



**HB110 HD1 SD1**  
**RELATING TO LICENSE PLATES**  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

April 5, 2023

10:00 AM

Room CR 211

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The Administration of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) will recommend to the Board of Trustees the position of **SUPPORT** for HB110 HD1 SD1, which would authorize the issuance of special number plates to recognize and honor Duke Kahanamoku

As the principal public agency in the State responsible for the performance, development, and coordination of programs and activities relating to Native Hawaiians,<sup>1</sup> OHA wishes to emphasize its support for the thrust of this measure to further recognize the accomplishments and contributions of Duke Kahanamoku.

OHA appreciates the opportunity to **SUPPORT** this measure and urges the Legislature to **PASS** HB110 HD1 SD1. Mahalo nui loa.

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<sup>1</sup> HRS §10-3.



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Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair  
Committee on Ways and Means

**RE: HB 110 HD1 SD1 - Relating to License Plates – In Support**  
**April 5, 2023; 10:00 A.M.**

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the committee:

Servco is in support of HB 110 HD1 SD1 which authorizes the issuance of special number plates to commemorate Duke Kahanamoku.

Duke Kahanamoku displays all of the attributes of Aloha which we are proud as citizens of this beautiful State. As he honored Hawaii representing the State around the world, we would be well-served to have the chance to honor his legacy by demonstrating our appreciation for his dedication by recognizing him through the issuance of special number plates to commemorate and honor Duke Kahanamoku.

This measure will honor the legacy of Duke Kahanamoku while generating revenue to help prevent future drownings through increased ocean and water safety and swim education.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in support.

Peter Dames  
Executive Vice President



**OUTRIGGER  
DUKE KAHANAMOKU  
FOUNDATION**

P. O. BOX 160924  
HONOLULU, HI 96816

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**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Wednesday, April 5, 2023, at 10 a.m.  
Conference Room 221 & Videoconference**

**HB 110 HD1 SD1, Relating to LICENSE PLATES**

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and the Committee on Ways and Means:

We are in **strong support** of HB 110 Proposed HD1 SD1 to create a Duke Kahanamoku license plate to raise money for water safety and swim education. The Outrigger Duke Kahanamoku Foundation exists to perpetuate the legacy Duke Kahanamoku. The Foundation gives scholarships and grants in Hawaii related to watersports, volleyball, and water safety. Hawaii is known as a place of waterman excellence, yet the drowning data is telling a different story. **Hawaii is ranked second in the nation for rate of drowning among residents.** Sadly, these resident deaths only account for 46% of the drownings in our state; **more than half the drowning victims in Hawaii are visitors from other states.**\* The United Nations and the World Health Organization have officially recognized drowning as a major public health problem and it's time for our waterman state to do the same and put more resources towards prevention. We need widespread and continual aquatics education for all.

Duke Kahanamoku, history's most well-known Native Hawaiian Olympic swimmer, godfather of surfing, and Ambassador of Aloha is an important figure to commemorate. Duke's likeness on a license plate symbolizes the waterman excellence and aloha spirit our state is known for, and surely would be quite popular. It would be an honor to his name to use the resulting proceeds to teach aquatics safety and to save lives.

I would propose a slight change in the bill by removing "lifeguard" from the first line. Though Duke definitely saved people from drowning and was vigilant about public safety in and out of the ocean, we do not have confirmed evidence that he was ever a paid lifeguard. With that said, I strongly urge you to pass this legislation.

Mahalo,

Sarah Fairchild

Executive Director

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\*from the Hawaii Department of Health "Fatal Ocean Drownings 2012-2021" report.

**LATE**

**HB-110-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2023 5:28:49 PM  
Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Niki Roderick Stepanek	Testifying for FreediveSafe! Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means**

**Wednesday, April 5, 2023, at 10 a.m.**

**Conference Room 221 & Videoconference**

**RE: HB 110, HD1, SD1, Relating to LICENSE PLATES**

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and the Committee on Ways and Means:

I am in **strong support** of HB 110, HD1, SD1 to authorize the issuance of special number plates to commemorate Duke Kahanamoku to raise funds for water safety in Hawaii.

