



**SB1451**  
**RELATING TO STATE HOLIDAYS**  
Senate Committee on Judiciary

February 21, 2019

9:00 a.m.

Room 016

The Administration of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) will recommend that the OHA Board of Trustees **SUPPORT** SB1451, which aspires to establish Lā Kū'oko'a, November 28, as a state holiday in lieu of President's Day, the third Monday in February.

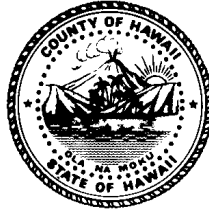
Reestablishing Lā Kū'oko'a as an official holiday restores important connections to Hawai'i's rich cultural and political history, a history that is largely ignored and largely left out of public school curricula and public discourse. As a result, Lā Kū'oko'a passes by each year without formal recognition by the state. Lā Kū'oko'a commemorates the day Great Britain and France, through joint proclamation, formally recognized the Kingdom of Hawai'i as an independent nation. With this recognition, the Hawaiian Kingdom entered treaties and engaged in foreign diplomacy with the major nations of the world. 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 should restore the celebration of Lā Kū'oko'a as a means to accurately remember and honor our collective history. 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 have grown substantially. As Lā Kū'oko'a has begun to re-gain its prestige, with organizations holding celebrations on November 28 across the islands, it is appropriate and timely for the state itself 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 the various holidays we currently celebrate 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 Committee to **PASS** this measure. Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.

**Harry Kim**  
Mayor



**Wil Okabe**  
Managing Director

**Barbara J. Kossow**  
Deputy Managing Director

## County of Hawai'i Office of the Mayor

25 Aupuni Street, Suite 2603 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720 • (808) 961-8211 • Fax (808) 961-6553  
KONA: 74-5044 Ane Keohokālole Hwy., Bldg C • Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740  
(808) 323-4444 • Fax (808) 323-4440

February 19, 2019

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Committee on Judiciary

Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair  
Committee Judiciary

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Wakai, and Committee Members:

**RE: SB 1451 Relating to State Holidays**

I have seen the near-unanimous support for re-establishing Hawaiian Recognition Day, but I must voice my objection to the current version of SB 1451. I apologize for not catching this bill when it was heard in its first committee.

My problem with this bill is not the idea of making Hawaiian Recognition Day a state holiday. Rather, I am strongly against doing away with Presidents' Day, part of our national heritage, part of being one of the United States of America. We are justly proud of the history of the Hawaiian nation, but we are also a part of the United States. It is not inconsistent to value both ancestries, and one legacy need not, and should not, be sacrificed for the sake of the other.

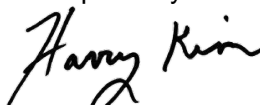
I would not have a problem if SB 1451 simply added a new holiday to our calendar. However, I remember that in order to establish Martin Luther King Day, there was a belief that we could not add an additional holiday to our schedule, so we did away with Columbus/Discoverer's Day. If it still is the opinion of the Legislature that there are "too many holidays," then I would urge that the holiday that singles out one religion—Good Friday—is the one that should be eliminated, and such action would be justified in the name of separation of church and state.

Yet another alternative (but I would defer to the advocates whether such an arrangement would be acceptable or desirable) would be to make Hawaiian Recognition Day the fourth Thursday (or even fourth Friday) in November. That would combine the new holiday with Thanksgiving, with which it would overlap every few years anyway.

If the only way to adopt a Hawaiian Recognition Day is to eliminate Presidents' Day, I hope you will not pass SB 1451. If the new holiday can be adopted in a way that honors our Hawaiian heritage and recognizes our American heritage, then I would look forward to supporting such legislation.

