

**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 HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

Thursday, February 13, 2025  
1:15 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

In consideration of  
**SB614, Relating to Hawaiian Independence Day**

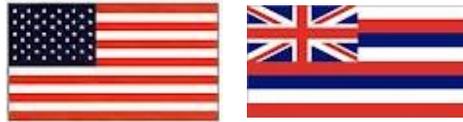
Chair Lee, Chair Richards and the members of the committees:

The Office of Collective Bargaining (OCB) appreciates the intent of SB 614, which establishes "La Ku 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 "La Ku 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 "La Ku 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.

Center for Hawaiian Sovereignty Studies  
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Kane'ohe, HI 96744  
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Unity, Equality, Aloha for all



To: SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND CULTURE AND THE ARTS; and COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

For hearing Thursday, February 13, 2025

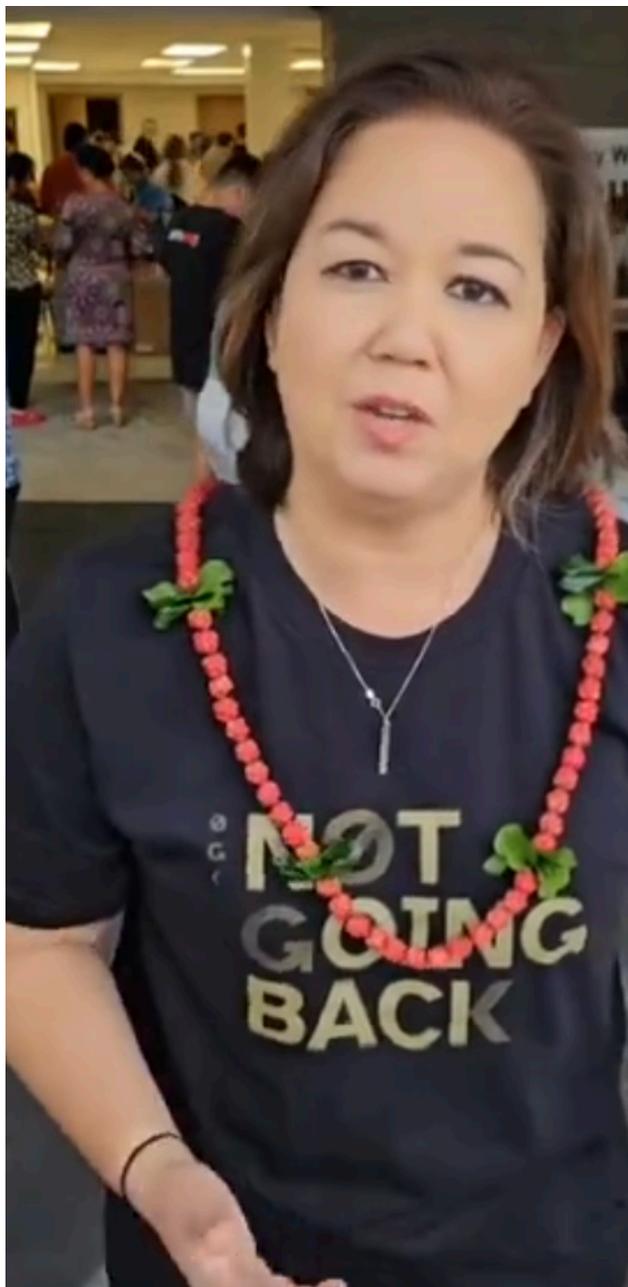
Re: SB 614 RELATING TO HAWAIIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY.  
Establishes "La Ku oko a", or Hawaiian Independence Day, as a state holiday to be observed annually on November 28th.

#### TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION

Summary of main points:

1. This bill would give a small boost to "Hawaiian pride" but at a large cost in money and undelivered government services.
2. The major but unstated purpose of this bill is to create a propaganda victory for Hawaii's race-nationalist secessionists by putting the state legislature on record as supporting the concept of returning Hawaii to the political status of independent nationhood. Suddenly elevating a 182-year-old historical footnote into a major

state holiday would create a propaganda victory for Hawaii's race-nationalist secessionists by putting the state legislature on record as supporting the concept of returning Hawaii to the political status of independent nationhood. But the Hawaiian monarchy was overthrown in 1893 by a locally-led revolution. Worldwide formal recognition of the Republic of Hawaii as the rightful successor government gave it the right under international law to speak on behalf of the Hawaiian nation and to offer annexation to the United States in 1897, which USA agreed to in 1898, followed by full statehood in 1959. As the Democratic Party loudly shouted (although in a different context) during the election of 2024: "We are not going back!" Here is Congressperson Jill Tokuda displaying that slogan:



1. On the surface it appears the purpose of this bill is merely to help increase the pride of Hawaii's favorite ethnic group by elevating a state-recognized day of observance into an official state holiday; however, this small bit of flattery would come at a large economic cost as previously testified by at least two experts: the budget directors for City of Honolulu and State of Hawaii.

