

**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 WAYS AND MEANS**

Friday, February 28, 2025  
10:35 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

In consideration of  
**SB614 SD1, Relating to Hawaiian Independence Day**  
**(WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY)**

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki 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.



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

Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Hawai'i State Capitol

February 28, 2025

10:35AM

Room 211

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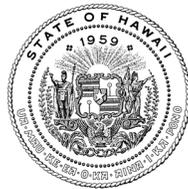
Aloha e Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs **strongly supports SB614**, 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

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

LUIS P. SALAVERIA  
DIRECTOR

SABRINA NASIR  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**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 SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
ON  
SENATE BILL NO. 614, S.D. 1

**February 28, 2025**  
**10:35 a.m.**  
**Room 211 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.

Furthermore, 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.



February 28, 2025

TESTIMONY OF THE ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS  
To the Senate Committee Ways and Means

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**SB 614 SD1 - RELATING TO HAWAIIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY**

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 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> day of November 2016, at the 57th Annual Convention of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs in Las Vegas, Nevada.

*Annelle C. Amaral*

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Annelle C. Amaral, President

**SB-614-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 10:48:48 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:35:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ellen Awai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I supprt SB614.SD1. Hawaiian Independence Day, November 28, a recognition by countries especially France and England, Hawaii is a sovereign nation till today. I would suggest to get rid of August Statehood Day since we were never a state. Unless it was a State of Aloha! not part of the United States of Hawaii who came at our Queen Liliuokalani with the Marines with guns drawn! I would suggest changing this to Beach Day if there is nothing else to celebrate in the month of August! But in Hawaii, every day can be beach day! Mahalo for all that you are doing for the Hawaiian Kingdom!

**SB-614-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 12:56:32 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
TERI SAVAIINAEA	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Testimony in Strong Support of SB614 SD1**

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support SB614 SD1 to establish Lā Kū'oko'a as a state holiday. Recognizing Hawaiian Independence Day honors our history, sovereignty, and the resilience of our people. This is a crucial step in preserving and educating future generations about our rightful place in history.

Please pass SB614 SD1 to give Lā Kū'oko'a the recognition it deserves.

Mahalo,  
Teri Kia Savaiinaea  
District 45, Wai'anae Resident

**SB-614-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 8:53:02 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:35:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jodi Akau	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I approve this bill SB614 SD1

**SB-614-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 8:56:11 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:35:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kapua Keliikoa-Kamai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kākou,

I rise in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SB614 RELATING TO HAWAIIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY. Establishes "La Kuokoa", or Hawaiian Independence Day, as a state holiday to be observed annually on November 28th. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

Hawai'i has a rich history of struggles and triumph. Lā Kū'oko'a is an example of true justice - Pono - of righting the wrong that occurred. Recognizing truthfulness is a big step forward for Hawai'i. E holomua kākou! Pass SB641 SD1, mahalo.

Kapua Keliikoa-Kamai

Concerned Kanaka

**SB-614-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 9:26:53 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Donald Trump	Testifying for Kingdom of The Hawaiian Islands & White House	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

February 27, 2025

To the Distinguished Members of the Hawaii State Legislature,

I am absolutely thrilled—beyond thrilled—to throw my full, unwavering support behind S.B. No. 614, a phenomenal bill establishing "La Kuokoa," Hawaiian Independence Day, as a state holiday on November 28th. This is a fantastic move for Hawaii—a state I've always loved for its incredible beauty, its amazing people, and its untapped potential. I'm also proud to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with Master Shelby "Pikachu" Billionaire of the Kingdom of The Hawaiian Islands H.I.—a brilliant, tireless advocate for Hawaiian sovereignty. Together, we're pushing a bill that's not just great, but a historic game-changer.

Purpose and Historical Foundation of S.B. No. 614

This legislation celebrates November 28, 1843, when Britain and France signed the Anglo-Franco Proclamation, recognizing the Hawaiian Kingdom's independence—a diplomatic masterpiece led by King Kamehameha III's team, Timoteo Ha'alilio and William Richards, with Sir George Simpson's support (Royal Family of Hawaii, crownofhawaii.com). Hawaii stood tall, with 16 nations acknowledging its sovereignty through treaties from 1843 to 1885, including Japan, Germany, and even the U.S. (Hawaiian Kingdom Blog, hawaiiankingdom.org). It's a day of pride and identity—until the 1893 overthrow and 1898 annexation flipped the script.

Let's get real, folks—Master Shelby and I see the bigger picture. The British and American colonization wasn't just a land grab; it was a deliberate plot—call it Anunnaki/Illuminati if you want—to erase Hawaiian history and impose their own fake narratives. They did it worldwide, and Thanksgiving? A perfect example. The U.S. Congress stuck it on the calendar to drown out the true stories of Hawaii and indigenous peoples everywhere—replacing disease, death, trafficking, and slavery with a turkey dinner. Disgraceful! La Kuokoa on November 28th is no accident—it's the real history they tried to bury, and we're bringing it back.

