



**SB695**  
RELATING TO STATE HOLIDAYS  
Ke Kōmike ‘Aha Kenekoa o ka Hana Aupuni

Pepeluali 18, 2021

3:00 p.m.

Lumi 016

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) offers testimony in **SUPPORT** of SB695, which would establish Lā Kū‘oko‘a as a state holiday on the fourth Friday of November.

Reestablishing Lā Kū‘oko‘a as an official holiday would restore 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. 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. Unfortunately, currently, Lā Kū‘oko‘a passes by each year without formal recognition by the State.

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 in November 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.

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

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

650 SOUTH KING STREET 10<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
TELEPHONE: (808) 768-8500 • FAX: (808) 768-5563 • INTERNET: [www.honolulu.gov/hr](http://www.honolulu.gov/hr)

RICK BLANGIARDI  
MAYOR



NOEL T. ONO  
ACTING DIRECTOR  
FLORENCIO C. BAGUIO, JR.  
ACTING ASSISTANT  
DIRECTOR

February 17, 2021

The Honorable Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Chair  
and Members of the Committee on Government Operations  
The Senate, Room 223  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Moriwaki and Members of the Committee:

Subject: Senate Bill 695  
Relating to State Holidays

The City and County of Honolulu understands and appreciates the cultural significance of Lā Kū'oko'a, Hawaiian Recognition Day. Since this matter will require negotiations with the various public unions through the collective bargaining process, the City's sole concern with SB 695 is the added cost to the Public Employer should it become a paid State Holiday as the current election day holiday only occurs every other year while this holiday would be recognized every year.

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

Sincerely,

Noel T. Ono  
Acting Director



February 12, 2021

Senate's Committee on Government Operations  
Hawai'i State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**RE: Support Senate Bill 695 with Requested Amendments**

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

I am writing in SUPPORT with requested amendments for Senate Bill 695 on behalf of the LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, Hawaii's oldest and largest policy and political LGBTQIA+ focused organization. SB 695 would reestablish Lā Kū'oko'a, Hawaiian Recognition Day, as an official state holiday, and repeals election day as an official state holiday.

The LGBT Caucus fully supports reestablishing Lā Kū'oko'a as an official state holiday but we are requesting the following two (2) amendments on page 4:

1. Strike-out line 7; and
2. Reinstate lines 17 & 18

The LGBT Caucus is requesting these amendments to keep Election Day as state holiday for the following reasons:

- Good Friday holds no secular purpose and is solely a Christian remembrance;
- Hawai'i is the most religiously diverse state in the nation and there are no other Hawai'i state holidays that are solely based on any one religion;
- Having Good Friday as a state holiday is a violation of the separation of state & church;
- Eliminating Election Day as state holiday sends the wrong message about the importance of everyone voting and limits the sites for voter service centers can be placed; and
- This is clean swap on the number of days for state holidays for contract negotiations.

It should be noted that Hawai'i is only one of 12 states that has Good Friday as a state holiday.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration,

Michael Golojuch, Jr.  
Chair  
LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i

Statement Before The  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS**

Thursday, February 18, 2021

3:00 PM

Conference Room 016 and Videoconference

**SB 695**  
**RELATING TO STATE HOLIDAYS.**

Chair MORIWAKI, Vice Chair DELA CRUZ, and Members of the  
Senate Government Operations Committee

Common Cause Hawaii provides commitments on SB 695, which (1) recognizes La Ku'oko'a, Hawaiian Recognition Day, as an official state holiday and (2) repeals election day as an official state holiday.

Common Cause Hawaii is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, grassroots organization dedicated to reforming government and strengthening democracy through voting modernization efforts.