On February 2, 2023 Luis Salaveria, Director of the State of Hawaii Department of Budget and Finance, testified as follows on SB732, "which designates the second Monday in October of each year as Indigenous Peoples' Day, a 14th State holiday":

"B&F estimates that the annual cost in terms of lost productivity to add another State holiday is approximately \$17,000,000. This estimate is based on current collective bargaining data projected for FY 24 increases. It includes base pay, Social Security, Medicare, and pension accumulations, but does not include any potential hard costs such as overtime pay for employees who may be required to work and, therefore, are eligible for holiday pay."

Also on that date Florencio Baguio, Jr., Assistant Director of the Honolulu Department of Human Resources, testified as follows:

"The Department of Human Resources, City and County of Honolulu understands and appreciates the historical significance and importance of recognizing indigenous peoples, including Native Hawaiians. 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 note that the cost to the City and County of Honolulu alone would be close to \$2 million annually."

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2. The major but unstated purpose of this bill is to create a propaganda victory for Hawaii's race-nationalist secessionists by putting the state legislature on record as supporting the concept of

returning Hawaii to the political status of independent nationhood. A nonaggression pact between two European countries in 1843, signed by low-level diplomats addressing only each other, tangentially acknowledged Hawaii as a sovereign nation even though that document was not addressed to anyone in Hawaii and was not signed by anyone from Hawaii. But now, 182 years later, our legislature suddenly converts that historical footnote into a state holiday? And by now creating a state holiday called "Hawaiian Independence Day" our legislature would give the world the impression that we believe Hawaii actually is (or should be) an independent nation. However, that small event in 1843 was hugely overshadowed in 1894 when Emperors, Kings, Queens, and Presidents of at least 19 nations on four continents personally signed letters to President Sanford Dole formally recognizing that the Republic of Hawaii was the rightful successor government after a revolution had overthrown Hawaii's monarchy in 1893. Their letters, and accompanying diplomatic documents, are in Hawaii's state archives and photos are on the internet at <https://historymystery.kenconklin.org/recognition-of-the-republic-of-hawaii/>

Was the 1893 overthrow of the monarchy illegal? Was it a theft of a nation owned by kanaka maoli and stolen by non-kanaka maoli? See webpage at <https://www.angelfire.com/hi2/hawaiiansovereignty/overthrow.html>

See also

HAWAIIAN REPARATIONS: NOTHING LOST, NOTHING OWED by Patrick W. Hanifin, esq.; Hawaii Bar Journal, XVII, 2 (1982)  
<https://www.angelfire.com/hi2/hawaiiansovereignty/hanifinreparations.html>

"Morgan Report" (today's name for a report to the U.S. Senate by its Committee on Foreign Relations, whose chairman was Senator John T. Morgan, Democrat of Alabama. Senate Report 227 of the 53rd Congress, second session, was dated February 26, 1894. It was an investigation into the events surrounding the Hawaiian Revolution of

1893, and the alleged role of U.S. peacekeepers in the overthrow of Queen Liliuokalani.)

[https://morganreport.org/mediawiki/index.php?title=Main\\_Page](https://morganreport.org/mediawiki/index.php?title=Main_Page)

Treaty of Annexation between the Republic of Hawaii and the United States of America (1898). Full text of the treaty, and of the resolutions whereby the Republic of Hawaii legislature and the U.S. Congress ratified it. The politics surrounding the treaty, then and now.  
<https://www.angelfire.com/big09a/TreatyOfAnnexationHawaiiUS.html>

Hawaii Statehood -- straightening out the history-twisters. A historical narrative defending the legitimacy of the revolution of 1893, the annexation of 1898, and the statehood vote of 1959  
<https://www.angelfire.com/big09a/StatehoodHistUntwistedFull.html>

**LATE**



**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB614  
RELATING TO EDUCATION**

House Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts  
House Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

February 13, 2025

1:15 p.m.

Room 224

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** SB614, which aspires to establish November 28 as Lā Kū'oko'a, Hawaiian Independence Day, to acknowledge this historical day of independence and its importance to the Hawaiian people and other citizens of the Kingdom of Hawai'i.

Reestablishing Lā Kū'oko'a as an official holiday restores important connections to Hawai'i's rich cultural and political history as an independent nation that was formally recognized by treaties with the vast majority of nation-states in existence prior to the overthrow of the Kingdom. Lā Kū'oko'a commemorates the day in 1843 that Great Britain and France, through joint proclamation, formally recognized the Kingdom of Hawai'i as an independent nation. Lā Kū'oko'a was celebrated as a national public holiday under the Kingdom of Hawai'i, the Provisional Government, the Republic of Hawai'i, and the Territory of Hawai'i.