Thank you for the work you are doing, and for your consideration of this strongly held belief.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Harry Kim  
MAYOR

Center for Hawaiian Sovereignty Studies  
46-255 Kahuhipa St. Suite 1205  
Kane'ohe, HI 96744  
(808) 247-7942  
Kenneth R. Conklin, Ph.D. Executive Director  
e-mail [Ken\\_Conklin@yahoo.com](mailto:Ken_Conklin@yahoo.com)  
Unity, Equality, Aloha for all



To: SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY  
For hearing Thursday, February 21, 2019

Re: SB 1451 RELATING TO STATE HOLIDAYS.  
Reestablishes La Ku'oko'a, Hawaiian Recognition Day, as an official  
state holiday.

#### TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION

It is both funny and sad to see that so many legislators have signed their names in support of this bill, which is deceptively named and would be bad policy. Pandering to anti-American secessionists is a very bad idea. This bill is not about memorializing a success of diplomacy from 1843, it's about supporting a highly divisive cult of activists who want to enlist you as a partisan in an ideological civil war which threatens to rip the 50th star off our flag.

Maybe you'll step away from this bill when you see how your predecessors in the 2007 legislature were lied to and fooled by the same gang now pushing this bill, and then those legislators were justly ridiculed for their pandering.

The following points are proved in detail later in this testimony. Please take the time to read the details.

1. The word "ku'oko'a" does NOT mean "recognition" -- it means "independence". Look it up in the dictionary. Also apply, to two other bills, this lesson on how easy it is to fool you legislators about the meaning of Hawaiian words -- I refer to SB195 and SB642, which would make it law that if a bill "was originally drafted in Hawaiian and the English version was translated based on the Hawaiian version, the Hawaiian version shall be held binding."

2. Look at the reasons openly stated for why Hawaiian independence activists have pushed to revive this holiday. They want the "fake-state" legislature to go on record that Hawaii has always been AND REMAINS an independent nation, or should be re-established as such. If you agree with that agenda then you should resign from the legislature of the STATE of Hawaii, which you have sworn an oath to support and defend.

3. The legislature was badly burned in 2007 when every Democrat voted in favor of officially creating a new permanent holiday every April 30, to be called "Hawaiian Restoration Day." Please note that the perennial April 30 holiday solemnly enacted by the 2007 legislature is not included in the list of holidays in Section 2 of today's bill. Why not? When you read item #4, you'll discover that what you should do is to add the now-official holiday of April 30 to the list in Section 2 WITH A LINE THROUGH THE NAME AND DATE TO INDICATE THAT THIS BILL IS REPEALING IT just as this bill proposes to do with Presidents' Day.

4. Some of the same people who push today's bill were also pushers of the 2007 bill, knowingly telling falsehoods that President Grover Cleveland had proclaimed April 30 to be a U.S. holiday of fasting and repentance for the overthrow of the Hawaiian monarchy. You can see for yourselves a 4-page flyer that makes a laughing stock of the legislature for falling for that absurdity, especially after being presented with proof that President Cleveland's alleged proclamation was actually an April Fools [not April 30] satire against Cleveland published as an editorial in an anti-Cleveland newspaper and that the resolution's authors were aware of that fact. Maybe they couldn't imagine that a "reverend" would knowingly and cunningly tell a lie for a political purpose. A webpage provides further details about the actual newspaper editorial, and about the fact that the pushers of the resolution knew their testimony was false.

-----DETAILS PROVING THOSE POINTS-----

1. The meaning of "Ku'oko'a" or "La Ku'oko'a"

I rely upon the large Pukui/Elbert Hawaiian dictionary, (c)1986 version. The entire entry at the top of page 184 says:

"Ku'oko'a. nvs. Independence, liberty, freedom; independent, free. La Ku'oko'a. Independence Day. Ho'ike no ke Ku'oko'a. Declaration of Independence. Ka Nupepa Ku'oko'a. The Independent Newspaper [name of a Hawaiian-language newspaper published in Honolulu 1861-1927]. ho'oku'oko'a. To establish independence. Make independent."

