

COMMITTEE ON LABOR, CULTURE AND THE ARTS

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair

Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 11, 2020, 3:00 P.M.

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Conference Room 224

Aloha Senators Taniguchi and Ihara,

My name is Naomi Nihipali and I am testifying in **support of SB3096** 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 for my masters in Social Work, 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. For the past two years, 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 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 celebrating this historic day.

Me ke aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Naomi Nihipali', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Naomi Nihipali

naomifn@hawaii.edu



Legislative Testimony

SB3096

RELATING TO STATE HOLIDAYS

Ke Kōmike ‘Aha Kenekoa o ka Limahana, Mo‘omeheu, a me nā Hana No‘eau

Pepeluali 11, 2020

3:00 p.m.

Lumi 224

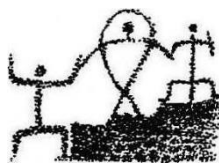
The Administration of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) will recommend that the OHA Board of Trustees **SUPPORT** SB3096, which aspires to establish Lā Kū‘oko‘a, the Tuesday after the first Monday of November, as a state holiday in lieu of Election Day.

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.

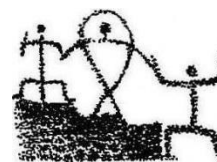
The State of Hawai‘i should restore the celebration of Lā Kū‘oko‘a as a means to accurately remember and honor our collective history. Lā Kū‘oko‘a is a source of pride for many Native Hawaiians as it demonstrates the political acumen of our kūpuna and the status of the Hawaiian Kingdom as an active and 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.



KA LEI PĀPAHI 'O KĀKUHIHEWA



P.O. Box 283342 Honolulu, HI 96828 | Phone: (808) 386-1363 | www.kaleipapahi.com

February 11, 2019

TO: Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Labor, Culture and the

FROM: Keali'i Gora, President
Ka Lei Pāpahi 'O Kākuhihewa

RE: **SB3096** Relating to State Holidays
Hearing: Tuesday, February 11, 2020 at 3:00 pm in CR 224

On behalf OF Ka Lei Pāpahi 'O Kākuhihewa , I am writing in **strong support** for SB3096; **Relating to State Holidays. Purpose of Act is to reestablish La Ku'oko'a, Hawaiian Recognition Day, as an official state holiday.**

La Ku'oko'a, a national holiday enacted by the Republic of Hawaii in 1896, can provide an opportunity of education of our Hawaiian History by reestablishing La Ku'oko'a as a Hawaiian Recognition Day, as an official state holiday. It may also provide a first step in the reconciliation process with us, the Hawaiian People.

Great Britain and France recognized Hawaii as an independent Country on 11/28/1843 and the United States recognized Hawaii's independence on 7/6/1844. The State of Hawaii need to honor these recognitions by creating this Holiday and celebrate our History each year. Again, we strongly support SB3096. Mahalo.

SB-3096

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 7:51:59 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/11/2020 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kalaniakea Wilson	Testifying for Beneficiary Trust Council	Support	No

Comments:

We are in support of this measure as it provides reconciliation and rehabilitation through action. Hawaii and its aboriginal people were controlled and brainwashed into believing something other than who they are. The measure begins the process of healing through the identity that was outlawed after the overthrow. Support this measure so that Hawaiians can begin healing through their Hawaiian identity that was outlawed in 1896.



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

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

The Thirtieth Legislature, State of Hawaii
The Senate
Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association

February 11, 2020

S.B. 3096 – RELATING TO STATE HOLIDAYS

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO would like to provide comments on S.B. 3096 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 coinciding change to convert to an all-mail election in November 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 on 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 on S.B. 3096.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira
Executive Director

SB-3096

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 3:56:35 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/11/2020 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
mary drayer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

a very appropriate holiday - i support this bill 100% ; true history oa a place should always be acknowledged - mahalo for proposing this and allowing testimony

SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR, CULTURE, AND THE ARTS

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair

Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

Testimony in Support

of

SB3096, Relating to State Holidays

Reestablishes Lā Kū'oko'a

Hawaiian Recognition Day, as an official state holiday

Hearing, Tuesday, February 11, 2020, 3:00 p.m., Conference Room 224, State Capitol

Aloha, Chair Taniguchi and Chair Ihara, Jr.,

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. Lā Kū'oko'a was once a national holiday for the Kingdom of Hawai'i. Reinstatement of this state holiday is long overdue.