The State of Hawai'i's recognition of Lā Kū'oko'a will accurately recall and honor the collective history of Hawai'i prior to 1893. Lā Kū'oko'a is a source of pride for many Native Hawaiians as it demonstrates the political acumen of our kūpuna and the status of the Hawaiian Kingdom as an active and respected member of the international community. Over the years, community celebrations and recognition of Lā Kū'oko'a has grown substantially in the community and in schools. As Lā Kū'oko'a re-gains its prestige, with organizations holding celebrations on November 28 across the islands, it is appropriate and timely for the State of Hawai'i to formally recognize the unique historic and political significance of this day to all who call Hawai'i home.

Hawai'i's special heritage and celebration of various holidays tied to our historical underpinnings distinguish us from other states. Previously, Hawai'i lawmakers adopted official holidays that reflect this distinct past, including Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalaniana'ole Day and King Kamehameha I Day. Lā Kū'oko'a merits joining these unique Hawaiian holidays.

Accordingly, we respectfully urge your Committees to **PASS** this measure. Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.



**LATE**

February 13, 2025

TESTIMONY OF THE ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS  
To the Senate Committees on Transportation and Culture and the Arts  
&  
Hawaiian Affairs

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

Aloha Chair Lee, Chair Richards, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committees:

The Association of Hawaiian Civic Club **supports** SB 614 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**

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 6:15:44 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/13/2025 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
ANNIE AUHOON	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In Support

Mahalo nui

**SB-614**

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 2:27:18 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/13/2025 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
cheryl burghardt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

ALoha

I SUPPORT SB 614 which establishes "La Ku oko a", or Hawaiian Independence Day, as a state holiday to be observed annually on November 28th.

This designation for the observance of La Ku oko a as a state holiday is an integral step . As a state holiday, it will give the honor and recognition deserved to Hawaiian Independence Day. Please keep in mind that with or without this designation, the people of Hawaii, this place have always honored this holiday and will continue to do so.

C. Burghardt

Kou, Oahu

**SB-614**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 8:25:29 AM

Testimony for TCA on 2/13/2025 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Keoni Shizuma	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha committee members of the Senate Committees on Transportation and Culture and the Arts and Hawaiian Affairs,

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

**SB-614**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 8:48:45 AM

Testimony for TCA on 2/13/2025 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
J. Kehau Lucas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Kēhau Lucas, and I am writing in **strong support of SB614**, which seeks to establish **Lā Kū‘oko‘a (Hawaiian Independence Day) on November 28 as an official state holiday**.

Lā Kū‘oko‘a holds deep historical and cultural significance for Hawai‘i. On November 28, 1843, the Kingdom of Hawai‘i was formally recognized as an independent nation by Great Britain and France through the Anglo-Franco Proclamation. This momentous occasion affirmed Hawai‘i’s sovereignty under international law and solidified its place among the world’s independent nations. For decades, Lā Kū‘oko‘a was proudly celebrated across the Hawaiian Kingdom as a national holiday, but over time, awareness of this critical piece of our history has faded.

Restoring Lā Kū‘oko‘a as a recognized state holiday is a meaningful step toward acknowledging Hawai‘i’s true history and educating future generations about the political and cultural identity of our islands. This recognition aligns with ongoing efforts to support Native Hawaiian rights, history, and self-determination while fostering a more accurate understanding of our past.

Additionally, recognizing Lā Kū‘oko‘a as a state holiday would provide a day of reflection and celebration for all people of Hawai‘i, regardless of background. It is an opportunity to honor the resilience of the Hawaiian people, uplift ‘ike kūpuna (ancestral knowledge), and reaffirm our collective responsibility to preserve and perpetuate our unique heritage.

I urge the committee to pass SB614 and take a step toward restoring this important part of Hawai‘i’s history. **By establishing Lā Kū‘oko‘a as a state holiday, we affirm that the stories, struggles, and triumphs of our past deserve to be remembered and honored in our present.**

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

**Me ka ‘oia‘i‘o,**

**J Kēhau Lucas**

**SB-614**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 9:20:29 AM

Testimony for TCA on 2/13/2025 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kristen Floyd	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill strongly as it was a huge day for the Hawaiian Kingdom that the state of Hawaii should recognize. A part of recognizing the indigenous people of this land, is also recognizing and acknowledging its history. This would be a step in the right direction as far as supporting the host culture of this land. Not enough is known about the history of Hawaii and has been too long ignored and brought to light. This is how we right that wrong. Making La Kū'oko'a a State Holiday validates Hawaiian people, Hawaiian Kingdom and its history!