Common Cause Hawaii notes that Hawaii is a vote-by-mail state with voter service centers that currently open 10 days prior to primary and general elections on government facilities. Election workers – both administrators, staff, and volunteers – are the backbone of our democracy and Common Cause Hawaii thanks them for their service. Common Cause Hawaii wants to ensure that there will not be any issue or difficulty with locating voter service centers on government facilities, especially for general election Tuesday, if election day is removed as a state holiday. For the 2020 elections, there were people who confirmed that they still wanted to vote in person on general election day and showed up to the voter service centers, resulting in long lines forming. This could disrupt government operations, if it were not a state holiday.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on SB 695. If you have further questions of me, please contact me at [sma@commoncause.org](mailto:sma@commoncause.org).

Very respectfully yours,

Sandy Ma  
Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii



**HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION**  
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

RANDY PERREIRA, Executive Director • Tel: 808.543.0011 • Fax: 808.528.0922

The Thirty-First Legislature, State of Hawaii  
The Senate  
Committee on Government Operations

Testimony by  
Hawaii Government Employees Association

February 18, 2021

S.B. 695 – RELATING TO STATE HOLIDAYS

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO supports the intent of H.B. 695 which reestablishes La Ku`oko`a – Hawaiian Recognition Day – as an official state holiday.

The increasing desire to recognize and honor Hawai`i's past and the recent coinciding change to convert to an all-mail election in November 2020 marks an opportune moment to discuss, and potentially adjust, our official state holidays. While the Legislature is empowered to designate state holidays, we reserve the exclusive right to negotiate the terms, conditions, and impact of holidays on included employees with the Employer. We respectfully request that should this measure continue to move through the legislative process, the Employer initiate collective bargaining negotiations with all exclusive representatives.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of S.B. 695.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira  
Executive Director



# KE ONE O KĀKUHHEWA

O'ahu Council of the  
Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs

## SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2021**  
CONFERENCE ROOM 016 AND VIDEO  
STATE CAPITOL  
415 South Beretania Street

**Re: SUPPORT FOR SB695**

Aloha Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Delacruz, and members of the committee on Government Operations,

My name is Benton Kealii Pang and I am the president for the O'ahu Council of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs. I am writing in strong **support of SB695**, reestablishing Lā Kū'oko'a, Hawaiian Recognition Day, as an official state holiday.

At the 57th annual convention of the Association of Hawaiian Civic clubs, which we are a member, 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, Ke One O Kākuhihewa respectfully urges the Committee to **PASS** SB695.

Ke One O Kākuhihewa is a native Hawaiian council made up of 24 civic clubs on the island of O'ahu. Our oldest member, Hawaiian Civic Club of Honolulu was established by Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalaniana'ole on December 7, 1918.

Sincerely,

Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.