La Ku'oko'a represents a significant period in Hawaii's history by celebrating the recognition of the Kingdom's independence by the world's political and economic super powers of the time, Great Britain, France, and the United States. In 2020, this measure seeks to recognize that part of Hawaii's history as well as to recognize and celebrate the distinct culture of Native Hawaiians.

As it inspired and lended to a greater sense of pride for Kingdom subjects, Hawaiian independence day, as it was known, 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 at Thomas Square Park with educational panels, speeches, food and music.

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

/s/ Leimomi Khan

LEIMOMI KHAN
CHAIR



Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

Pō‘alua, Pepeluali 11, 2020

Lumi ‘Aha Kūkā 224

Ke Kapikala Moku ‘āina

415 South Beretania Street

Re: SB3096 - RELATING TO STATE HOLIDAYS

Aloha Luna Ho‘omalu Maile Shimabukuro, Hope Luna Ho‘omalu Kaiali‘i Kahele and members of the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs:

The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs **SUPPORTS** SB3096. This bill will reestablish 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.

Thus, the Association respectfully urges the committee to **PASS** SB3096.

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 19th 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.



Luna O Nā Papa Alaka'i

Pelekikena

Anthony Makana Paris

Hope Pelekikena 'Ēkahi

Randi Fernandez

Hope Pelekikena 'Elua

K ā'eo Kealoha Lindsey

Pu'ukū

Leilani Williams-
Solomon

Kākau 'Ōlelo Ho'opa'a

Sai Furukawa

Kākau 'Ōlelo Palapala

Kamuela Werner

Pelekikena Hala Koke

Yvonne 'PeeWee' Ryan

Nā Luna Alaka'i

Alan Akao
Kuni Agard
Puamana Crabbe
Kanani Pali
Marlene Sai
Bruce Wong

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www.pkhcc.org

*Founded in 1964
by Lili'uokalani
Kawānanakoa Morris*

Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

February 11, 2020

Room 224

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Re: SB3096 - RELATING TO STATE HOLIDAYS

Aloha Chair Shimabukuro, Vice-Chair Kaiali'i Kahele and members of the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs:

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.

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.

PKHCC urges the committee to **PASS** SB3096.

Me ke aloha,

A. Makana Paris

Pelekikena

president@pkhcc.org



BEFORE THE SENATE LABOR, CULTURE AND THE ARTS COMMITTEE

February 11, 2020

Senate Bill 3096

Relating to State Holidays

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

Ka Lāhui Hawai'i Political Action Committee (KPAC) submits the following testimony in SUPPORT of Senate Bill 3096 “reestablishing” Lā Kū’oko’a, Hawaiian Recognition Day, as a State Holiday. Ka Lāhui Hawai'i Political Action Committee (KPAC) sees this as a step in the right direction by the State of Hawai'i toward Kanaka Maoli self-determination and sovereignty. The creation of Lā Kū’oko’a as a “State Holiday” would help raise awareness in Hawai'i and abroad regarding the true history of Hawai'i. It is a history about a proud and friendly Hawaiian Nation that was wrongfully overthrown, and a history that for many generations have not been taught in Hawai'i schools.

We ask for the following amendment of the bill that Lā Kū’oko’a be called “Hawaiian Independence Day” instead of Hawaiian Recognition Day in keeping with the true spirit of the original Holiday which was the recognition of the independence of the Hawaiian Kingdom.

Respectfully submitted,

M. Healani Sonoda-Pale

Chair, Ka Lāhui Hawai'i - Komike Kalai'āina