**SB-614**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 10:12:06 AM

Testimony for TCA on 2/13/2025 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lexi Figueroa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Lexi Figueroa and I'm writing in strong support of SB 614- Relating to Hawaiian Independence Day. This holiday, known as Lā Kū'oko'a, celebrates the signing of the Anglo-Franco proclamation in 1843, recognizing the sovereignty of the Hawaiian Kingdom by both New England and France. Today, Lā Kū'oko'a continues to be a reminder to all Native Hawaiian, and non-Native Hawaiians of our strength, perseverance, and Ea as a community. For the State to formally observe Lā Kū'oko'a would be a symbol of its support for not just those who recognize the holiday, but in offering the time to reflect on and remember Hawai'i's history. Although thousands of people in Hawai'i continue to celebrate this holiday every year, we are limited to the amount cultural protocols and practices we can do on this day because it currently is not a official, observed holiday by the State. If the State does pass SB 614, it will be the right step in giving those who celebrate the full day to properly do so, and for those who may not be familiar with Hawai'i's history-the full day to familiarize themselves with Lā Kū'oko'a.

Mahalo nui for your support, and I strongly urge you folks to pass SB 614.

**SB-614**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 2:34:14 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/13/2025 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Stephanie Hedani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Native Hawaiian, I support this bill to recognize La Kuokoa as an official holiday. Growing up in Hawaii, I was not afforded the ability to learn about our own history. This is completely unacceptable. By recognizing this holiday, it would be a step in the right direction to rectify this for future generations. Our keiki deserve better.

**SB-614**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 6:17:48 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/13/2025 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Josh Lockhart	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this Bill

**SB-614**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 8:41:32 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/13/2025 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Alexa Helge	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB614.

**SB-614**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 8:50:49 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/13/2025 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Theresa-Ann Kahili	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support.

**SB-614**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 8:56:45 AM

Testimony for TCA on 2/13/2025 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Leilani Josselin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the recongnition if the true day of Hawaiiis Independence as a nation it self, and not as an occupied entity if the US.

**SB-614**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 11:04:06 AM

Testimony for TCA on 2/13/2025 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support the bill to establish "La Kuoko'a" (Hawaiian Independence Day) as an official state holiday on November 28th. This is a powerful step toward acknowledging and honoring the history of Hawaii's sovereignty and the significance of the Hawaiian Kingdom.

Recognizing La Kuoko'a as a state holiday will serve as a reminder of our cultural roots, the importance of Hawaiian self-determination, and the ongoing struggle for justice and equality for Native Hawaiians. It will also provide an opportunity for all residents of Hawaii to reflect on our shared history and the path forward.

By officially observing this day, we honor those who fought for Hawaiian independence and ensure that future generations understand the value of cultural heritage and sovereignty. It is an essential step in empowering our communities and preserving our identity.

I urge you to pass this bill in support of a stronger, more unified Hawaii that respects and celebrates its true history.

Mahalo,  
Ka'iulani Iaea

**SB-614**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 11:15:48 AM

Testimony for TCA on 2/13/2025 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am in strong support of SB614 as Hawaiian Independence Day 11/28th as a Holiday as first established as a celebration by Governor David Ige! Mahalo Senator Fevella and all Chairs and Committee members in both the Senate and the House for listening to all my stories and declaring this a holiday! Hopefully announced soon like for Valentine's Day, ias soon as this is approved by the powers that Be! All your hard work in changing Hawaii to what the Native Hawaiians and those born in Hawaii needed.

Now when do we become the Kingdom of Hawaii??? as we always were, but had to just change the MINDSET of those that think they dominate our islands! Go back home to the continent if you don't agree with how we run our government system! We are Paradise opposite from the "war" on the opposite side of the world!

**SB-614**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 11:16:17 AM

Testimony for TCA on 2/13/2025 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am in support of SB614 which reinstates Lā Kū'oko'a as a state holiday. It is important that this happens because November 28th, 1843, is the day Great Britain and France recognized Hawai'i as a sovereign state in the Anglo-Franco proclamation. Not all Hawaiian people understand this day or even know about it so instating it as a state holiday will greatly increase more people knowing about it.

**SB-614**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 11:22:32 AM

Testimony for TCA on 2/13/2025 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support this bill because it's important to recognize this holiday and show that Hawaiians deserve their own.

**SB-614**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 12:05:35 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/13/2025 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

**Testimony in Support of:**

**Senate Bill 614: Relating to Hawaiian independence Day**

**Submitted by:**

**Ka'imipono Inofinada**

**1913 Ahuula St.**

**Honolulu, Hawai'i 96819**

**Addressed to the Committees of Hawaiian Affairs (HWN) & Ways & Means (WAM),**

**Aloha nui to the following committees as mentioned above,**

**My name is Ka'imipono Inofinada and I am currently a senior at Hālau Kū Māna Public Charter School. As a Native Hawaiian who was born and raised in Kalihi, I have the opportunity to learn in a cultural based education charter school in contrast to enrolling in DOE schools where I wouldn't have thrived as much as I do at Hālau Kū Māna. During my time being a student at DOE schools previously, I struggled greatly in academic subjects and found that kumu who would teach in Hawaiian Studies classes were greatly underappreciated and such. While I did find a huge interest in Hawaiian Studies and wanted to learn more, I felt that not enough time and care were given towards these classes. It is due to Hālau Kū Māna that I had the many opportunities and connections given to me in the lāhui and how I originally learned about Lā Kū'oko'a, a date invaluable to the Hawaiian people.**