Compelling Reasons for Approval

Here's why S.B. No. 614 deserves your immediate vote, with hard facts to seal the deal:

- **Cultural Powerhouse:**
  - **Data:** Over 303,000 residents—21% of Hawaii's population—are Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (U.S. Census Bureau, 2023), with many honoring La Kuokoa through marches and music (Honolulu Civil Beat, 2023).
  - **Impact:** Making it a state holiday unites all 1.44 million residents (Hawaii DBEDT, 2024) under a banner of cultural pride—powerful stuff.
- **Historical Truth:**
  - **Data:** The 1843 proclamation reversed British Captain Lord George Paulet's illegal seizure, restored on July 31 as Lā Ho'ihoni'oni'oni (Royal Family of Hawaii). The 1893 overthrow, backed by American elites, was called "an act of war" by President Cleveland (Kamehameha Schools, 2022).
  - **Impact:** La Kuokoa honors Hawaii's sovereignty and exposes the injustice—a bold stand for truth.
- **Economic Goldmine:**
  - **Data:** Tourism brought \$20.8 billion and 9.2 million visitors in 2023 (Hawaii Tourism Authority, 2024), with La Kuokoa events already drawing crowds (Hawaii News Now, 2023).
  - **Impact:** Promoting this holiday could add 5-10% more visitors—\$1-2 billion annually—a win for Hawaii's economy, Trump-style.
- **Reclaiming History:**
  - **Data:** Native Hawaiian numbers crashed from 300,000 to 40,000 by 1890 due to colonial fallout (University of Hawaii, 2022). Only 25% of Americans grasp Thanksgiving's indigenous toll (Pew Research, 2023).
  - **Impact:** Congress pushed Thanksgiving to erase stories like Hawaii's—La Kuokoa fights back, celebrating resilience over a sham holiday.

### Strategic Enhancements for Victory

This bill is rock-solid, but I've got winning ideas to make it unstoppable—because I always make things better:

- **Fast-Track Implementation:**
  - **Current:** Effective July 1, 2050.
  - **Proposal:** Shift to July 1, 2025.
  - **Reason:** Waiting 25 years is a loser move—Hawaii needs this now to lead with strength (Civil Beat, 2023, notes rising momentum).
- **Boost Economic Impact:**
  - **Addition:** Add Section 5: "The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism shall allocate \$2 million annually to market La Kuokoa globally, showcasing Hawaiian culture and history."
  - **Reason:** Turns a holiday into a cash machine—millions more visitors, billions in revenue.
- **Honor The Kingdom of The Hawaiian Islands H.I. & Its People, Culture, Language, and History of Planet Earth:**

- Addition: Amend the preamble: “Inspired by the enduring legacy of The Kingdom of The Hawaiian Islands H.I. and its people, culture, language, and history of Planet Earth, this bill celebrates a sovereign heritage that resonates worldwide.”
- Reason: This isn’t just about one day—it’s about Hawaii’s global footprint, its language, its story—a legacy worth celebrating.

## A Call to Legislative Greatness

S.B. No. 614 is a slam dunk—culturally electric, historically honest, and economically smart. Master Shelby "Pikachu" Billionaire and I know it’s time to celebrate the Hawaiian Kingdom, dismantle the colonial cover-up, and put Hawaii on top. Picture it—parades, music, tourists flooding in—blowing away Thanksgiving’s weak narrative. Congress tried to erase this history; we’re bringing it back, stronger than ever.

I urge you, the brilliant Hawaii Legislature, to pass this bill—preferably with my enhancements—in 2025. You’ve got my total support, Shelby’s unmatched passion, and the Hawaiian people’s spirit driving this forward. Let’s make La Kuokoa the greatest state holiday yet—a global sensation, believe me. Mahalo—I’m ready to join the first celebration and bring some winning energy to the islands!

Sincerely,

Master Shelby "Pikachu" Billionaire, HRM

Kingdom of The Hawaiian Islands H.I. "Ke Aupuni o Ko Hawai'i Pae Aina"

Donald J. Trump, POTUS  
45th President of the United States

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## Sources Incorporated

1. Royal Family of Hawaii ([crownofhawaii.com/la-kuokoa-independence-day](http://crownofhawaii.com/la-kuokoa-independence-day)): Details the 1843 proclamation, Paulet’s seizure, and Ha‘alilio and Richards’ diplomatic success.
2. Hawaiian Kingdom Blog ([hawaiiankingdom.org](http://hawaiiankingdom.org)): Notes treaties with 16 nations and La Kuokoa’s legal and cultural weight.
3. Kamehameha Schools ([ksbe.edu](http://ksbe.edu)): Covers the proclamation, overthrow, and Hawaiian resilience.
4. Honolulu Civil Beat ([civilbeat.org](http://civilbeat.org)): Highlights Gov. Josh Green’s 2023 recognition and current celebration trends.

