

JOSH GREEN, M. D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



WILBERT S. HOLCK
CHIEF NEGOTIATOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR
KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA

STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF COLLECTIVE BARGAINING
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
235 S. BERETANIA STREET, SUITE 1201
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-2437

Statement of
WILBERT S. HOLCK
Chief Negotiator, Office of Collective Bargaining

Before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND CULTURE AND THE ARTS
and
SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND TECHNOLOGY

Monday, February 10, 2025
3:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

In consideration of
SB47, Relating to State Holidays

Chair Lee, Chair Aquino and the members of the committees:

The Office of Collective Bargaining (OCB) appreciates the intent of SB 47, which designates the day of the second new moon after the winter solstice of every year as the Lunar New Year and establishes the Lunar New Year as a state holiday. However, OCB offers the following comments on this measure:

1. While the Legislature is the governing body to both establish and remove official state holidays, the potential impact on public employees is a negotiable matter, subject to collective bargaining pursuant to Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS), §89-9.
2. Also, the establishment of Lunar New Year, as an official state holiday, would have no effect on public workers unless it is negotiated and mutually agreed to.
3. Should this measure pass prompting the exclusive representatives to initiate negotiations for inclusion of Lunar New Year as another observed holiday for public employees, the employer would have serious concerns regarding the operational and financial impact to the State.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony and comments on this measure.

**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA HO'OMOHALA LIMAHANA
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

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February 7, 2025

The Honorable Chris Lee, Chair
The Honorable Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair
and Members of the Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts
The Honorable Henry J.C. Aquino, Chair
The Honorable Chris Lee, Vice Chair
and Members of the Committee on Labor and Technology
The Senate
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 224
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chairs Lee and Aquino, Vice Chairs Inouye and Lee, and Members of the Committees:

SUBJECT: Senate Bill No. 47 Relating to State Holidays

The Department of Human Resources, City and County of Honolulu, understands and appreciates the cultural significance and importance of recognizing the Lunar New Year. Since the matter will require negotiations with the various public unions through the collective bargaining process, our concern is the added cost to the Public Employer should this become an established State paid holiday.

We thank you for giving us the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nola N. Miyasaki".

Nola N. Miyasaki
Director Designate

SB-47

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 7:48:12 AM

Testimony for TCA on 2/10/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mericia Palma Elmore	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure.

SB-47

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 7:40:08 AM

Testimony for TCA on 2/10/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Victor Lim	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

My name is Victor Lim and has been a resident of Hawaii since 1969. I was born in Burma and has lived in Burma, Singapore, and Thailand before coming to Hawaii. I have served as president of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce, United Chinese Society, Lum Sai Ho Tong, Organization Chinese American - Hawaii and many other community and civic organizations.

The Lunar New Year is a celebration that crosses many cultures across the Asian continent whose people are many of the ethnic groups here in Hawaii. I strongly support the recognition of the Lunar New Year as a state holiday for Hawaii. It is already celebrated here in Hawaii by most ethnic groups already.

Thank you and please support this initiative.

Victor Lim

SB-47

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 7:32:00 AM

Testimony for TCA on 2/10/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tai-ni Xia	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Dear Chair Lee, Chair Aquino, Vice Chair Inouye, and Members:

I write in strong support of HB554. The Asian community in Hawai‘i has made significant contributions to the State’s social, civic, and economic success, as well as its diverse and vibrant culture, which includes the celebration of the Lunar New Year. The Lunar New Year is joyously observed by numerous residents in the State and is celebrated by more than 2/3rds of Chinese, Korean, Japanese, and Vietnamese Americans across the United States. This bill will recognize that.

Sincerely,

Tai-ni Xia

SB-47

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 9:26:06 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/10/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sharlene Chun	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee, Chair Aquino, and the members of the joint committees,

My name is Sharlene Chun and I am testifying in support of Senate Bill 47, relating to state holidays. As a Chinese American woman who has deep roots in the Hawaii Chinese community, I wholeheartedly support this effort to recognize the Lunar New Year and to continue perpetuating this cultural celebration for everyone in Hawaii to enjoy. Every lunar new year I continue family traditions passed on to me from my parents, embracing the coming of the new year with food, music, and lion dances. The celebrations bring so much joy to our community and I want to pass these traditions down to the next generation. Recognizing lunar new year as a state holiday will continue to raise awareness of this significant day for not only the Chinese community, but for all the people of Hawaii. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

SB-47

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 10:01:13 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/10/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Doris Dvonch	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.