BENTON KEALII PANG, PH.D.-  
HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUB OF  
HONOLULU  
PELEKIKENA

JACOB KA'ŌMAKAOKALĀ AKI-  
KING KAMEHAMEHA HCC  
HOPE PELEKIKENA

GEORGIANA NAVARRO-  
MĀKAHA HCC  
HOPE PELEKIKENA 'ELUA

LEATRICE KAUAI-HCC OF  
HONOLULU  
PU'UKŪ

ROTH PUAHALA -KING  
KAMEHAMEHA HCC  
PELEKIKENA IHO NEI

TERI LOO-KO'OLAUPOKO HCC  
KĀKAU 'ŌLELO

CHRISTINE "CHRISSEY" ANJO-  
PEARL HARBOR HCC  
HOLE KĀKAU 'ŌLELO

'AHAHUI SIWILA HAWAII' O  
KAPOLEI  
KALA HOLDEN

ALI'I PAUAI HCC  
KEHAULANI LUM

'EWA-PU'ULOLO HCC  
MARLEEN KAU'I SERRAO

HCC OF HONOLULU  
ANITA NAONE

KAILUA HCC  
MAPUANA DE SILVA

KALIHI-PĀLAMA HCC  
JUANITA BROWN  
KAWAMOTO

KING KAMEHAMEHA HCC  
LETANI PELTIER

KO'OLAULOLO HCC  
RANAE "TESSIE"  
FONOIMOANA

KO'OLAUPOKO HCC  
ROCKY KALUHIWA

LUALUALEI HCC  
SHIRLINE HO

MĀKAHA HCC  
LUANN LANKFORD-  
FABORITO

MAUNALUA HCC  
ROSE KITTY SIMONDS

NA LANI 'EHA HCC  
R. KELANI RAMOS

NĀNĀIKAPONO HCC  
JAYCINE HICKS

PAPAKŌLE'A HCC  
KEALI'I LUM

PEARL HARBOR HCC  
ANTOINETTE LEE

PRINCE KŪHIŌ HCC  
A. MAKANA PARIS

PRINCESS KAHANU HCC  
DREANA KALILI

PRINCESS KAI'ULANI HCC  
RUSTY RODENHURST

QUEEN EMMA HCC  
RAWLETTE P. KRAUT

HCC OF WĀHIAWA  
NOELANI DEVINGENT

HCC OF WAIALUA  
MAKALAPUA CASSON-  
FISHER

WAI'ANAE HCC  
CYNTHIA ENRIQUEZ

WAIKĪKI HCC  
DWYNN KAMAI

HCC OF WAIMĀNALO  
LOUANNA KAIO

# ***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-695**

Submitted on: 2/17/2021 3:19:34 PM

Testimony for GVO on 2/18/2021 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Leatrice Maluhia Kauahi	Testifying for Ka Lei Papahi O Kakuhihewa	Support	No

Comments:

We submit testimony in support of SB695. We are members of Ka Lei Papahi O Kakuhihewa and are studying Hula, Olelo Hawaii and Oli. We believe the history of Hawaii need to be protected at every level possible and having a holiday in recognition of our history we ask for your support of SB695.

Mahalo.

**LATE**



**FEBRUARY 17, 2021**

**TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 695**

**Aloha Committee on Government Operations - Honorable Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Chair and Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair,**

**The Hawaiian Affairs Caucus of the DPH strongly supports the passage of SB 695. The Native Hawaiian community has celebrated this historic event within the Hawaiian Community for many years and we mahalo the maker of this bill for recognizing this significant event in supporting the Native Hawaiian community to officially declare Lā Kū'oko'a, a state holiday.**

**“La Ku'oko'a, Hawaiian Independence Day. November 28, 1843, that the Ali'i Timoteo Ha'alilio succeeded in obtaining the signatures of the authorities of Great Britain and France on a treaty recognizing Hawai'i as a sovereign nation.”**

**Please pass SB695.**

**Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.**

**Juanita Mahienaena Brown Kawamoto  
Luna Hoomalu  
Hawaiian Affairs Caucus  
Democratic Party of Hawaii**

**SB-695**

Submitted on: 2/14/2021 9:17:42 PM

Testimony for GVO on 2/18/2021 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Eileen McKee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support the passage of SB695.

Mahalo,  
Eileen McKee

**SB-695**

Submitted on: 2/15/2021 12:14:22 PM

Testimony for GVO on 2/18/2021 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Leimomi Khan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support. LĀ• KĀ«'oko'a, Hawaiian Recognition Day, was widely celebrated as Hawai'i became an emerging power in the Pacific among the global powers. LĀ• KĀ«'oko'a was among the codified list of national holidays enacted by the Republic of Hawaii in 1896. Once again, recognizing LĀ• KĀ«'oko'a as a "State Holiday" would help raise awareness in Hawai'i and abroad regarding the true history of Hawai'i, its rich culture, language, and values. It is a history about a proud and friendly Hawaiian Nation, the struggles of Hawaii's own indigenous people, and its achievements.

**SB-695**

Submitted on: 2/16/2021 8:41:27 PM

Testimony for GVO on 2/18/2021 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dr. Noe Noe Wong-Wilson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha kākou,

Please accept this testimony in support of SB 695, RELATNG TO STATE HOLIDAYS which would declare Lā Kāōko'a as a State Holiday. As you know, Lā Kāōko'a was recognized as a special holiday by the Kingdom of Hawai'i and marked a significant occasion in our history when Hawai'i's independence was acknowledged. This holiday was no longer recognized once the islands were declared a territory of the U.S. In the long wait for reconciliation by the United States over the impact of their domination over a peace-loving people, it seems only fitting that this day be once again celebrated and our true Hawaiian history be reclaimed and acknowledged.

