequences of restrictions in State law governing care facilities. This problem was acknowledged by the State Legislators and fixed by a correction to the law in 2009, but the correction was only temporary. So now we have an acknowledged faulty law that is unjustly keeping the Kawamoto's, who have been married 68 years, separated in their final years. HB600 must be passed to fix the problem and allow Elaine to once again live with her husband Noboru.
- 2. What is HB600?** The bill introduced in 2015 by Rep. John Mizuno that would allow the type of home where Noboru now resides to have a private-pay couple – either married or in a civil union – to live there rather than force the home to reserve 2 beds for Medicaid and only 1 bed for private-pay.
- 3. Who are Noboru & Elaine Kawamoto?** Noboru is 95 and Elaine is 89. They are from Kaneohe and have been married 68 years. Noboru served in Hawaii's famed and heroic 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT during World War II. After the war, he worked as a longshoreman.
- 4. Why don't they live together?** They moved into Oceanside Assisted Living in Punaluu in 2014. A month later, Noboru was sent to the hospital due to health issues. Upon his discharge, his level of care was greater and Oceanside could no longer care for him. He was moved to a CCFFH in Kaneohe, a private home licensed as a care facility, with three beds, which by law must have two beds for Medicaid residents and only one bed for private-pay.
- 5. Are they on Medicaid?** No. They are private-pay.
- 6. Why don't they simply move to a facility where they can live together?** There are homes (Adult Residential Care Homes or Expanded ARCH) and "skilled nursing facilities" where private pay couples can live together. This won't work for the Kawamoto's because:  
1) Noboru's advanced age and delicate condition make a move very risky, he would likely not survive the turmoil of another move; 2) These other facilities are more expensive than where he is now and their assets would be quickly exhausted; then they would have to go on taxpayer funded Medicaid and be moved once again; 3) Only 20% of ARCH residents can be at the "nursing home" care level – so Noboru would be at added risk of being moved yet again; 4) The ratio of residents to caregivers and the qualifications of the caregivers make Noboru's current residence the ideal place given his fragile condition.
- 7. Can Governor Ige just sign a waiver for the Kawamotos and not have a bill passed?** No, the only resolution to this travesty is passage of HB600. In 2009 a bill was passed that allowed just what HB600 calls for, but tragically it as set up with a 2-year lifespan and then it expired.
- 8. What is the current status of the bill?** HB600 is now in the Senate, after passing three readings in both the House and Senate in 2015; it was passed each time unanimously. It is now in Consumer Protection/Human Services and Health/Ways & Means Committee to resolve wording issues between House and Senate changes. And there it has sat since April 2015, dead in the water. A new hearing has not even been scheduled. The Senators and Representatives on these Committees need to hear from you, the citizens of Hawaii, that this denial of the civil rights and liberties of this elderly couple must end; they must be reunited.

**933 Wiliwili Street  
Honolulu, HI 96826  
Ph: 808-949-7997  
Fx: 808-949-1539**



**Sons & Daughters  
of the 442 RCT**

9. **What is the timeframe?** If HB does not pass out of the Conference Committee by 5 May for signature by the Governor it will die. Then we have to start all over again; Noboru and Elaine will continue to suffer the pain and heartbreak of their forced, unjust separation by the State Government.
10. **What is the bottom line here?** The urgency for the bill is to help the Kawamotos now. But this bill will help other married couples who find themselves in the same situation. A married couple who worked their entire adult lives and saved so they could pay for their own care during their final years are being kept apart FOR NO GOOD REASON. The law was meant to ensure Medicaid patients have a bed in a care home. But, the civil rights of married couples who are not on taxpayer funded Medicaid need to be ensured equally.

- 
- ✓ Your support to the petition drive, calls and emails to your legislators, are critical to reuniting Noboru and Elaine.....And to ending this bizarre and outrageous government rule that prevents elderly couples from living together in the same care facility unless they are on taxpayer funded Medicaid.
  - ✓ Stay up to date on the progress of HB600 – we will be posting status on the Sons & Daughters website and Facebook page. Go to:

<http://442sd.org/>

[facebook.com/Sons-Daughters-of-the-442nd-Regimental-Combat-Team](https://www.facebook.com/Sons-Daughters-of-the-442nd-Regimental-Combat-Team)

- ✓ See the [KHON2 news report](#) from the 442<sup>nd</sup> Veterans Club meeting after an impassioned letter from Bill Thompson, president of the 100/442 veterans organization, urging action by the Legislators, which resulted in the petition drive and Capital Rally to be held on 5 April.
- ✓ Please join us at the Capital Rally on 5 April, 11:30 to 1:30. By our physical presence we will be expressing to the Governor and State Legislators our support for HB600. The location and parking areas shown on the map below.



933 Wiliwili Street  
Honolulu, HI 96826  
Ph: 808-949-7997  
Fx: 808-949-1539