**Lā Kū'oko'a, regarded as Hawaiian Independence Day in Hawaiian History, is a date that recognizes the independence of the Hawaiian Nation through the signing of the Anglo-Franco Proclamation and many other treaties signed by countries within the Family of Nations and then some. The importance of Lā Kū'oko'a and Lā Ho'ihō'i Ea not only recognizes the sovereignty of the Hawaiian Nation but also the stories of diplomatic representatives Timoteo Ha'alilio, William Richards, and George Simpson who underwent many hardships in order to establish treaties from various countries such as Japan, Britain, France, Sweden, and even the United States of America. By signing Senate Bill 614 into law, which would establish Lā Kū'oko'a as a state holiday to be observed statewide, would not only establish the recognizing of Hawaiian Independence Day but allow the history and stories of Lā Kū'oko'a to be spread and told to many of the lāhui, a story that should be known and told within every Native Hawaiian people and then some.**

**Mahalo for your time and consideration going into reading my testimony for full support of Senate Bill 614.**

**Me ke aloha, Ka'imipono Inofinada**

**SB614**  
**RELATING TO HAWAIIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY**

Introducer(s): Fevella, Chang, Fukunaga

Aloha mai kakou,

My name is Beighlee Vidinha, and I am a social work student at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. I am here to support bill SB614 in establishing Lā Kū'oko'a, or Hawaiian Independence Day as an observed state holiday.

As a Kanaka Maoli, I think it is extremely detrimental to put in all efforts into cultural preservation and protection when it comes to Native Hawaiian practices, history, and observations. It is crucial for us to recognize our gained independence and honor our history and ea (sovereignty). If we can honor statehood day and American Independence day as state or federal holidays, we can honor Lā Kū'oko'a - an important indication of our independence and sovereignty as a people.

Our history is our future and we are forever indebted to the greatness that comes with being a part of the lāhui of Hawai'i. This is a part of our identity as sovereign people before our identities as American citizens. Establishing Lā Kū'oko'a as an observed state holiday recognizes our joys and patriotism as Native Hawaiians in our own homeland. By ensuring November 28th is recognized across the state by those who reside in our birthplace, you are honoring the history of those whose land you reside on.

At the University of Hawai'i at Manoa, specifically within our social work program, we are taught the importance of land recognition as one of our competencies. It is our tenth competency to engage, honor, and respect indigenous culture and work towards decolonized professional practice. I believe this should be upheld by more than just social workers, it should be a competency carried throughout all aspects of our government and livelihood. Hawai'i is a sacred space, where all residents should walk with a deep understanding of our history and a concern for a brighter future.

Lā Kū'oko'a is a monumental event in the history of our people. As residents in our land, we kindly ask for your consideration in passing this bill to memorialize this significant historical point in Kanaka Maoli culture.

Mahalo nui loa for your time.

Beighlee (Beigh) Vidinha  
beighlee@hawaii.edu  
University of Hawai'i at Manoa  
Department of Social Work

**SB-614**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 5:31:13 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/13/2025 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Inez Z Larson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Support of SB 614 – Making Lā Kū‘oko‘a a State Holiday

Aloha Senators,

I am writing in strong support of SB 614, which seeks to establish Lā Kū‘oko‘a as an official state holiday. As a resident of O‘ahu who attends Lā Kū‘oko‘a festivities annually, I have seen firsthand the significance of this day in honoring Hawai‘i’s history and fostering cultural awareness.

There is a great need for cultural and environmental conservation in Hawai‘i, and these topics are often central to discussions at Lā Kū‘oko‘a gatherings. As a practicing Catholic, I have often wondered why Good Friday is observed as a state holiday in a place as religiously and spiritually diverse as Hawai‘i. Given our multicultural community, I believe that replacing Good Friday with Lā Kū‘oko‘a would be a more inclusive and meaningful choice—one that recognizes the deep historical and cultural roots of Hawai‘i’s people, including the Asian American community.

Lā Kū‘oko‘a is more than just a celebration; it is an opportunity for education, economic growth, and community engagement. Across the islands, vendors, musicians, and cultural practitioners come together to share knowledge and strengthen our connection to our heritage. Establishing Lā Kū‘oko‘a as a state holiday would not only honor Hawai‘i’s independent history but also create lasting benefits for our communities.

I urge you to support SB 614 and make Lā Kū‘oko‘a an official state holiday.

Mahalo nui for your time and consideration.

**Inez Z Larson**

**808-778-0271**

**SB-614**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 7:30:49 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/13/2025 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
mary drayer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

strongly support Lā Ku‘oko‘a being an official State Holiday. this will honor the unique history of Hawai‘i . Not sure if Presidents Day is an official State Holiday - some sites say it is, and others say it isn‘t. if it is that is the perfect one to replace with La Ku‘oko‘a - since our history with U S presidents is not a very good one. If it‘ s isn‘t, i trust our lawmakers to select which one to replace.