I urge you to pass this bill from committee as written.

Mahalo nui.

**SB-695**

Submitted on: 2/17/2021 8:09:34 AM

Testimony for GVO on 2/18/2021 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Juanita Brown Kawamoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Committee on Government Operations - Honorable Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Chair and Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair,

I strongly support the passage of SB 695. My ohana, for no less than 7 generations, has awaited the day when this recognition to acknowledge the independent spirit of our Native Hawaiian Ali'i. iwi, Kaholokula-Smith-Akina ohana, and future generations to come can now share with the rest of Hawaii and the nation the significance of what this Holiday means to the Native Hawaiian community!

**La Ku'oko'a, Hawaiian Independence Day.** "November 28, 1843, that the Ali'i Timoteo Ha'alilio succeeded in obtaining the signatures of the authorities of Great Britain and France on a treaty **recognizing** Hawai'i as a sovereign nation.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Juanita Mahienaena Brown Kawamoto and ohana

**SB-695**

Submitted on: 2/17/2021 2:04:14 PM

Testimony for GVO on 2/18/2021 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jessica Page	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**Aloha kākou,**

**My name is Jessica Page and I live in Liliha. I'm writing this testimony as a Filipina American ally of Native Hawaiians, and in the lens of a Masters in Social Work Student at UH Mānoa. I write in favor of reestablishing Lā'ā Kā'ōko'a as a State Holiday. I assert the positive impact of cultural holidays and representation on BIPOC communities' well-being using my own experience in a professional setting and a personal setting, as well as some research.**

**In California, Cesar Chavez Day and Larry Itliong Day are recognized as state holidays. Chavez and Itliong were two of the respective Mexican and Filipino leaders of the 1965 Delano Grape Strike that resulted in improved working conditions for farm workers and for laborers in general, many of whom were Latino, Asian and poor. I was able to witness the benefits of cultural holidays within my own position as a substance misuse counselor a few years ago in East Side San Jose. Being able to share Itliong's and Chavez' legacies on these holidays sparked engagement within my client groups in a unique way -- for most of our lives, our cultures were not celebrated on the state level. My community felt great pride in being represented statewide and for some who didn't have the privilege of an Ethnic Studies education, celebrating these two holidays within our institution was one of the first times they'd heard about their own community's history within the US. It initiated an environment of rapport between our clients and our agency in a way that made them feel seen.**

**On a personal note: as a consumer of mental health services myself, I was comforted by the fact that cultural movements and holidays were recognized by my mental health agency in San Jose. As a woman of color, it was amazing to know that institutions within my community acknowledged the need for representation of marginalized communities. Seeing Dia de Los Muertos altars and a BLM mural, among other celebratory symbols in that agency's lobby, fostered rapport within this institution. Similarly, the State of Hawai'i could take a step with Lā'ā Kā'ōko'a by officially recognizing it.**

**As mentioned, just having cultural holidays recognized by the state may spark conversations to those who may not have previously been aware of the history. In**



this case, if Hawai'i establishes LĀ• KĀ«'oko'a as a holiday, residents might be more inclined to find out more about the history of the Hawaiian Kingdom. I know that when I first heard of LĀ• Ho'i Ho'i Ea in my kumu Kate Kahoano's course, I was inspired to learn more about the history of the Honolulu ahupua'a on a level I never did before. It resulted in a greater understanding and aloha for the place I live. Learning about the different ahupua'a on the Ā• ina can also help me serve my social work clients in a way that honors their sense of place.

