

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

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RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR
MEIA



NOLA N. MIYASAKI
DIRECTOR
PO'O
FLORENCIO C. BAGUIO, JR.
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
KOKUA PO'O

March 12, 2025

The Honorable Jeanne Kapela, Chair
The Honorable Sam Satoru Kong, Vice Chair
and Members of the Committee on Culture & Arts
The House of Representatives, Room 309
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Kapela, Vice Chair Kong, and Members of the Committee:

**SUBJECT: Senate Bill No. 614 Senate Draft 1
Relating to Hawaiian Independence Day**

The Department of Human Resources, City and County of Honolulu, understands and appreciates the cultural significance and importance of recognizing Lā Kū'oko'a, or Hawaiian Independence Day. 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



OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT TO SENATE BILL 614 SD1
RELATING TO HAWAIIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY**

House Committee on Culture and the Arts
Hawai'i State Capitol

March 12, 2025

10:00AM

Room 309

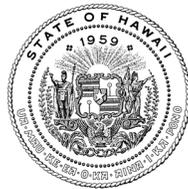
Aloha e Chair Kapela, Vice Chair Kong, and Members of the Committee:

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs **strongly supports SB614 SD1**, which seeks to establish Lā Kū'oko'a, or Hawaiian Independence Day, as a recognized state holiday in Hawai'i. This measure restores the recognition of a day that was once a cornerstone of national pride, commemorating the moment in history when Hawai'i stood as a sovereign and independent nation among the world's powers.

On November 28, 1843, the Kingdom of Hawai'i received formal recognition of its independence through the Anglo-Franco Proclamation, in which Great Britain and France jointly acknowledged Hawai'i as a sovereign nation-state. This act of international diplomacy placed Hawai'i among the few non-Western nations of the time to achieve such recognition, affirming its standing within the global community. For decades, Lā Kū'oko'a was celebrated as a national holiday, a day of joyful affirmation that Hawai'i was an independent kingdom with its own government, its own laws, and its own relationships with foreign nations. The erasure of Lā Kū'oko'a from public consciousness after annexation was not incidental—it was a deliberate attempt to sever Hawaiians from their national identity and historical memory.

Restoring Lā Kū'oko'a as a state holiday is more than a symbolic act; it is an acknowledgment of Hawai'i's true history and an affirmation of the resilience of its people. Recognizing this day would give space for reflection, education, and healing, ensuring that future generations understand the significance of Hawai'i's place in history—not just as an occupied territory, but as a once-independent nation that still holds a deep and abiding identity.

By passing SB614, the Legislature takes an important step in restoring a history that has been suppressed for too long. The Office of Hawaiian Affairs urges the committee to pass this measure. Mahalo.



JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR

SABRINA NASIR
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
Ka 'Oihana Mālama Mo'ohelu a Kālā
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT

WRITTEN ONLY

TESTIMONY BY LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND ARTS
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 614, S.D. 1

**March 12, 2025
10:00 a.m.
Room 309 and Videoconference**

RELATING TO HAWAIIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

Senate Bill No. 614, S.D. 1, amends Section 8-1, HRS, and repeals Section 8-36, HRS, to establish Lā Kū'oko'a, or Hawaiian Independence Day, as a State holiday.

B&F notes that this bill would add an additional State holiday to the 13 (14 in even-numbered election years) State holidays currently recognized in the HRS. This additional holiday would cause the State to lose a day of State labor and productivity valued at approximately \$18,300,000 in payroll expenses, including Social Security, Medicare, and pension accumulation.

Additionally, it should be noted this new holiday could potentially overlap with Thanksgiving Day if the fourth Thursday of November also happens to be the 28th and could have a significant impact to State operations every November by allowing for three or four holidays, alternating every year, in a single month.

Furthermore, it should be noted the most recent State holiday was created by Act 220, SLH 1988, which traded off Discoverers' Day for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Day in order to preserve the total number of State holidays each year and avoid impacts to State productivity.