Mahalo ..

**SB-614**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 8:01:11 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/13/2025 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Scott Crawford	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I want to express my support for making Lā Kū'oko'a an official state holiday. I know that to add a holiday, another one needs to be removed to make up for the state employee hours. I would suggest a good candidate could be Statehood Day, because in reality Statehood was a fraud and shouldn't be celebrated. Another I would suggest is that Good Friday should be removed as an official state holiday. It is a religious holiday that is only practiced by certain sects of one specific faith. Christmas is a religious holiday, but it's widely celebrated by even non-religious people. But Good Friday is not celebrated by anybody who isn't practicing one of those few sects; even many Christian Protestants don't celebrate it. For the sake of separation of church and state, I don't think Good Friday should be an official state holiday in the first place, especially in a state with such religious and diversity, including many Buddhists.

Lā Kū'oko'a was an official holiday under the Hawaiian Kingdom, and it should be today.

**SB-614**

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 9:51:35 AM

Testimony for TCA on 2/13/2025 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Bryce-William Irvine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Native Hawaiian, I strongly feel that the state should celebrate the day the Hawaiian Kingdom was recognized as a sovereign nation. If the world once saw us as our own nation, we should, as a State, celebrate that.

**SB-614**

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 10:02:36 AM

Testimony for TCA on 2/13/2025 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Regina Gregory	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

support

## **SB614 RELATING TO HAWAIIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY**

Introducer(s): Fevella, Chang, Fukunaga

Aloha, Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the committee,

O Reece Flores ko‘u inoa. No Kāne‘ohe mai au. My name is Reece Flores, and I am a student at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa pursuing my bachelor’s degree in social work. I also currently work at Windward Community College, mentoring first-year college students one-on-one to help them transition into college and the workforce.

I am submitting testimony in strong support of SB614, which would make Hawaiian Independence Day an observed state holiday. I grew up in Hawai‘i my entire life but was unaware of much of our true history. As I got older, I began researching Hawai‘i’s past and the true nature of how we became a state. What I learned was both eye-opening and disappointing.

As a Kanaka Maoli, I find this to be an important part of our history that deserves recognition. We should be reminded that our ancestors fought and sought independence to keep our nation sovereign. However, despite their efforts, Hawai‘i was illegally occupied by the American government, leading many to forget our previous independence from the British. A common argument I hear today is, *“Hawai‘i would have been taken over eventually—if not by America, then by another entity.”* In reality, we were once occupied by the British, but they ultimately recognized Hawai‘i as a sovereign nation. This formal acknowledgment was a significant milestone, yet it has been largely forgotten.

Honoring Lā Kū'oko'a as a state holiday would help restore this lost history and educate the keiki of this 'āina about the truth of our past. Establishing this holiday would also create a space for meaningful conversations within our communities, schools, and families, fostering a deeper understanding of our collective identity.

I hope my testimony today sheds light on why SB614 is essential. Recognizing Hawaiian Independence Day is not just about remembering the past—it is about reclaiming a history that has been overshadowed for far too long.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration.

Reece Flores

[reeceyk@hawaii.edu](mailto:reeceyk@hawaii.edu)

University of Hawai'i at Manoa

Department of Social Work

**SB-614**

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 12:39:46 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/13/2025 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Cristina Bacchilega	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

LĀ KŪ‘OKO‘A could be an official state holiday thanks to the amendment this Bill proposes, and I write in strong support of this. If you love Hawai‘i, if you celebrate its history as an independent nation, if you want to build a real future for Hawai‘i, then you are already commemorating and celebrating Lā Kū‘oko‘a and should not have to be penalized for wanting to do so. Let’s honor Hawai‘i by making Lā Kū‘oko‘a an official holiday.

And if there are too many holidays, let’s do away with Good Friday, which is a holy day for some--no issue there--but as such is a religious occurrence.

Thank you,

**SB-614**

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 1:57:39 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/13/2025 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sheena Lopes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Prior to the illegal annexation of Hawai‘i, Lā Kū‘oko‘a was celebrated island wide as a Holiday. We should be celebrating our REAL Hawaiian Histories and this is just one small step to start the process of reclaiming that right. If we can acknowledge and celebrate Christmas or Chinese Lunar New Year, Hawaiian Holidays should absolutely be celebrated in Hawai‘i.

**SB-614**

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 7:56:30 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/13/2025 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lu Ann Mahiki Lankford-Faborito	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong support

**SB-614**

Submitted on: 2/12/2025 2:01:38 AM

Testimony for TCA on 2/13/2025 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kalaniakea Wilson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support La Kuokoa becoming a holiday once again in the Hawaiian Kingdom as it once was through four governments. The State of Hawaii and the DOE are continuing policies of genocide inherited from the territory over a century ago thus the reason for this bill. This day should've never been eliminated from the hearts and minds of the Hawaiian people and the general public. To choose to not support this bill no matter the reason is only perpetuating policies of genocide from over a century ago targeting the Hawaiian family of mind for elimination. Support this bill moving forward or become a genocide violator and war criminal.

