

HAWAII
STATE
FOUNDATION
ON
CULTURE
AND
THE ARTS

TESTIMONY OF
RONALD K. YAMAKAWA

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
ON
March 25, 2009

S. B. 1334, SD 2



RELATING TO HAWAIIAN MUSIC AND DANCE

LINDA LINGLE
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Comptroller

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RONALD K. YAMAKAWA
Executive Director

Chair Carroll and members of the committee, I am Ronald Yamakawa, chairperson of the Museum of Hawaiian Music and Dance Committee appointed by the Legislature to conduct the feasibility study for the museum. Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you on S. B. 1334, SD 2, which the committee supports.

The Museum of Hawaiian Music and Dance Committee provided recommendations to the Legislature on the feasibility of establishing and maintaining a Museum of Hawaiian Music and Dance in January 2009, after an exhaustive and enriching year of research, dialog and discussion. The report recommended the state to proceed with the construction of the museum, identified a preferred site in Kakaako, and addressed related considerations.

As we are experiencing tough economic times, I defer to the testimony of the Department of Accounting and General Services regarding making an appropriation for this project. This is a worthy investment into the proud and noble history of Hawaii's music and dance.

Building a museum to celebrate the culture of Hawaii would manifest a

timeless tribute to art forms that are a part of us all and more importantly,
an integral part of Hawaii's future.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR



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TESTIMONY
OF
AARON S. FUJIOKA
ADMINISTRATOR
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE

TO THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE
ON
HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

March 25, 2009

9:30 AM

SB 1334, SD2

RELATING TO HAWAIIAN MUSIC AND DANCE.

Chair Carroll Vice-Chair Shimabukuro and committee members, thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 1334, SD2.

For clarification, the State Procurement Office recommends amending page 3, line 3, as the Hawaii Public Procurement Code HRS Chapter 103D is not applicable to non-governmental bodies:

- (2) Enter into such contracts and leases as necessary for the location of the museum for Hawaiian music and dance, ~~without regard to chapter 103D;~~

Thank you.

Hawai'i Tourism Authority

Hawai'i Convention Center, 1801 Kalākaua Avenue, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96815
Website: www.hawaii-tourism-authority.org

Telephone: (808) 973-2255
Fax: (808) 973-2253

Testimony of
Lloyd I. Unebasami
Interim President and Chief Executive Officer
Hawai'i Tourism Authority

on
S.B. 1334, S.D. 2
Relating to Hawaiian Music and Dance

House Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
Wednesday, March 25, 2009
9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 329

The Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) supports S.B. 1334, S.D. 2, which establishes the Museum of Hawaiian Music and Dance, outlines the various steps that must be taken in order to make the Museum a reality, and provides funding for the design and environmental assessment of the museum facilities.

The HTA provides the following comments:

- Act 230, SLH 2007 was signed into law by the Governor on June 13, 2007, establishing the Museum of Hawaiian Music and Dance Committee to determine the appropriate type of institution that should be established, its location, possible financing mechanisms and the completion of an initial business plan. This measure also appropriated funds to HTA to assist the Committee and identified HTA as a member of the Committee.

- Act 48, SLH 2008 was signed into law by the Governor on April 30, 2008 to allow the Committee's extension through June 30, 2009 and to request a final report to the Legislature on the Committee's findings and recommendations. The report submitted in January 2009 recommended the state to proceed with the construction of the museum, identified a preferred site and addressed related considerations.

- The HTA supports the establishment of a Museum of Hawaiian Music and Dance as it will enable the work on this project to continue as well as support the goals of two initiatives in the 2005-2015 Hawai'i Tourism Strategic Plan:

- Hawaiian Culture and Community: *Honor and perpetuate the Hawaiian culture and community.*

- Tourism Product Development: *Provide a diverse and quality tourism product unique to Hawai'i that enhances the Hawai'i visitor experience and enriches residents' quality of life.*

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.

THE HAWAIIAN MUSIC HALL OF FAME

Operated by the Hawaiian Music Foundation
P.O. Box 4717
Honolulu, Hawaii 96812-4717
Phone: (808) 259-2610
Fax: (808) 545-4015
hawaiimusicmuseum.org

March 24, 2009

Chair Mele Carroll
Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 329
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: SB1334 SD2
Committee on Hawaiian affairs
State of Hawaii, House of representatives
Hearing Date: March 25, 2009
Time: 9:30 am
Conference Room 329
Chairperson: Representative Mele Carroll

Aloha Madam Chair and Members:

On behalf of the Hawaiian Music Hall of Fame ("HMHF"), I respectfully submit this testimony in strong support of SB 1334 SD2, Relating to Hawaiian Music and Dance.