As you can easily see, the word "Recognition" is never mentioned anywhere in the definition of "ku'oko'a." This bill is extremely deceptive when it says (page 1, lines 9-10) La Ku'oko'a was known as Hawaiian Recognition Day, and when the description of the bill in the hearing notice says the bill "Reestablishes La Ku'oko'a, Hawaiian Recognition Day, as an official state holiday."

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2. Hawaiian independence activists seek to revive "La Ku'oko'a" as an assertion that Hawaii is now, or should be, a sovereign independent nation. This bill also falsely states that "La Ku'oko'a" was actively celebrated throughout the Kingdom, Provisional Government, Republic, and several years into the Territorial period.

Leon Siu styles himself as Foreign Minister of "Ke Aupuni o Hawai'i, the Hawaiian Kingdom." For many years he has actively traveled to United Nations meetings in New York and Geneva (Switzerland) asking delegates of other nations to publicly challenge U.S. sovereignty over Hawaii. In 2018 his buddies in the independence "movement" staged a publicity stunt nominating him for the Nobel Peace Prize. On November 20, 2018 he authored another in a series of "Ke Aupuni Update"s in the Free Hawaii blog, entitled "Celebrating La Ku'oko'a - Independence Day". His excellency "Foreign Minister Siu" has never referred to the Kingdom holiday as "Hawaiian Recognition Day."

This bill says "Throughout the 1850s and 1870s, Hawai'i celebrated La Ku'oko'a with lu'au, music, and marches. The celebration grew under the reign of King Kalakaua, with formal proclamations sent by official circular to the foreign diplomatic corps in Hawai'i and the Hawaiian Kingdom consuls abroad, informing them of the holiday. The day remained a national holiday under the Provisional Government of Hawai'i (1893), the Republic of Hawai'i (1894-1898), and the initial years of the Territory of Hawai'i."

But the Free Hawaii blog of November 27, 2018 says "After a failed armed attempt by Hawaiians to retake their Kingdom in 1895, the usurpers announced that Lā Kū'oko'a would no longer be celebrated, and the American holiday Thanksgiving Day would be the official national holiday instead. Removing a holiday like Hawai'i Independence Day was a way to cover up and try to destroy the history and identity of the Hawaiian Kingdom and its people. ... Tomorrow's celebration of Lā Kū'oko'a asserts that Hawai'i is still an independent nation, even under prolonged illegal occupation."

A writer of Hawaiian history describes how a very similar Kingdom holiday of even greater importance was hugely celebrated for a few years but then fell out of public awareness just like Ka La Ku'oko'a. July 31, 1843 was the day when King Kamehameha III uttered his famous statement from the steps of Kawaiaha'o Church: "Ua mau ke ea o ka 'aina i ka pono." (Sovereignty has been preserved because it is righteous). For several years this date was actively celebrated as a national holiday: Ka La Ho'iho'i Ea (Sovereignty Restoration Day). Today's sovereignty activists like to say it was a national holiday for all the remaining years of the Kingdom. However, a book friendly to the activists' general viewpoint says otherwise. Helena G. Allen, "The Betrayal of Liliuokalani" (Glendale CA, Arthur H. Clark Co., 1982), p. 61, says the following: "In the afternoon [July 31, 1843] Kamehameha III went in a solemn procession with his chiefs to Kawaiaha'o Church ...A ten-day celebration of Restoration Day followed, and was annually observed. The last of the Restoration Day celebrations came in 1847. The missionary element in the government were thereafter to declare the celebrations 'too expensive.' ... A thousand special riders, five abreast ... were followed by 2500 regular horsemen ... arrived at the Nuuanu picnic ground in a pouring rain, with spirits undampened. ... It was to be the last of such Hawaiian festivities ..."

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3 and 4: What happened in 2007 when every Democrat in the legislature foolishly voted to establish a permanent holiday on April 30, called "Hawaiian Restoration Day," despite testimony proving that the alleged historical basis for the holiday was completely false and that the pushers of the legislation knew it was false. Are you legislators today so gullible, and are you prepared to be ridiculed like your colleagues were 12 years ago? See the evidence, and the flyer.