**SB-614**

Submitted on: 2/12/2025 4:34:48 AM

Testimony for TCA on 2/13/2025 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kelly Milot	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We should be celebrating Hawaii's Independence Day showing respect to the great history of the land we live on. It is a step forward,

**SB-614**

Submitted on: 2/12/2025 11:00:21 AM

Testimony for TCA on 2/13/2025 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
katlyn vogl	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The establishing of La Ku oko a, or Hawaiian Independence Day, as a state holiday would be very beneficial for Kanaka and Hawai'i's communities as a whole. I can think of no negative affects that establishing that would have. It will serve as a day to bring communities together while remembering history and indegenous knowledge.

**SB-614**

Submitted on: 2/12/2025 11:09:50 AM

Testimony for TCA on 2/13/2025 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support this bill because if this id a state holiday then everyone gets a day off.

**SB-614**

Submitted on: 2/12/2025 12:06:44 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/13/2025 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ryan Edwards	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Me and my Ohana gladly support SB614 in regards to "La Ku'Oko'a" Hawaiian Independence Day on November 28, because I believe this our True Hawaiian Independence Day that should be and should've been observed all this time since since it was enacted. By passing this bill it will acknowledge this very important holiday in Hawaii's Past History that a lot of people, including many Hawaiians are unaware of.

**SB-614**

Submitted on: 2/12/2025 1:37:19 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/13/2025 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ronnie N Inagaki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**\*\*TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF S.B. NO. 614\*\***

**\*\*RELATING TO HAWAIIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY\*\***

**\*\*February 12, 2025\*\***

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Ronnie Inagaki, and I submit this testimony in strong support of S.B. No. 614, which seeks to establish **\*\*La Kū‘oko‘a\*\***, or Hawaiian Independence Day, as an official state holiday to be celebrated annually on **\*\*November 28th\*\***.

As a Native Hawaiian and a kama‘āina of Hawai‘i, I carry a deep kuleana (responsibility) to honor and perpetuate the history, culture, and identity of our lāhui (nation). This bill is a significant step toward recognizing the profound historical and cultural importance of **\*\*La Kū‘oko‘a\*\*** for all the people of Hawai‘i.

**\*\*Historical Significance of La Kū‘oko‘a\*\***

On November 28, 1843, the Hawaiian Kingdom was formally recognized as an independent and sovereign nation by Great Britain and France through the Anglo-Franco Proclamation. This international recognition placed Hawai‘i among the family of nations and affirmed our lāhui as a legitimate and sovereign entity. For decades, November 28th was celebrated as a national holiday in the Hawaiian Kingdom—a day of pride, unity, and the assertion of Hawaiian identity.

However, with the illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian monarchy in 1893 and the subsequent annexation of Hawai‘i by the United States, La Kū‘oko‘a was largely suppressed, and its significance diminished in public consciousness. Despite this, many Native Hawaiians have continued to observe and celebrate this day as a testament to our enduring identity and sovereignty.

By establishing La Kū'oko'a as a state holiday, this legislature would honor Hawai'i's unique history and provide an opportunity for residents to better understand and appreciate the sovereignty, independence, and resilience of our lāhui.

### **\*\*Cultural and Social Impact\*\***

La Kū'oko'a is more than a historical marker—it is a day of affirmation for Hawaiians. It reminds us that we come from a proud and resilient people whose sovereignty was internationally recognized long before the injustices of the overthrow. Recognizing this day as a state holiday would:

1. **\*\*Honor Hawaiian Identity\*\***: For Native Hawaiians, La Kū'oko'a is a day of pride and connection to our cultural heritage. It serves as a reminder of our rightful place as a sovereign and independent people in the global community.
2. **\*\*Educate the Public\*\***: Establishing La Kū'oko'a as a state holiday would provide a platform to educate residents and visitors about the Hawaiian Kingdom's history, the significance of sovereignty, and the cultural values of aloha 'āina (love of the land) and kuleana.
3. **\*\*Promote Healing and Reconciliation\*\***: By formally recognizing La Kū'oko'a, the State of Hawai'i acknowledges the historical injustices suffered by Native Hawaiians while celebrating the enduring spirit of our people. This recognition has the potential to foster greater understanding and reconciliation between Native Hawaiians and the broader community.

### **\*\*Why This Matters Today\*\***

Today, Hawai'i remains a place where Native Hawaiians strive to reclaim and affirm their identity and sovereignty. The establishment of La Kū'oko'a as a state holiday would formalize what many of us already know to be true: that Hawai'i was, and remains, a place with a deep and distinct history of independence and self-determination.

This bill reflects the ongoing efforts to elevate the voices and perspectives of Native Hawaiians within our governance structures. It validates the resilience of our people and the continued relevance of our history in shaping Hawai'i's future.