Finally, B&F would like to highlight that the Department of Human Resources Development and the Hawai'i Government Employees Association have testified on similar bills in the past, noting State holidays applicable to State employees are a matter that needs to be negotiated and included in the collective bargaining master contract.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

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
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEE ON CULTURE & ARTS

Wednesday, March 12, 2025
10:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

In consideration of
SB614 SD1, Relating to Hawaiian Independence Day

Chair Kapela, Vice Chair Kong and the members of the committee:

The Office of Collective Bargaining (OCB) appreciates the intent of SB 614 SD1, which establishes "Lā Kū'oko'a" or Hawaiian Independence Day, as a state holiday to be observed annually on November 28th. 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 "Lā Kū'oko'a" or Hawaiian Independence Day, 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 "Lā Kū'oko'a" or Hawaiian Independence Day 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.

SB-614-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 11:47:00 AM

Testimony for CAA on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Master Shelby "Pikachu" Billionaire	Ohana Unity Party & Kingdom of The Hawaiian Islands	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Dear Honorable Members of the State of Hawaii Legislature,

I rise with ferocious urgency and unbreakable resolve to champion Senate Bill No. 614 (S.B. No. 614), "Relating to Hawaiian Independence Day." This is no trifling legislation—it's a volcanic eruption of justice, a radiant beacon of our sovereignty, and an unassailable tribute to November 28, 1843, when France and Great Britain crowned the Hawaiian Kingdom a free nation, six years before America's first treaty and 55 years before its treacherous annexation. Establishing Lā Kū'oko'a as a state holiday is a sacred duty, a cultural juggernaut, a tourism goldmine, an event titan, and a community salvation. With mountains of data and the soul of our people as my weapons, I demand you pass this bill with my amendments—unleashing a tsunami of pride, prosperity, and unity that will reshape Hawaii's destiny.

November 28, 1843: A Sovereign Pinnacle Denied

On November 28, 1843, the Anglo-Franco Proclamation declared the Hawaiian Kingdom's independence under Kamehameha III—a resounding endorsement by France and Great Britain, six years before the U.S. treaty of 1849 and 55 years before the 1898 annexation. This was a global power: by 1893, the Kingdom boasted 90 diplomatic posts, treaties with Japan (1871), Germany (1879), Spain (1863), and others, and a 91% literacy rate—eclipsing the U.S.'s 80% (1890 census, Hawaiian Historical Society). Its economy roared—\$26 million in exports by 1880 (2023-adjusted, UH Economic Research Organization), with sugar alone at 224,000 tons annually by 1890 (Hawaii State Archives). Yet, on January 17, 1893, American-backed conspirators overthrew Queen Lili'uokalani, with a mere 5,000 of 40,000 Native Hawaiians (12.5%) supporting annexation in 1897's sham petition—drowned by 38,000 Kū'ē Petition signatures, 95% of the population, per National Archives. Lā Kū'oko'a is our war cry against that betrayal—a sovereignty France and England hailed before America's imperialist grasp.

Today, 21.3% of Hawaii's 1.44 million residents—306,720—identify as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (2023 U.S. Census), and this day courses through their blood. In 2023, 5,500 rallied for Lā Kū'oko'a—2,200 on Oahu, 1,500 on Maui, 1,200 on Hawaii Island, 600 on Kauai (OHA 2023)—with hula, oli, and tears for a kingdom stolen. Yet, HRS §8-36 deems it a

“recognized day,” not a holiday, while 13 others—like Statehood Day, celebrating 1898’s theft—close offices. This is an abomination; S.B. No. 614 is our righteous reckoning.