This legislation was heard by the Senate committees on Economic Development and Technology ("EDT") and Tourism ("TSM") on February 11, 2009 where it received broad based and enthusiastic support. Based on the bill's merits and the testimony in support, your EDT and TSM colleagues found that,

"... the people of Hawaii deserve to have music, dance and art that is representative of their culture, background, and heritage be preserved for generations of people to observe and appreciate."

We wholeheartedly agree. Notwithstanding the enthusiastic support SB 1334 has received, the obvious question is whether the State of Hawaii can or should support a relatively small investment now for design and environmental studies. The answer is a resounding yes.

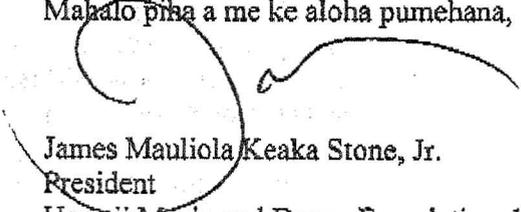
SB 1334 originally provided for a modest \$2,000,000 appropriation for design and environmental studies. However, the current SB 1334 SD2 deleted any specific monetary appropriation. The appropriate level of funding can and should be resolved in conference by members who are better able to determine the proper level of funding vis-à-vis all of the other priorities competing for the State's attention this session.

For our part, the HMHF sees a museum of Hawaiian music and dance as a smart investment and critical component in an overall strategy to strengthen Hawaii as a world-class destination. Visitors can choose many other places to visit if their only considerations are warm weather or pretty scenery. What makes us different is our host Hawaiian culture. Aloha, as practiced by Hawaiians for generations, distinguishes us from the typical tourist experience. The most efficient and compelling expression of our host culture is Hawaiian music and hula.

Hawaiian music ignores language barriers and goes straight into one's heart in a way that is unique and compelling. Hula, which interprets Hawaiian music, captures the imagination and hearts of enthusiasts worldwide and by doing so, creates real jobs and business opportunities for thousands of our citizens. Frankly, without Hawaiian music and hula, Hawaii risks losing its enviable market position to destinations that are closer or cheaper for the average visitor.

Yes, your constituents deserve a place for their music and dance. Please support SB 1334 SD2. Future generations will applaud your decision to support a museum of Hawaiian music and dance as amongst the wisest investments you can make this year.

Mahalo piha a me ke aloha pumehana,



James Mauiola Keaka Stone, Jr.
President
Hawaii Music and Dance Foundation dba
The Hawaiian Music Hall of Fame

Rep. Maile Shimabukuro

From: Ricardo Trimillos [rtrimil@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2009 2:28 AM
To: HAWtestimony
Cc: Ann Shinsato; antiquarian@hawaii.rr.com; DTAIRA@ahfi.com; Eric Keawe; james@pitluck.com; jjunker@hawaii.edu; John Derby; kemoofarm@aol.com; kemoofarm@hawaii.rr.com; kumukahi@hawaii.rr.com; Mandy Bowers; mdstrazar@lymanmuseum.org; nnahulu@hawaii.edu; nnahulu@hawaii.rr.com; Randie Fong; rmtowill@starband.net; stonej001@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Museum of Hawaiian Music and Dance - SB1334, SD2 on Wed., March 25th, 9:30am, room 329

Aloha e House Committee members,

I am writing in support of SB1334, SD2 regarding the planning and establishment of a Museum of Hawaiian Music and Dance. Hawaiian culture is the touchstone of our State, and its music and dance are intimately intertwined with its history, from the first settling by Polynesians, through the period of the Monarchy, to its present. A museum is not only an important symbol for this heritage, it is a concrete way of ensuring that knowledge, tradition, and customs are celebrated, conserved and preserved.

It is critical that such a project be stewarded by committed and knowledgeable persons who already have a reputation for cultural preservation and maintenance.

With each passing year we are losing the creative kupuna who have lived Hawaiian music and dance over the decades. A concerted and focussed institution dedicated to these individuals and the artistic movements they have shaped is even more important than before.

I urge your thoughtful consideration of this important piece of legislation. I regret I cannot be in Honolulu to appear before the Committee in person.

a hui hou,

Ricardo D. Trimillos, Ph.D.
Professor in Ethnomusicology
Chair of Asian Studies, School of Pacific & Asian Studies
University of Hawai'i at Manoa