Using the "People, Place, and Space" Framework (Rose & Thompson, 2012), I would categorize state holidays as "soft infrastructure." They define this as "shared values, interests and understandings of place (including physical space) articulated by its members... that facilitates community action in achieving social change." Additionally, they assert that "Mental health promotion involved bringing local residents together in purposeful action to challenge negative notions of place and create new understandings of neighbourhood to support empowerment." In recognizing a crucial day in Hawaiian culture, the State can make strides in fostering improved mental well-being of its indigenous residents. It can increase the sense of pride that Kanaka have of their identity and empower them to explore the connections between history, their genealogy, and their mental health.

I'm going to abstain from commenting on removing Election Day from the list of State Holidays.

Thank you very much for considering my testimony.

Jessica Page

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## References

Rose, V. K., & Thompson, L. M. (2012). Space, place and people: A community

development approach to mental health promotion in a disadvantaged community.

*Community Development Journal*, 47(4), 604-611. doi:10.1093/cdj/bss024

**LATE**

**SB-695**

Submitted on: 2/18/2021 10:42:40 AM

Testimony for GVO on 2/18/2021 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Hayden Winchester	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Greetings,

My name is Imaikalani Winchester and I am submitting my testimony in strong support of SB695 which reestablishes La Kuokoa (Hawaiian Independence Day) as an official paid holiday.

The Hawaiian Kingdom was established as an independent nation state on November 28, 1843 and was officially recognized by the US, Britain and France. This achievement heralded the advancement of the progressive Hawaiian nation. In the 1893 overthrow, international laws were violated by the US. US president Grover Cleveland, and the US congress, considered this action to be a great abuse of American power and an "act of war." Violating both US and Hawaiian constitutional laws, including international treaties that govern nations, the denationalization of Hawaii included the banning of Hawaiian language as well as national holidays including La Kuokoa and La Hoihoi Ea (Hawaiian Restoration Day). The U.S. further admitted to this wrong in Public Law 103-150, also known as the Apology Resolution of 1993. In 2021 the truth of the illegal and belligerent American occupation cannot be hidden or covered up any longer. Justice cannot be blind or deaf to the truth.

This bill would bring us one step closer to justice in addressing the ongoing theft and exploitation of Hawaiian lands illegal seized, without legal consent or compensation. Restoring the celebration of ka La Kuokoal as a paid holiday would be an important step towards restorative justice by the occupying settler "state" to make things pono.

I implore you to vote in favor of this bill that recognizes Hawaiian Indendence as a formal holiday and would allow all who reside in Hawaii to understand deeply the ongoing impacts to Hawaiian sovereignty and the role that the US continues to play as occupiers of our stolen inheritance.

Thank you for voting to pass this bill,

Imai Winchester

**LATE**

**SB-695**

Submitted on: 2/18/2021 12:04:41 PM

Testimony for GVO on 2/18/2021 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I support this bill because I believe in the importance of the event. Making it a holiday will further raise awareness of why the day is celebrated, what it represents, and how that impacts all of us as residents of Hawai'i.

We celebrate Statehood as a significant milestone in our history. This day is just as important and should be recognized.

Mahalo for your time and consideration of this testimony,

Robert Hayes

**LATE**

**SB-695**

Submitted on: 2/18/2021 12:31:49 PM

Testimony for GVO on 2/18/2021 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ginet Hayes	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this measure and urge the Senate to support and pass this bill into law.

**LATE**

**SB-695**

Submitted on: 2/18/2021 12:26:47 PM

Testimony for GVO on 2/18/2021 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Nicole Yoshimoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am submitting my testimony in strong support of SB695 which reestablishes La Kuokoa (Hawaiian Independence Day) as an official paid holiday.

I implore you to vote in favor of this bill that recognizes Hawaiian Independence as a formal holiday.

Mahalo, Nicole

**LATE**

**SB-695**

Submitted on: 2/18/2021 12:37:09 PM

Testimony for GVO on 2/18/2021 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Cheyenne Jesse-Kealanahele	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LÄ• KÅ«'oko'a was a day that all of Hawaii remembers. It was the day that signifies our independence as a nation to any foreign entities. It is a day of great remembrance and importance to all of our future generations. Let this day be a observed holiday so that people will know about Hawaiian history.

