

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND
MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

WRITTEN ONLY
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 2475

February 2, 2022
10:30 a.m.
Room 329 and Videoconference

RELATING TO STATE HOLIDAYS

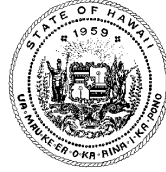
The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

House Bill No. 2475 amends Section 8-1, HRS, to: establish the 31st day in July as a State holiday known as "La Hoihoi Ea"; and eliminate all election days as State holidays.

B&F would like to highlight that the State already has 13 holidays per year (14 holidays in an election year) and that both the Department of Human Resources Development and Hawai'i Government Employees Association have testified on similar bills in the past, noting that State holidays are a matter that needs to be negotiated and included in the collective bargaining master contract.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



RYKER WADA
CHIEF NEGOTIATOR

**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF COLLECTIVE BARGAINING
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
235 S. BERETANIA STREET, SUITE 1201
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-2437**

**TESTIMONY TO THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

For Hearing on Wednesday, February 2, 2022
10:30 AM, Conference Room 329 Via Video Conference

By

**RYKER WADA
CHIEF NEGOTIATOR**

**House Bill No. 2475
Relating to State Holidays**

(WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY)

CHAIRPERSON GATES, VICE-CHAIR TAM, AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE
COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS:

House Bill 2475 removes election days as designated state holidays and
establishes July 31 of each year as the state holiday La Hoihoi Ea.

The Office of Collective Bargaining (OCB) offers the following comments
concerning this measure:

- While the legislature is the governing body to both establish and remove official state holidays, the potential impact that it has on public employees is through collective bargaining as holidays are a matter subject to collective bargaining pursuant to HRS §89-9.

- This was evident when, as early as in the mid-1970s, the exclusive representative and the Employer mutually agreed to remove references of HRS, Section 8-1, from the Holiday provisions of the collective bargaining agreement. The removal showed a mutual understanding of intent in allowing holidays, as it relates to the impact on public employees, to be negotiated, not legislated.
- Also, the establishment of La Hoihoi Ea, Hawaiian Restoration Day, as an official state holiday should not be viewed as a replacement to election day as election day only occurs every other year whereas HB 2475, as currently written, would establish La Hoihoi Ea, Hawaiian Restoration Day to be observed every year on the thirty-first day in July.
- As such, should this measure pass prompting the exclusive representatives to initiate negotiations for inclusion of La Hoihoi Ea as yet another observed holiday for public employees, the Employer would have serious concerns on the operational impact and on the financial impact to the State.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure.

Statement Before The
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Wednesday, February 2, 2022

10:30 AM

Videoconference and Conference Room 329

**HB 2475
RELATING TO STATE HOLIDAYS.**Chair GATES, Vice Chair TAM, and Members of the
House Culture, Arts, & International Affairs Committee

Common Cause Hawaii provides commitments on HB 2475, which (1) removes election days as designated state holidays and (2) establishes July 31 as La Hoihoi Ea.

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. This is especially true as Act 213, SLH 219 provides at page 36, lines 8-12, that “[t]he clerks may operate additional voter service centers with varying days or hours of operation to service the voters of particular areas that otherwise could not support the operation of a voter service center for ten business days or the same times statewide [in each county].” See https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2021/bills/SB548_CD1_.pdf (retrieved Jan. 31, 2022). As 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 HB 2475, and Common Cause Hawaii recommends that Election Day be kept as a state holiday. If you have questions for me, please contact me at sma@commoncause.org.

Very respectfully yours,

Sandy Ma
Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii

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Unity, Equality, Aloha for all



To: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

For hearing Wednesday, February 2, 2022

Re: HB 1449 RELATING TO JUNETEENTH DAY.

Makes Juneteenth Day a state holiday.

And

Re: HB 2475 RELATING TO STATE HOLIDAYS.

Removes election days as designated state holidays. Establishes July 31 as La Hoihoi Ea.

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION Regarding both HB1449 and HB2475

Together these two bills propose to take away one state holiday (election day) while creating two new ones (Juneteenth, and Ka La Ho'iho'i Ea). Presumably these holidays would give time off with pay to all state and county government employees. But the bureaucracy is already slow and inefficient, while governments do not normally have the budget surplus we apparently have this year.

It's generally a bad idea to turn ethnic holidays into official government holidays. Columbus Day [ethnic Italian] was converted to non-ethnic Presidents Day many years ago, but is now threatened to be converted to Indigenous Peoples Day [ethnic]

We already have the holiday for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.; comes now the proposed Juneteenth holiday. Choose one, not both. It can be argued that Dr. King's achievements in working for racial desegregation and harmony make him a hero for all Americans regardless of race, so his holiday is not merely an ethnic one. Juneteenth, however, emerged into prominence during the last couple of years because recognizing it officially was regarded on the mainland as a way to calm the racial violence ignited by the highly publicized murders of several Black men. Most people in Hawaii never heard of Juneteenth; and even today, after some publicity about it, very few can tell what was the historic event which it commemorates.

Hawaii already has two ethnic Hawaiian holidays, and HB2475 proposes to create a third. If Presidents Day gets converted to ethnic Indigenous Peoples Day, that would be ethnic Hawaiian #4. Choose one and abandon the others. Between Kamehameha and Kuhio, it's clear that Kamehameha was the GOAT (Greatest [native Hawaiian] Of All Time). Kuhio had very few accomplishments except for successfully pushing the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1920, which is what makes him a hero to OHA and DHHL. People also forget that Kuhio abandoned his homeland during the period leading up to annexation, in order to fight on behalf of one colonial power (Britain) against another colonial power (the Boers: Dutch, German and French Huguenot settlers) to determine which one would dominate the indigenous people of South Africa; and he also tried to have Lili'uokalani declared mentally incompetent so he could steal her Waikiki house which she had willed to her Childrens Trust.

