



April 3, 2022

The House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs  
Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding HR166 and HCR166, which calls for the creation of a Hawaii Commission on the United States Semiquincentennial. I am in favor of the adoption of this bill.

I am Lynn Forney Young and have the honor of being one of 16 private citizens appointed by the U. S. Congressional leadership to serve on the United States Semiquincentennial Commission. Also serving on the Commission are eight members of Congress, and more than a dozen ex-officio members such as the Secretaries of State, Defense, Interior, Education, Smithsonian Institution, and the Library of Congress.

Established by Congress in 2016, the Commission was charged with planning and implementing an overall program to observe and commemorate all 250+ years of this country's history. The Commission's mission statement is to Inspire the American Spirit within all Americans and each American, grounded in our nation's founding principles, for our continuing journey to a more perfect Union. The goal of the Commission is to Engage, Educate and Unite all Americans. We are identifying the Commission as America 250.

The current division in our nation reminds me very much of the era of the late sixties and early seventies prior to the Bicentennial when our country was engaged in the Vietnam War, experiencing race riots, the Kent State shooting, the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., and Watergate. Protests were common and Flags were burned. However, what I remember even more clearly is that we came together as Americans in 1976. Every house flew the Flag and mailboxes and fire hydrants were painted red, white and blue. There was a resurgence of patriotism not seen since Pearl Harbor. We were all proud to be Americans.

This bill paves the way for a partnership with the Commission as we strive to engage all Americans in this milestone anniversary. Further, this legislation affords Hawaii the opportunity to educate and engage others about the unique role Hawaii has played in our American history.

To date 24 states have established entities to begin planning the most significant milestone of our lifetimes and other states have pending legislation. I urge you to approve this bill so that Hawaii can join the Commission in educating, engaging, and uniting this country once again. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Lynn Forney Young  
U.S. Semiquincentennial Commissioner [LYoung@america250.gov](mailto:LYoung@america250.gov)

**HCR-166**

Submitted on: 4/2/2022 9:04:49 AM

Testimony for JHA on 4/5/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Regina Gregory	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Not appropriate for Hawai'i.

**HCR-166**

Submitted on: 4/3/2022 10:35:01 AM

Testimony for JHA on 4/5/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laura Ingenluyff	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Good afternoon,

I am writing as an individual citizen of Hawaii and am writing in response to HCR166 and HR166. I STRONGLY support this endeavor and PRAY that you pass these bills to establish a Hawaii Commission on the United States Semiquincentennial. I am also the Aloha Chapter Regent, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) and the America 250! program is one we support nationally. Our mission in NSDAR is to promote historic preservation, education and patriotism. I would LOVE to see Hawaii recognize this national program just as we have been a part of the World War I and Vietnam War remembrance events in recent years. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Very Respectfully,

Laura Ingenluyff