### **\*\*Conclusion\*\***

In closing, I urge the legislature to pass S.B. No. 614 to formally recognize La Kū'oko'a as a state holiday. This act will honor the legacy of the Hawaiian Kingdom, educate future generations about our history, and affirm the identity and pride of our people.

As we continue to navigate the challenges of the modern world, it is essential that we root ourselves in the values, history, and culture that make Hawai'i unique. Establishing La Kū'oko'a as a state holiday is a meaningful step toward achieving that goal.

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration of this important measure.

Me ke aloha pumehana,

Ronnie Inagaki

**SB-614**

Submitted on: 2/12/2025 2:43:50 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/13/2025 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaleialoha Kaniaupio-Crozier	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Welina mai kākou e ka lālā hanohano o ke kōmike,

‘O au nō ‘o Kaleialoha Kaniaupio-Crozier, he Kanaka ‘Ōiwi o Hawai‘i nei. I am in full support of SB 614, to establish Hawaiian Independent Day as an observed holiday on November 28th.

Mahalo nui.

Ola nā iwi!

**LATE**

**SB-614**

Submitted on: 2/12/2025 8:53:05 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/13/2025 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Earl DeLeon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments: Aloha Honorable Members of the Senate, My name is Earl E. Keouakalanikupuapa'ikalaninui DeLeon, and I am a proud descendant of Native Hawaiians residing in Kealakekua, Kona, Hawaii. I am here today to express my wholehearted support for Senate Bill No. 614, which aims to establish a rightful independence holiday in the state of Hawaii. For 132 years, the Hawaiian people have endured suffering at the hands of the United States of America. It is long overdue for our state to recognize and establish a holiday that honors our independence. November 28th marks the anniversary of the Anglo-Franco Proclamation, which recognized Hawaii's sovereignty in 1843. This significant event is currently celebrated as Lā Kū'oko'a, or Hawaiian Independence Day. I'd like to bring to your attention the significance of Senate Bill 103, also known as the Apology Resolution, signed into law by President Bill Clinton on November 23, 1993. This bill acknowledged the historical injustices faced by Native Hawaiians and recognized the United States' role in the illegal overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawaii <sup>1</sup>. The Apology Resolution confirmed that the Native Hawaiian people never directly relinquished their claims to their inherent sovereignty as a people over their national lands. Establishing a state-recognized independence holiday would not only acknowledge the historical injustices faced by Native Hawaiians but also serve as a step towards reconciliation and healing. It would provide an opportunity for our communities to come together, reflect on our shared history, and celebrate our unique cultural heritage. I urge you to pass Senate Bill No. 614 and take a crucial step towards recognizing Hawaii's rightful independence holiday. Mahalo for your time and consideration. Sincerely, Earl E. K. DeLeon Aloha kekahi i kekahi

**LATE**

**SB-614**

Submitted on: 2/12/2025 10:30:13 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/13/2025 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Shavanna-Britney Santiago	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB614 because this bill recognizes the history of Hawaii and more importantly the Hawaiian people, whom have been overlooked for hundreds of years. Hawai'i is a unique state, we all know that. Especially having the privilege to call this place home. Every year we get to celebrate so many holidays and have days of recognition, it is about time we have an official Holiday as well!

I support SB614 because if we have to recognize other types of holidays that don't really pertain to us individually, like June-teenth, St. Patrick's day, or Cinco de mayo for other ethnicities then we should be able to have one of our own. I have nothing against the other holidays or races just using as reference. Hawai'i deserves its own holiday. Thank you.

**LATE**

**SB-614**

Submitted on: 2/13/2025 11:57:29 AM

Testimony for TCA on 2/13/2025 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kimberly Oshiro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill to have a Hawaiian Independence Day!

**LATE**

**SB-614**

Submitted on: 2/13/2025 12:11:51 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/13/2025 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kimmer Horsen	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

I support SB 614, establishing Hawaiian Independence Day would help educate the youth of Hawaii that the Hawaiian Kingdom is still here and in full effect but under belligerent US military occupation. Rather than teaching that Hawaii entered in the Treaty of Annexion, the Ku'e petitions would still be honored and the Queen's wishes for independence kept. This holiday would also help educate all newcomers and tourists alike that Hawaii is independent and an entire country of its own like the Kingdom of Tonga. Rather than establishing Hawaii's independence on the American July 4th as the 50th state this official recognition will assist in informing residents and celebrate the Hawaiian Kingdom's sovereign status under international law as a nation state: country. Because of its executive agreements Queen Lilliuokalani made with Great Britain and Holland, European countries, its independent status is still thriving, viable and tangible. There is no treaty of annexation and public schools and charter schools can happily celebrate the Hawaiian Kingdom's independent status collaboratively while US military deoccupation progresses. A bill for terminating Statehood Day would also be wise. This is a step in the right direction for true Hawaiian Kingdom Independence. He Hawaii au.