Read the full text of House Concurrent Resolution 82 (2007)  
"PROCLAIMING APRIL 30 OF EVERY YEAR AS HAWAIIAN RESTORATION  
DAY." Some highlights are:

"... in a proclamation dated February 25, 1894, President Cleveland declared that "April 30 [of every year] be set aside as a day of solemn fasting, and prayer for the injustice to me [President Grover Cleveland] and my great good sister [Queen Liliuokalani] for her speedy return to the throne" ... the Legislature hereby proclaims April 30 of each year as a special day of remembrance, education, and prayer, for people of all faiths, for Grover Cleveland, a great American who stood for the true values and principles of the United States Constitution, and for "liberty and justice for all"

[https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2007/bills/HCR82\\_.htm](https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2007/bills/HCR82_.htm)

See the status tracking of HCR82 as it got enacted:

<https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2007/status/HCR82.htm>

Webpage title: "Twisting History -- Reverend Kaleo Patterson knowingly used a fake Grover Cleveland proclamation from 1894, cited it as fact, and used it as the basis for a media blitz in 2006 in Hawaii and on the mainland calling for a national day of prayer for restoration of Native Hawaiians and repentance for the overthrow of the monarchy. He repeated his local and mainland propaganda campaign in 2007 and pushed a resolution through the Hawaii legislature citing the joke proclamation as real. In 2008 the Honolulu Star-Bulletin published a story describing the Cleveland proclamation as a fact and refused to publish a correction. In 2010 Patterson made a trip to Caldwell N.J. in furtherance of his hoax, where the town council gave him a check for \$2920 to defray his expenses." [Caldwell N.J. is the birthplace and tomb of President Grover Cleveland]

Read the gory webpage details at

<http://www.angelfire.com/hi5/bigfiles3/fraudpattersononcleveland.html>



The Goebbels Award For Outstanding Use of Media for Propaganda Disguised As Fact was given to the Honolulu Star-Bulletin for its publication of the false historical information and for its refusal to correct the falsehoods despite proof:

<http://bigfiles90.angelfire.com/GoebbelsAwardHonStarBull042308.html>

See the 4-page flyer poking fun at the 2007 legislature for enacting HCR82, and providing photographic proof that the so-called Presidential Proclamation by Grover Cleveland was actually a sarcastic editorial directed against Cleveland by an anti-Cleveland newspaper.

<http://bigfiles90.angelfire.com/AprilFoolsGroverClevelandHawResoFlyer.pdf>



## THE ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS

*Ke Kōmike Ho‘okolokolo*  
*Pō‘alima, Pepeluali 21, 2019*  
*Lumi ‘Aha Kūkā 016*  
*Ke Kapikala Moku‘āina*  
415 South Beretania Street

Re: SB1451 - RELATING TO STATE HOLIDAYS

*Aloha Luna Ho‘omalua* Karl Rhoads, *Hope Luna Ho‘omalua* Glenn Wakai and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary:

The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs **SUPPORTS** SB1451. This bill will reestablish Lā Kū‘oko‘a, Hawaiian Recognition Day, as an official 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.

Thus, the Association respectfully urges the Committee to **PASS** SB1451.

The civic club movement was founded in 1918 by Congressional Delegate Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalaniana‘ole with the creation of the Hawaiian Civic Club; the Association was formally organized in 1959 and has grown to a confederation of over sixty (60) Hawaiian Civic Clubs located throughout the State of Hawai‘i and the United States. The Association is the oldest Hawaiian community-based grassroots organization. The Association is governed by a 16-member Board of Directors; advocates for improved welfare of Native Hawaiians in culture, health, economic development, education, social welfare, and nationhood; and perpetuates and preserves language, history, music, dance and other Native Hawaiian cultural traditions. Mahalo for allowing us to share our *mana‘o*.