HB2475 Correctly describes the history of the Kingdom of Hawaii holiday Ka La Ho'iho'i Ea. Very few people today know why it was a Kingdom holiday. The people who want to make it a state holiday believe that there is no State of Hawaii. They believe the overthrow of the monarchy was illegal, Annexation was illegal, and the Statehood Act was illegal. They believe Hawaii is under a belligerent military invasion and occupation by the USA, and are working at the United Nations to solicit help from America's enemies to pass resolutions to undo the removal of Hawaii from the U.N. list of non-self-governing territories and to demand the withdrawal of USA from Hawaii. They love the concept of "Sovereignty Restoration Day" which is the meaning of the holiday's name and the goal they seek to achieve. Any legislators who favor secession should favor establishing this holiday and resign from the legislature of the "Fake State."

Please hold or vote down both HB1449 and HB2475. Or you could amend HB2475 to delete everything regarding Ka La Ho'ihō'i Ea and retain only the portion that abolishes the election day holiday. After all, now that we are doing voting by mail, or by drive-by dropoff, the politicians no longer need a holiday so that government employees can bang on doors and wave signs and give rides to the polls on election day while being paid with tax dollars.

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
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RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR



FLORENCIO C. BAGUIO, JR.
ACTING DIRECTOR

LISSA M. LAU
ACTING ASSISTANT
DIRECTOR

February 2, 2022

The Honorable Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair
and Members of the House Committee on Culture, Arts, &
International Affairs
House of Representatives, Room 329
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Gates and Members of the Committee:

Subject: Testimony on H.B. 2475 Relating to State Holidays

The Department of Human Resources, City and County of Honolulu recognizes the cultural and historical significance of La Hoihoi Ea (Restoration Day) which celebrates the first national holiday of the Hawaiian Kingdom. Since the matter will require negotiations with the various public unions through the collective bargaining process, our concern is the added cost to the Public Employer should this become a paid State holiday as the current election day holiday occurs every other year while this holiday would be observed every year. We note that the cost to the City and County of Honolulu alone would be an estimated \$1.7 million. Under this bill, the added cost would occur each non-election year.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "F. Baguio Jr.", is written over a circular stamp that partially overlaps the "Sincerely," text.

Florencio C. Baguio Jr.
Acting Director



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
House of Representatives
Committee on Culture, Arts, & International Affairs

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association

H.B. 2475 – RELATING TO STATE HOLIDAYS

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO supports the intent of H.B. 2474 which removes election days as designated state holidays and establishes July 31 as La Hoihoi Ea – Restoration Day.

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. The Legislature is empowered to designate state holidays and we reserve our right to bargain the recognition of all holidays.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of H.B. 2475.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira
Executive Director

Hawaii

Holding Power Accountable

www.commoncause.org/hi

Statement Before The
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Wednesday, February 2, 2022

10:30 AM

Videoconference and Conference Room 329

HB 2475
RELATING TO STATE HOLIDAYS.

Chair GATES, Vice Chair TAM, and Members of the
House Culture, Arts, & International Affairs Committee

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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. This is especially true as Act 213, SLH 219 provides at page 36, lines 8-12, that “[t]he clerks may operate additional voter service centers with varying days or hours of operation to service the voters of particular areas that otherwise could not support the operation of a voter service center for ten business days or the same times statewide [in each county].” See https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2021/bills/SB548_CD1_.pdf (retrieved Jan. 31, 2022). As 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 HB 2475, and Common Cause Hawaii recommends that Election Day be kept as a state holiday. If you have questions for me, please contact me at sma@commoncause.org.

Very respectfully yours,

Sandy Ma
Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii

HB-2475

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 9:54:24 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/2/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Hayden Winchester	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha kakou,

I am submitting this testimony in support of HB2475 which seeks to remove election day as a state holiday and recognize ka La Hoihoi Ea (Hawaiian Sovereignty Restoration Day).

My name is Imai Winchester, and I am an organizer for the grassroots annual celebration of ka La Hoihoi Ea at Thomas Square, Honolulu which was first reinstituted by Dr. Kekuni Blaisdell in the 1980's. I am also a teacher at Halau Ku Mana Public Charter School of for two decades and I am currently working on my PhD in the College of Education here at UH Manoa.

I feel it is important to recognize the historical and political relevance of this Hawaiian national celebration, which commemorates the justice and repair afforded to the Hawaiian Kingdom after an illegal and unwarranted overthrow of the Hawaiian government in the 19th century. The relevance of this event is profoundly important for all the people of Hawaii to recognize in order to understand and empathize with the complicated history of the Hawaiian Kingdoms transition into the 20th century.

Likewise, this holiday would provide a deeper appreciation and understanding of the famous Hawaiian motto "Ua mau ke ea o ka aina i ka pono" (The sovereignty of the nation is preserved through justice). Additionally, recognizing ka La Hoihoi Ea would also bring attention to one of Hawaii's oldest national monuments, Admiral Richard Thomas Square Park, from which the return of Hawaiian ea was ceremonially enacted on July 31, 1843.

I urge you to vote in favor of passing HB2475 and designate ka La Hoihoi Ea as a holiday so that we can celebrate the spirit of justice, peace and sovereignty with all of Hawaii in July . Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Ua mau ke ea o ka aina i ka pono,

Imai Winchester