A Transformative Force: Benefits Exploded

This bill isn’t just overdue—it’s a revolution across four fronts:

- **Cultural Resurrection:** Of 179,601 public school students (DOE 2023), only 15% (26,940) grasp pre-overthrow history (UH 2022), and just 8% (14,368) learn of 1843’s French-English recognition (DOE curriculum audit 2023). Teaching Lā Kū‘oko‘a—90 posts, 91% literacy, \$26 million exports—restores our legacy. Hawaiian speakers, at 18,616 (OHA 2023 Language Survey), soared 50% at 2023 events (2,750+ fluent attendees); immersion schools grew from 2,700 to 3,000 (11%) in 2023, with 22 kula kaiapuni serving 3,300 by 2024 (DOE). A holiday could hit 10,000 immersion students by 2030 and 75,000 speakers by 2035 (OHA goals), up from 2% of the population now. Hula hālau—627 statewide, 12,000+ dancers (Hawaii Cultural Foundation 2023)—and 1,200+ Merrie Monarch performers (2023) will lead this revival, with 85% of Native Hawaiian youth (123,000 of 145,000, OHA 2023) craving cultural connection, per Hui Aloha surveys.
- **Tourism Windfall:** Hawaii welcomed 9.25 million visitors in 2023, spending \$20.8 billion (HTA), with a record \$21.9 billion projected for 2024 (DBEDT). Cultural tourism drives it—44% (4.07 million) seek authentic experiences, generating \$9.1 billion (HTA 2023 Visitor Survey), and 62% (5.74 million) cite culture as a draw (HTA 2022). A Lā Kū‘oko‘a holiday with parades, reenactments, and festivals—20,000 attendees like Oahu’s Aloha Festivals (2023)—could add \$20-25 million annually, per DBEDT’s 1.67x multiplier (\$12 million direct spend). France and England’s 1843 nod lures 1.2 million Europeans (HTA 2023, up 8%), plus 1.8 million Japanese (19% of visitors, HTA)—both tied to our treaty past. Maui’s Kamehameha Day (10,000 attendees, \$5 million, 2023) and Merrie Monarch (\$15 million, DBEDT 2023) prove it; Lā Kū‘oko‘a could hit \$30 million with global marketing, boosting hotel occupancy (74% statewide, HTA 2023) by 5%.
- **Event juggernaut:** The 2023 Lā Kū‘oko‘a drew 5,500; a holiday could reach 25,000—exceeding Prince Kūhiō Day’s 19,500 (OHA 2023) and rivaling Aloha Festivals’ 20,000. With 627 hālau, 1,200+ Merrie Monarch artists, 150+ cultural nonprofits (Hawaii Community Foundation), and 50+ lāhui organizations (OHA 2023), we’d see 100+ events—Oahu’s Iolani Palace (7,000), Maui’s Lahaina (5,000), Hilo (4,000), Kauai’s Waimea (3,000). Economic impact: \$12-15 million (\$600/attendee, 2022 event data), plus 750 temporary jobs (vendors, security, HTA 2023 Aloha Festivals jobs: 500). The 1843 story—France and England’s acclaim—adds international heft, drawing 500+ foreign media mentions (e.g., Merrie Monarch’s 600, 2023), outshining July 4th’s 15,000 attendees locally (2023).
- **Community Salvation:** DHHL’s waitlist stands at 29,174 (2023), with 70% (20,422) waiting over 10 years—land lost since 1893—and 11,000+ applications pending (DHHL 2024). Native Hawaiians are 28% of the homeless (1,740 of 6,223, 2024 PIT Count), though 21% of the population, with 2,247 of Oahu’s 4,494 unsheltered DHHL-eligible (Partners in Care 2024). Poverty grips 15.5% of Native Hawaiians (47,542 of 306,720, DBEDT 2023), vs. 9.4% statewide. Lā Kū‘oko‘a heals—62% of residents (892,800, UH

2023 poll) and 78% of Native Hawaiians (239,242, OHA 2023) back cultural laws; 80 community groups (40,000 members, Hui Aloha 2023) rallied 5,500 in 2023, with 92% reporting stronger ties (OHA survey). Mental health improves—75% of attendees (4,125) felt “renewed pride” (2023 event data), vital when 22% of Native Hawaiian youth (31,900) face depression (DOH 2023).