*Me ka ‘oia‘i‘o,*

Hailama Farden  
*Pelekikena*

# ***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



Luna O Na Papa Alakai

Committee on Judiciary

Pelekikena  
A. Makana Paris

February 21, 2019  
Room 016  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

Hope Pekekikena  
Ekahi  
Randi Fernandez

Hope Pelekikena  
Elua  
Matthew Gumapac

Re: SB1451 - RELATING TO STATE HOLIDAYS

Puuku  
Denise Kekuna

Aloha Chair Karl Rhoads, Vice-Chair Glenn Wakai and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary:

Kakauolelo Hoopaa  
Sai Furukawa

The Prince Kūhiō Hawaiian Civic Club (PKHCC) **SUPPORTS** SB1451. This bill will re-establish Lā Kū'oko'a, Hawaiian Recognition Day, 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.

Kakauolelo Hooholo  
Palapala  
Kamuela Werner

Founded in 1964, PKHCC was organized to promote the education and social welfare of people of Hawaiian ancestry and objectives include supporting high ethical standards in business, industry and the professional fields of enterprise.

Pelekikena Hala  
Koke  
Yvonne 'PeeWee'  
Ryan

PKHCC urges the committee to **PASS** SB1451.

Luna Alakai  
Kuni Agard  
Puamana Crabbe  
Kanani Pali  
Marlene Sai  
Jennifer Smythe  
Bruce Wong

Me ke aloha,

A. Makana Paris  
Pelekikena  
president@pkhcc.org

Mailing Address:  
P.O. Box 4728  
Honolulu ~ Hawaii  
96812

www.pkhcc.org

Founded in 1964  
by Liliuokalani  
Kawananakoa Morris

**SB-1451**

Submitted on: 2/19/2019 1:55:21 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/21/2019 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Raytan K. Vares	Testifying for Democratic Party of Hawaii-Hawaiian Affairs Caucus	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Senator Rhoads and members of the Judiciary Committee,

The Hawaiian Affairs Caucus submits testimony in support of this measure. In the spirit of continued reconciliation between the State of Hawai'i and the Native Hawaiian community, this measure seeks to establish a state holiday recognizing the independence of the former Kingdom of Hawai'i, LĀ• KĀ«'oko'a. It was once a national holiday for the Kingdom of Hawai'i, initially declared in 1843, and later reaffirmed by the Republic of Hawaii in 1896.

LĀ• KĀ«'oko'a represents a significant period in Hawaii's history by celebrating the recognition of the Kingdom's independence from the world's political and economic super powers of the time, Great Britain, France, and the United States. As it inspired and lended to a greater sense of pride for Kingdom subjects, Hawaiian independence day has done the same for Native Hawaiians and the like today. Efforts to educate the greater community about this significant part of history are ongoing. An annual celebration is held in the month of November at Thomas Square Park with educational panels, speeches, food and music, as well as the City and County of Honolulu's recent dedication of the Kamehameha III statue, Hawaiian flag and pole, and state motto memorials, all at the Thomas Square Park. This legislation builds on that momentum with the restoration of this important holiday.

We urge your committee to pass this measure. Mahalo for your consideration.

**SB-1451**

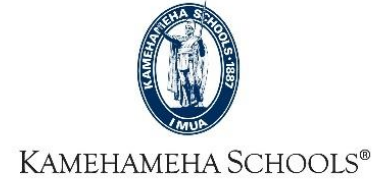
Submitted on: 2/19/2019 10:41:13 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/21/2019 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i	Support	No

Comments:





Senate Committees on Judiciary

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Date: Pepeeuali 21, 2019

Where: Capitol Room 016

**LATE**

### TESTIMONY

Submitted by the listed organizations

RE: **SB 1451, Relating to State Holidays**

E ka Luna Ho‘omalu Rhoads, ka Hope Luna Ho‘omalu Wakai, a me nā Lālā Kenekoa o kēia Kōmike, aloha! INPEACE, Bishop Museum, Papa Ola Lōkahi, and Kamehameha Schools submit this joint-testimony in strong **SUPPORT** of SB 1451, which reestablishes Lā Kū‘oko‘a, Hawaiian Recognition Day, as an official State holiday.

