



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 663
RELATING TO SPECIAL LICENSE PLATES

House Committee on Culture & Arts
Hawai'i State Capitol

January 29, 2025

10:30AM

Room 309

Dear Chair Kapela, Vice Chair Kong and members of the House Committee on Culture & Arts:

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS HB 663**, which authorizes the State to issue special number license plates commemorating the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) and provide revenue from issuance of these license plates to OHA. OHA wishes to mahalo the bill authors for bringing forward this measure, which recognizes our work to improve the well-being of Native Hawaiians through advocacy, research, community engagement, and land management. The revenue generated will contribute to the implementation of our program services and activities, including scholarships, land management, advocacy efforts, and community grants. We look forward to working with the county directors of finance and chiefs of police on the implementation of this measure.

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) is the constitutionally established body responsible for protecting and promoting the rights of Native Hawaiians.¹ Among its constitutional and statutory duties, OHA is required to: (1) serve as principal public agency in the State of Hawai'i responsible for the performance, development and coordination of programs and activities relating to native Hawaiians and Hawaiians; (2) assess the policies and practices of other agencies impacting native Hawaiians and Hawaiians; and (3) conduct advocacy efforts for native Hawaiians and Hawaiians.² Given the broad mandate, and the State's ongoing failure to provide OHA's full pro rate share of public land trust revenues due under the Hawai'i Constitution and HRS Chapter 10, the commemorative license plates are a welcome source of additional revenue.

Mahalo nui for considering this testimony.

¹ Haw. Const. Art. XII § 5

² Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS) § 10-3.