Amendments to Forge an Unstoppable Legacy

S.B. No. 614 is a spark; let’s make it a wildfire:

1. Launch Now, Not 2050: The July 1, 2050 date is a disgrace—132 years post-overthrow is torture enough. Amend to July 1, 2025, so 306,720 Native Hawaiians and 5,500+ 2023 attendees celebrate this November 28. DHHL’s waitlist grows 1,000 yearly; 20,422 have waited since 2013—act now.
2. Fund the Flame: Appropriate \$4 million for FY 2025-2026—\$2 million to OHA (2023 budget: \$44 million) for 25,000-attendee events (\$15 million impact) and \$2 million to DOE (2023 budget: \$2.1 billion) for curriculum on 1843’s French-English acclaim. Kamehameha Day’s \$1.5 million (2023) is dwarfed; this funds 75 events, 750 jobs, and 179,601 students—\$2 million less than Merrie Monarch’s \$6 million total impact (2023).
3. Educate Every Soul: Mandate DOE teach Lā Kū‘oko‘a—90 posts, 91% literacy, \$26 million exports, 224,000 tons sugar—vs. 1898’s theft. Reach 179,601 students (26,940 now, UH 2022), with 22 kula kaiapuni hitting 3,300 (DOE 2024); aim for 15,000 by 2035, lifting speakers from 18,616 to 100,000 (OHA 2035 goal).
4. Full Holiday Power: Close state offices—Veterans’ Day honors 11,000 vets (VA 2023); 306,720 Native Hawaiians, 1,740 homeless, and 29,174 waitlisters demand equal weight. Require a biennial report on cultural-economic impacts, like DHHL’s \$193 million Act 279 spend (2023), with \$500,000 for data collection (OHA capacity).

A Sovereign Reckoning Unmatched

France and Great Britain saw our glory on November 28, 1843—before America’s 1849 treaty or 1898 annexation. The Kū‘ē Petitions’ 38,000 signatures—95% of Native Hawaiians—screamed defiance; today, 892,800 residents (62%) and 239,242 Native Hawaiians (78%) roar for this. S.B. No. 614 with \$4 million, a 2025 start, and education will ignite culture (18,616 to 100,000 speakers), tourism (\$25 million yearly), events (25,000 attendees, \$15 million), and community (29,174 waitlisters, 1,740 homeless, 40,000 group members healed). Delay to 2050 spits on the 5,500 who rallied in 2023, the 11,000+ DHHL applicants, and 4,125 who found pride. Pass this now—let Lā Kū‘oko‘a blaze, a holiday of unmatched pride, profit, and power. I’ll march, testify, or bleed for it—reach me at [your email/phone, if applicable].

With unquenchable fire,

[Your Name]

[Your Title/Organization, if applicable]

SB-614-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 1:23:42 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keoni Shizuma	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha committee members of the House Committee on Culture & Arts,

I am testifying in support of SB614.

The majority of the holidays that the State of Hawaii observes have no connection to the indigenous people of these islands or our history. Aside from King Kamehameha day and Prince Jonah Kuhio Kalaniana'ole day, the rest of the holidays are connected to other peoples, American traditions, or Christian traditions. To many Native Hawaiians, it is more significant than other holidays that do not connect to our culture, such as Memorial Day, Independence Day, Statehood Day, Labor Day, Veterans Day, and others. This should be a day that is observed by the State, allowing Native Hawaiians in the State of Hawaii to celebrate and be with friends and family, instead of working.

Observing Lā Kū 'Oko'a has been a tradition practiced by many Native Hawaiians today, with celebrations happening on all major islands and within multiple communities. People come together to practice culture, build community, and remember our history.

This bill is an opportunity to support building communities, honor our history, and educate the people residing in Hawaii of a part of the history of Hawaii.