**LATE**

**SB-695**

Submitted on: 2/18/2021 12:56:00 PM

Testimony for GVO on 2/18/2021 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Samantha Pa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou,

‘O au ‘o Samantha a **kako‘o piha** au i kā‘ia mana‘o e ho‘okumu hou i ka IĀ kā‘oko‘a. He mea nui kā‘ia IĀ no mākou, ka Hawai‘i ho‘i. He kumu kaiapuni au, a‘o au i ka papa 3, ma ka papa, a‘o ‘ia nā haumāna e pili ana i ka IĀ kā‘oko‘a a no ke aha he mea nui kā‘ia IĀ nui i nā kā naka Hawai‘i. Inā lilo kā‘ia IĀ nui i IĀ nui hou a laha hou ‘ia a puni ka pae ‘Ā ina, e ‘ike ana nā kā naka a pau a puni kā‘ia pae ‘Ā ina i ka mea nui o kā‘ia IĀ ko‘iko‘i, ‘a‘ole nā kanaka Hawai‘i a me nā keiki kaiapuni wale nā .

Mahalo nui iā ‘oukou no ka ho‘olohe ‘ana mai i ko‘u mana‘o kā ko‘o o kā‘ia pila.

Na‘u nā ,

Samantha

**LATE**

To Whom It May Concern,

I, Mrs. Keolani Noa is in full support of bill Sb 695, Lā Kū'oko'a as a Hawaii State Holiday in reverence and celebration of Hawai'i and Its fascinating historical account as a Kingdom. The Imagination of living truth as Hawai'i seat as a Nation among other Kingdom Nations of the world.

Malama 'oia 'i'o, sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mrs. Keolani Noa". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mrs Keolani Noa



**LATE**

**SB-695**

Submitted on: 2/18/2021 1:21:44 PM

Testimony for GVO on 2/18/2021 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Alohilani Chavez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

If this bill is passed Hawaiians will be closer to their freedom and oppression.

**SB-695**

Submitted on: 2/18/2021 1:53:16 PM

Testimony for GVO on 2/18/2021 3:00:00 PM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kui Keliipuleole	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support reestablishing LÄ• KÅ«'oko'a, Hawaiian Recognition Day, as a Hawai'i state holiday.

**SB-695**

Submitted on: 2/18/2021 1:35:27 PM

Testimony for GVO on 2/18/2021 3:00:00 PM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Trevor Atkins	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Moriwaki and members of the Governance committee,

Lā• Kā•‘oko‘a is rapidly growing as a popular holiday in Hawaii. It was once our favorite holiday. To ignore this holiday is to denationalize the Hawaiian Kingdom, which is a war crime in the laws of occupation.

Do you want to commit a war crime? Or do you want to be a hero to the Hawaiian people today. I stand with thousands of Hawaiians who celebrate our independence every year on November 28th.

The cost of one paid holiday is expensive, but the pride of a nation is priceless. Consider your role in the history books today.

Ke aloha ‘Ä• ina,

Trevor Atkins, Makiki

**LATE**

**SB-695**

Submitted on: 2/18/2021 2:00:47 PM

Testimony for GVO on 2/18/2021 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kui Dray	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**My name is Kui Dray and I am in favor of passing this bill making La ku oko'a and official paid holiday.**

**I say this because La ku 'oko'a is an important holiday for hawaiians across the nation. The day November, 28, 1843 was the day when Brittan, France, and the U.S, recognized Hawai'i as an independent nation. This day represents a big accomplishment for the people of this land and should be celebrated across Hawai'i.**

**During the overthrow in 1893 the hawaiian culture along with its holidays became lost. And if la ku 'oko'a is made an official paid holiday it can be restored. This can also give the all the people here that didn't know about this day to learn about the history about our islands and to become educated.**

**That is my Mana'o about this bill. It would be great if this special day could become and official holiday.**

**- Kui Dray**

**SB-695**

Submitted on: 2/18/2021 2:07:47 PM

Testimony for GVO on 2/18/2021 3:00:00 PM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Brandon Ikaika Bernaldes	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This day is more deserving of the State's observation in comparison to other holidays already being observed.