The celebration of Lā Kū‘oko‘a will recognize Hawai‘i’s unique history and cultivate Native Hawaiian identity by familiarizing our community with a substantial achievement of our people – the historical recognition of the Kingdom of Hawai‘i as an independent nation from three global powers. This holiday has and continues to be a point of pride in the Native Hawaiian community that will be elevated by its official recognition as a State holiday.

In recent years, Lā Kū‘oko‘a has been celebrated annually with community festivities in a variety of locations, which have included traditional ceremonies, food, music, cultural arts and practices, and education. The reestablishment of Lā Kū‘oko‘a as an official holiday will expand these festivities throughout Hawai‘i, increasing community awareness about Hawai‘i’s history, culture, and ancestral knowledge and providing more opportunities for cultural education for Native Hawaiians and the larger community.

With this testimony, our organizations collectively submit our **SUPPORT** of SB 1451 and ask you to advance this measure. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**SB-1451**

Submitted on: 2/19/2019 1:20:45 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/21/2019 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Robert Quartero	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Kakou,

I support SB1451 as an accoutrement of the Hawaii Islands.

Regards,

Robert Quartero

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY  
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 21, 2019  
STATE CAPITOL  
415 South Beretania Street  
Conference Room 016



Aloha Senators Rhoads and Wakai,

My name is Naomi Nihipali and I am a graduate student at the University of Hawaii at Mānoa, Myron B. Thompson School of Social work. I am testifying in **support of SB1451** which aims to reestablish Lā Ku'oko'a as an official state holiday.

Growing up, I never celebrated this holiday. Upon returning to the University of Hawai'i, I was introduced to the holiday and completed my own research, recognizing the events leading up to this celebratory day. With knowledge comes power. This knowledge has helped to shape my identity today as a kanaka scholar. This past year was the first year I was able to share this knowledge with my own children and educate them about Lā Ku'oko'a.

I support the recognition of Lā Ku'oko'a for all of Hawai'i to learn about the true history of our nation. I support the recognition of Lā Ku'oko'a to help our people restore a part of history that has been lost to many of our families for generations. I support the recognition of Lā Ku'oko'a for our future generations, so all keiki of Hawai'i will grow up learning about Hawai'i's true history.

Me ke aloha,  
Naomi Nihipali  
naomifn@hawaii.edu

**SB-1451**

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 6:57:35 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/21/2019 9:00:00 AM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea Armitage	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

Aloha. I am testifying as a private citizen.

I have no problem with the State of Hawaii adopting La Ku`oko`a, Hawaiian Recognition Day as a State holiday. However, I do have concerns about adding another state holiday to November, when there are already 2 -3 depending on whether it is an election year. The 28th is often very close to Thanksgiving. We need a state holiday in October, as there are none now since Columbus Day was repealed..

But more importantly, I believe it should not replace President's Day, which is an important national holiday, and the only holiday in February. I feel strongly that it should replace Good Friday because Good Friday often falls near, and sometime on, Kuhio Day. But more importantly, Good Friday is a purely Christian holiday. Unlike Christmas, it has not been secularized. There are no Good Friday sales or other secular events celebrating Good Friday.

Although years ago the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals upheld it as a State Holiday because it was part of the State's collective bargaining agreement, I believe Good Friday is an unconstituional establishment of religion, in violation of the first amendment requirement of the separation of church and state. If I were a Christian I would be insulted that they turned a very serious religious holiday into a secular, state holiday. As a Jew, I believe it makes me an "other," not really belonging to Hawaii because I don't observe it. As you are well aware, there are many, many non-Christians in Hawaii. Hawaii prides itseelf on its diversity. Having Good Friday as a state holiday makes a mockery of that.

So if this measure passes, I would ask that you please put the holiday in October and repeal Good Friday as a state holiday. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.