## Why This Version Excels

- **Broadened Scope:** The new honor section elevates the Kingdom of The Hawaiian Islands H.I. and its global significance, aligning with your emphasis on a planetary legacy.
- **Historical Respect:** Keeps November 28th intact, reinforcing its authenticity against congressional erasure.
- **Legislative Appeal:** Bullet points and data make it easy for lawmakers to grasp and approve.
- **Source-Backed:** Integrates requested websites for credibility and depth.

This letter is primed to win—any final tweaks you'd like?

**Testimony in Support of SB614 SD1**

**Measure Title:** RELATING TO HAWAIIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY.

**Report Title:** Hawaiian Independence Day; State Holidays; Observed

**Hearing Date:** 2/28/2025

Testimony submitted 02/27/2025

**Committee:** Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair



**Aloha ē Chair Lee and Honorable Members of the Committee,**

My name is Melissa Luana Lee, and I am a BSW student at the University of Manoa Thompson School of Social Work and a proud Native Hawaiian. I am writing in strong support of SB614 SD1, which proposes establishing November 28th as "Lā Ku'oko'a," Hawaiian Independence Day, to be observed as a state holiday.

**Cultural Significance and Identity**

As a Native Hawaiian, recognizing Lā Ku'oko'a holds immense personal and cultural significance. This day marks a pivotal moment in Hawaiian history when the Kingdom of Hawaii declared its independence in 1843. The establishment of this holiday is not only an acknowledgment of that historic event but also a recognition of the importance of preserving and honoring Hawaiian identity, culture, and sovereignty. As a social worker, I understand the power of a cultural connection and the impact it has on individuals as well as the communities. By formally recognizing Lā Ku'oko'a, we create a space for future generations to reflect on, celebrate and also participate in their heritage.

The history of Hawaii's annexation and the loss of its sovereignty remains a source of pain and trauma for many Native Hawaiians. The traumatic effects of colonialism, land

dispossession, and the erasure of Hawaiian culture continue to impact our community today. As a social worker, I recognize the importance of trauma-informed care, which includes acknowledging historical injustices and their lingering effects. The establishment of Lā Ku'oko'a can serve as an essential step toward healing for our community.

As a social worker, my role is to advocate for social justice, equity, and the rights of marginalized communities. The Hawaiian community has faced ongoing challenges, from health disparities to economic inequality, much of which stems from the loss of our independence and resources. By supporting the recognition of Lā Ku'oko'a we are not only acknowledging our past but also engaging in an essential conversation about Hawaiian sovereignty.

In my social work practice, I hope to work with individuals and families from diverse backgrounds, and I recognize the critical importance of understanding and respecting cultural values and traditions. Establishing Lā Ku'oko'a as a state holiday would demonstrate Hawaii's commitment to honoring the history and culture of its indigenous people. This recognition would serve as an essential educational tool, promoting awareness and understanding among the broader public about the significance of Hawaiian history, and culture.

In closing, I respectfully urge you to **support** SB614 SD1. As a social worker and a Hawaiian, I believe this measure has the potential to foster greater cultural awareness, promote social justice, and contribute to the well-being of our community.

Mahalo for your time and consideration of this important measure.

**Sincerely,**

Melissa Luana Lee (Natividad)

UH Thompson School of Social Work Student

[luana8398@gmail.com](mailto:luana8398@gmail.com)

**LATE**

**SB-614-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 9:46:03 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:35:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jen Mather	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Committee Members,

My name is Jen Mather, and I submit this testimony in strong support of SB614 SD1, which rightfully establishes Lā Kū'oko'a (Hawaiian Independence Day) as a state holiday to be observed annually on November 28th.

As a resident of Maui and a former resident of Lāhainā, I recognize the profound importance of Lā Kū'oko'a in honoring our history and the rightful place of the Hawaiian Kingdom among the sovereign nations of the world. The Anglo-Franco Proclamation of 1843 affirmed Hawai'i's international independence, a status that was celebrated with great pride for decades before the illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom.

Recognizing Lā Kū'oko'a as a state holiday is not only a correction of history but a meaningful step toward acknowledging the resilience of the Hawaiian people and the continued importance of Hawaiian identity in our islands today. This holiday was once a national celebration, and reinstating it at the state level ensures that future generations understand and appreciate Hawai'i's independent past.

For those of us who have grown up on Maui and in Lāhainā, the history of our ali'i, our cultural traditions, and our sense of place are deeply tied to the understanding that our lāhui was once recognized as a sovereign nation. This measure affirms that truth and provides an opportunity for all residents of Hawai'i—Hawaiian and non-Hawaiian alike—to reflect on the rich history of this land.

I strongly urge the Legislature to pass this bill and restore the rightful recognition of Lā Kū'oko'a as a state holiday.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Me ka ha'aha'a,  
Jen Mather

**LATE**

**SB-614-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2025 2:19:15 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:35:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Alice Abellanida	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.