**LATE**

**SB-695**

Submitted on: 2/18/2021 2:08:01 PM

Testimony for GVO on 2/18/2021 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kaonohi Borden	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**Aloha,**

**My name is Kaonohi Borden. I am writing in support of SB695 reestablishing La Kuoko'a (Hawaiian Independence Day). This bill would be an important step in correcting the injustices taken against the Kingdom of Hawaii.**

**Creating a state holiday for La Kuoko'a (Hawaiian Independence Day) would be a great step in the right direction.**

**Mahalo,**

**Kaonohi Borden**

**LATE**

**SB-695**

Submitted on: 2/18/2021 2:08:40 PM

Testimony for GVO on 2/18/2021 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Consuelo Gouveia	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, My name is Consuelo Gouveia. I am writing in support of SB695 reestablishing La Kuoko'a (Hawaiian Independence Day). This bill would be an important step in correcting the injustices taken against the Kingdom of Hawaii. Creating a state holiday for La Kuoko'a (Hawaiian Independence Day) would be a great step in the right direction.

Mahalo,

Consuelo Gouveia

**SB-695**

Submitted on: 2/18/2021 2:10:26 PM

Testimony for GVO on 2/18/2021 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Stuart Sakoeki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in support of SB695. La Kuokoa as a holiday would be a great way to educate everyone on this important day that was celebrated in the Kingdom of Hawaii. Continuing to recognize this holiday would be a great tribute to all the people of Hawaii--non-Hawaiians included.

Mahalo, Stuart Sakoeki



**LATE**

**SB-695**

Submitted on: 2/18/2021 2:08:48 PM

Testimony for GVO on 2/18/2021 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Elijah Gamboa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, My name is Elijah Gamboa. I am writing in support of SB695 reestablishing La Kuoko'a (Hawaiian Independence Day). This bill would be an important step in correcting the injustices taken against the Kingdom of Hawaii. Creating a state holiday for La Kuoko'a (Hawaiian Independence Day) would be a great step in the right direction.

Mahalo,

Elijah Gamboa

**LATE**

**SB-695**

Submitted on: 2/18/2021 2:10:47 PM

Testimony for GVO on 2/18/2021 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Nanea Kanahele-Nations	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Nanea Kanahele-Nations. I am writing in support of SB695 reestablishing La Kuoko'a (Hawaiian Independence Day). This bill would be an important step in correcting the injustices taken against the Kingdom of Hawaii. Creating a state holiday for La Kuoko'a (Hawaiian Independence Day) would be a great step in the right direction.

Mahalo,

Nanea Kanahele-Nations

**LATE**

**SB-695**

Submitted on: 2/18/2021 2:11:44 PM

Testimony for GVO on 2/18/2021 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kamalei Kaina	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, My name is Kamalei Kaina. I am writing in support of SB695 reestablishing La Kuoko'a (Hawaiian Independence Day). This bill would be an important step in correcting the injustices taken against the Kingdom of Hawaii. Creating a state holiday for La Kuoko'a (Hawaiian Independence Day) would be a great step in the right direction. Mahalo heahea 'oe, Kamalei Kaina

**LATE**

**SB-695**

Submitted on: 2/18/2021 2:11:45 PM

Testimony for GVO on 2/18/2021 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha, My name is Kyla Kaiulani Kaauamo. I am writing in support of SB695 reestablishing La Kuoko'a (Hawaiian Independence Day). This bill would be an important step in correcting the injustices taken against the Kingdom of Hawaii. Creating a state holiday for La Kuoko'a (Hawaiian Independence Day) would be a great step in the right direction. Mahalo, Kyla Kaiulani Kaauamo Halau Ku Mana Grade 5