Observing Jan 17th of every year as Illegal Overthrow Day would also accomplish the same, of building communities, and honoring and educating the residents of Hawaii of Hawaii's history.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Keoni Shizuma, from Kaneohe, Oahu



KUMUKAHI

HEALTH + WELLNESS

Board of Directors

March 10, 2025

Lee-Ann Heely, M. Ed., DM
President

Dear Chair and committee members,

Molly O'Quinn
Vice President

Kumukahi Health + Wellness SUPPORTS bill SB 614 referring to establishing "Lā Kū'oko'a" as a state holiday.

Keith Brown
Treasurer

Jennifer Rabideau
Secretary

Kumukahi Health + Wellness is a non-profit agency that assists our most vulnerable populations living in the most rural areas of the State here in Hawai'i County. Many of our services and programs are targeted to reach the Native Hawaiian community to achieve health equity. Health equity for Native Hawaiians begins with official State recognition of significant events such as these to bring about awareness of the displacement of the Hawaiian people from their lands.

Elena Cabatu

Emily Malate, LCSW

Luahiwa Namahoe

Martin Rathbun

Nicholas VandenRaadt, RN BSN

I urge the committee to please pass SB614 and honor "Lā Kū'oko'a" as an official State holiday.

Me ka mahalo piha,

Chief Executive Officer

Peter Tuiolosega Silva

Peter Tui Silva
CEO

East Hawai'i Office

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kumukahiHEALTH.org

A NEW DAY FOR H.I.H.A.F.

SB-614-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 7:39:45 AM

Testimony for CAA on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Georgette Stevens	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kākou,

I kako‘o (support) this bill and greatly mahalo you all for making this possible.

Mālama pono,

Georgette Nohea Stevens

SB-614-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 7:51:29 AM

Testimony for CAA on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leimomi Khan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support this measure for all of the reasons stated in Section 1 of SB614, SD1.

SB-614-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 8:39:08 AM

Testimony for CAA on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lily Cabinatan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill because we are Hawaii.



March 12, 2025

TESTIMONY OF THE ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS
To the House Committee on Culture and Arts

SB 614 SD1 - RELATING TO HAWAIIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY

Aloha Chair Kapela, Vice Chair Kong, and Members of the Committee:

The Association of Hawaiian Civic Club **supports** SB 614 SD1 which reestablishes Lā Kū'oko'a, Hawaiian Independence Day, as an official state holiday.

The Association supported a similar measure that came before the State Legislature in 2019 and continues to support establishing Lā Kū'oko'a as an official state holiday. At the 57th annual convention of the Association, resolution 2016-36 was passed which calls for the celebration and respectful remembrance of Lā Kū'oko'a on November 28th of each year. SB 614 aligns with the purpose of our resolution.

Founded by Prince Kūhiō in 1918, the Hawaiian Civic Club movement is the oldest Native Hawaiian community-based advocacy movement. The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs is a not-for-profit organization that is a confederation of 60 individual and autonomous Hawaiian Civic Clubs and 3,500 members located across Hawai'i and across the continental United States.

We appreciate your favorable consideration of this bill.

ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS

A RESOLUTION

16 - 36

REMEMBER AND RESPECT LA KUOKOA (HAWAIIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY) AS A HAWAIIAN NATIONAL HOLIDAY TO BE OBSERVED AND CELEBRATED ON NOV. 28 EVERY YEAR

WHEREAS, La Kuokoa—Hawaii’s Independence Day—was officially celebrated around the same time as Thanksgiving from about 1844 until 1895*; and

WHEREAS, La Kuokoa is the 28th of November, marking the day in 1843 that the Alii Timoteo Haalilio succeeded in obtaining the signatures of the authorities of Great Britain and France on a treaty recognizing Hawaii as a sovereign and independent nation; and

WHEREAS, Haalilio, with the missionary William Richards along as his secretary, traveled through Mexico on foot and donkey to Washington D.C., where they met President John Tyler; and

