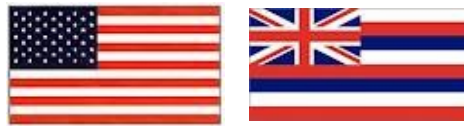


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Unity, Equality, Aloha for all



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

For hearing Wednesday, March 16, 2022

Re: HCR15/HR14 RECOGNIZING MARCH 17 AS ST. PATRICK'S DAY IN HONOR OF SAINT PATRICK AND IN RECOGNITION OF THE LONGSTANDING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN IRELAND AND THE UNITED STATES AND THE NOTEWORTHY CONTRIBUTIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF IRISH- AMERICANS TO OUR NATION.

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION

During this legislature session of 2022, this committee has heard HB2475 which proposes to establish La Ho'iho'i Ea as a State of Hawaii holiday; and HB1449 to establish JuneteenthDay as a State of Hawaii holiday; and now HR14/HCR15 to recognize St. Patrick's Day as ... whatever.

I oppose all three of these proposed actions because Hawaii already has several ethnic-focused holidays and we do not need further proliferation of them. As a man of Irish ancestry I also oppose HR14/HCR15 for the additional reason that it is written in a style and manner which is demeaning and discriminatory against my race and

ethnicity, by comparison with the HB2475 and HB1449. HB2475 and HB1449 are BILLS which presumably carry the force of law; while HR14/HCR15 is merely a RESOLUTION -- a mere expression of opinion or sentiment or state-of-mind.

The difference can be seen in the identical language found in HB2475 and HB1449 but not found in HR14/HCR15: the bills cite Section 8-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, "The following days of each year are set apart and established as state holidays: [list of them is provided]" and the bills propose to insert the new holiday into the chronology; and the bills end by proclaiming that "Section 8-32, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows: [Specified month and day] of each year shall be known and designated as [name of new holiday] to commemorate [description of historic event].

By contrast, HR14/HCR15 does not cite Section 8-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes; does not provide the list of recognized holidays; does not refer to the proposed new date as a "holiday", and does not insert the new date into any such list. The proposed new date is merely a ... something-or-other.

Whatever small element of respect HR14/HCR15 bestows upon Caucasians in general or Irish ethnicity and culture in particular, is greatly overshadowed by relative disrespect shown by comparison with HB2475 and HB1449. HR14/HCR15 damns by faint praise, reinforcing what we see every day in the treatment of us Whites as the much-despised "haoles" -- the N-----s of Hawaii, who have no state government agencies or racial entitlement government programs specifically serving us, no multibillion dollar private institutions exclusively for our group, no song contests or hula competitions broadcast statewide and, indeed, worldwide.

Kill this resolution. Give us Whites instead something genuine: what the Democrat party liberals seem to now be campaigning for: equity, diversity, and inclusiveness.

The only good thing about this resolution is that it strongly and repeatedly refers to United States of America and "the noteworthy contributions and achievements of Irish-Americans to OUR NATION." Such language must be hard to tolerate for some legislators who routinely support bills and resolutions referring to the "illegal overthrow" of the monarchy, "illegal annexation" of Hawaii to America, and seeking to remove McKinley's name and statue from that high school because McKinley is credited with lobbying Congress to agree to the Treaty of Annexation proposed by the Republic of Hawaii. Get your story straight. Are we Americans or not? Is Hawaii a victim of McKinley like Ukraine is a victim of Putin?