**LATE**

**SB-695**

Submitted on: 2/18/2021 2:12:10 PM

Testimony for GVO on 2/18/2021 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Gabriel laea	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**Aloha,**

**I think the governance should support La Kuokoa as a paid state holiday because it is the day that Hawaii was recognized as a country. I think it should be a state holiday so that Hawaiians know that we are independent. It will be a reminder to people that Hawaii was a country and the queen was illegally overthrown. This bill would bring the state of Hawaii one step closer to justice in addressing the ongoing theft and exploitation of Hawaiian lands illegally seized. Thank you for your time**

**LATE**

**SB-695**

Submitted on: 2/18/2021 2:13:30 PM  
Testimony for GVO on 2/18/2021 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Elikolani Correa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Elikolani. I am writing in support of SB695 reestablishing La Kuoko'a (Hawaiian Independence Day). This bill would be an important step in correcting the injustices taken against the Kingdom of Hawaii. Creating a state holiday for La Kuoko'a (Hawaiian Independence Day) would be a great step in the right direction.

Mahalo,

Elikolani

**LATE**

**SB-695**

Submitted on: 2/18/2021 2:15:10 PM

Testimony for GVO on 2/18/2021 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ka'imipono Inofinada	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**Addressed to Chair Moriwaki and members of the Governance Committee,**

**Aloha Mai, today I'm here to present my testimony subjecting LÄ• KÅ«'oko'a as a paid state holiday, and why should the Governance Committee support it. I'm Ka'imipono Inofinada, resident of Kalihi Kai and I'll gladly support this bill.**

**First off, what's LÄ• KÅ«'oko'a and it's importance? Because on November 28 1843, the Anglo-Fracno Declaration was signed, therefore recognizing the Hawaiian Kingdom as an independent nation. As three representatives were sent by King Kamehameha III to do this, William Richards, Timoteo Ha'alilio, and Sir George Simpson. The first to recognize us, the Hawaiian kingdom, was King Leapo of Belgium, as England and other nations soon followed.**

**From learning of the history of LÄ• KÅ«'oko'a, it's enough to understand of why November 28 is so important to Hawaiians and the Hawaiian Kingdom, for Timoteo Ha'alilio did more than Queen Lili'uokalani, mainly because his actions still stand, as for the Hawaiian Kingdom is still here and never did leave. Proof of this is the Overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom, taking place on January 18th 1893, for only that we lost our government, nothing else. The Hawaiian Kingdom is still here, we never left.**

**Now that I've stated two reasons why LÄ• KÅ«'oko'a should be a paid state holiday, if you're still not convinced of why, therefore I shall present a third and final reason.**

**The price of a paid holiday is highly expensive, but for once, don't consider the price of making the holiday. Consider the people. Consider the importance. Consider the Hawaiian Kingdom. There are so many things to consider, as there are so many reasons why also. Would the price of making this true really matter, compared to how happy the people of the Hawaiian Kingdom would be? If you and the committee were to really make this true, we the Hawaiian Kingdom would raise our respects for the state indefinitely. Consider being in the books of history, read by millions of keiki and people, your name being remembered in people of the next generation. Would you wanna be remembered as someone who supported the Hawaiian Kingdom, who supported the royal bloodline of the Hawaiian people and kingdom? Or would you like to be remembered as one who opposed Hawai'i and it's people, remembered as someone that repeated the history who opposed KÄ• naka Maoli? Decide now, your decision will be remembered a thousand years from now.**

**Written with aloha and mā• na,**

**Ka'imipono Inofinada of Kalihi Kai**



**LATE**

**SB-695**

Submitted on: 2/18/2021 2:16:02 PM

Testimony for GVO on 2/18/2021 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Puna Keliipuleole	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hawaii's independence should be observed by the State of Hawai'i rather than observing the independent of the Government body illegally occupying the Kingdom of Hawai'i. Restore this holiday as a stand alone holiday rather than a replacement. Hawaiians deserve better than that.