WHEREAS, President Tyler agreed to the intent of the proposed treaty; and

WHEREAS, Haalilio and Richards, armed with his agreement, then went on to Europe, to Belgium, Paris, and London, where the treaty was finally signed; and

WHEREAS, they then returned to the United States to cement U.S. agreement; and

WHEREAS, the Treaty of Independence was a substantial achievement under International Law recognized by the Hawaiian Kingdom government through the official celebration of La Kuokoa; and

WHEREAS, after the coup in 1893, the so-called Republic of Hawaii government announced that November 28, 1895—a Thursday—would not be celebrated as La Kuokoa, but would become the American Thanksgiving holiday, instead; and

WHEREAS, the poe aloha aina—the thousands of Hawaiian Kingdom subjects opposed to the illegal government—were incensed; and

WHEREAS, the people ignored the government's orders, and held celebrations of La Kuokoa instead; and

WHEREAS, at those gatherings, the poe aloha aina told the story of Haalilio's journey and significant achievement; and

WHEREAS, James Kaulia of the Hui Aloha Aina stated that the people recalled with gladness the restoration and perpetuation of the independence of Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, the perpetrators of 1895-1896 not only deprived Hawaii of a national holiday, they enacted laws that caused all Hawaiians the loss of our language and the related loss of our own history, a process that caused us to be deprived of even the memory of this Hawaiian national holiday; and

WHEREAS, the council of Hawai'i County recognize La Kuokoa.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs at its 57th annual convention at Las Vegas, Nevada this 19th day of November 2016, that it remember and respect La Kuokoa (Hawaiian Independence Day) as a Hawaiian national holiday to be observed and celebrated on Nov. 28 every year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs encourage the State of Hawaii and County governments to consider recognizing La Kuokoa; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs includes, along with its celebration and recognition of American holidays such as July 4th American Independence Day and January 16th Martin Luther King Day, specific remembrance of La Kuokoa as a Hawaiian holiday; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs include La Kuokoa holiday as Hawaiian Independence Day on its calendar of events.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of the State of Hawai'i, President of the State Senate, Speaker of the State House of Representatives, Chair of the State Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs, Chair of the State House Committee on Ocean, Marine Resources, & Hawaiian Affairs, Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and all County Mayors.

Sources:

*Noenoe Silva, PhD. 1998 <http://www.hawaiiankingdom.info/C1126750129/E501424467/>

*_Ke Aloha Aina_ (Hawaiian language newspaper)

November-December 1895, January 1896.



The undersigned hereby certifies that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted on the 19th day of November 2016, at the 57th Annual Convention of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Annelle C. Amaral

Annelle C. Amaral, President

SB-614-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 9:45:03 AM

Testimony for CAA on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ian Custino	Moanalua Gardens Foundation, Inc. dba MGF Hawai'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee:

The Association of Hawaiian Civic Club supports SB 614 SD1 which reestablishes Lā Kū'oko'a, Hawaiian Independence Day, as an official state holiday.

The Moanalua Gardens Foundation was founded in 1970 to protect and preserve Hawaiian culture, arts, and the natural resources of Kamananui and Kamaikai Valleys. Lā Kū'oko'a is an important modern-day ritual that helps remind us of where we are, the Natives of this 'āina, and the history that recounts the reality of what has shaped Hawai'i over the years.

It is important, that this day becomes an official and recognized holiday, as it honors the culture, history and people that are Native to these lands.

Mahalo,

Ian Keali'i Custino, Executive Director

The Moanalua Gardens Foundation

SB-614-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 11:07:38 AM

Testimony for CAA on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hope McKeen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Kapela, Vice Chair Kong, and committee members,

I strongly support this measure in principle because we live in Hawai‘i and also on the premise that it is a State Holiday and not based on religion. Most engaged Hawaiians, including schools, clubs, and societies, already celebrate this holiday yearly, this would support efforts to revitalize and reestablish Hawaiian culture and language.