My name is Niki Roderick Stepanek and I am the founder and president of FreediveSafe! Hawai'i ([www.freedivesafe.org](http://www.freedivesafe.org)), a Kona based 501c3 nonprofit providing lifesaving freediving and spearfishing safety training to Hawaii youth at no cost. This water safety training is proven to save lives. We desperately need funding assistance from Hawaii's leaders to help us continue our important work. Hawaii should be the world leader in ocean safety and it's our kuleana to ensure we serve this need in the community and support any funding initiatives to pursue this goal.

This is a great opportunity to honor Duke Kahanamoku and educate the next generation of local kids and visitors about his supreme achievements as a Native Hawaiian athlete and waterman as well as how he showed the world Hawaii's aloha spirit.

Despite our waterman heritage, Hawaii has one of the highest drowning rates in the nation for residents and a high drowning rate for visitors. If this bill is passed, proceeds will fund local water safety initiatives to educate locals and visitors alike and save lives.

I strongly urge you to pass this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this written testimony.

Mahalo,

*Niki Roderick Stepanek*

*President/Founder, FreediveSafe! Hawaii*

**HB-110-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2023 10:03:10 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ryan Kawailani Ozawa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Duke Kahanamoku is a local legend and icon. But if this special license plate is a fundraising vehicle for the Outrigger Duke Kahanamoku Foundation, why does the foundation not use the existing and established Organization License Plate/Decal Program under HRS §249-9.3? Why create additional legislation and law for such a narrow purpose?

Given that the state is currently mulling a wholesale change to its default "rainbow" Aloha State license plate design, this measure seems excessive and unnecessary.

I am all in favor of a special license plate for Duke Kahanamoku. But there is already a process in place to create one to benefit a nonprofit organization.

**HB-110-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2023 1:28:25 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Cards Pintor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,  
I support this bill.  
Mahalo nui,  
Cards Pintor

Maile Ostrem  
428 Hao Street Honolulu Hawaii 96821  
**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means**  
**Wednesday, April 5, 2023, at 10 a.m.**  
**Conference Room 221 & Videoconference**

**RE: HB 110, HD1, SD1, Relating to LICENSE PLATES**

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and the Committee on Ways and Means:

I am in **strong support** of HB 110, HD1, SD1 to authorize the issuance of special number plates to commemorate Duke Kahanamoku to raise funds for water safety in Hawaii.

I am a retired teacher and a long time competitive canoe paddler and supporter of the Duke Foundation. We so need to support this important cause. I am also the active president of the Uluniu Swimming Club. We also support and encourage ocean sports and know the importance of ocean safety. Duke's legacy is so important.

This is a great opportunity to honor Duke Kahanamoku and educate the next generation of local kids and visitors about his supreme achievements as a Native Hawaiian athlete and waterman as well as how he showed the world Hawaii's aloha spirit.

Despite our waterman heritage, Hawaii has one of the highest drowning rates in the nation for residents and a high drowning rate for visitors. If this bill is passed, proceeds will fund local water safety initiatives to educate locals and visitors alike and save lives.

I strongly urge you to pass this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this written testimony.

Mahalo,

Maile Ostrem



**Douglas Lemke Ostrem  
428 Hao Street Honolulu, Hawaii 96821**

**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Wednesday, April 5, 2023, at 10 a.m.  
Conference Room 221 & Videoconference**

**RE: HB 110, HD1, SD1, Relating to LICENSE PLATES**

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and the Committee on Ways and Means:

I am in **strong support** of HB 110, HD1, SD1 to authorize the issuance of special number plates to commemorate Duke Kahanamoku to raise funds for water safety in Hawaii.

*I am a life long waterman and currently love to kayak surf around our island. The Outrigger Duke Foundation is one of my favorite charities because of everything it represents. I would love to be one of the first to display Duke's plates on my car because it would remind everyone of his greatness and how we all should be living up to his creed of Aloha and helping everyone to love and be safe in our oceans.*

This is a great opportunity to honor Duke Kahanamoku and educate the next generation of local kids and visitors about his supreme achievements as a Native Hawaiian athlete and waterman as well as how he showed the world Hawaii's aloha spirit.

Despite our waterman heritage, Hawaii has one of the highest drowning rates in the nation for residents and a high drowning rate for visitors. If this bill is passed, proceeds will fund local water safety initiatives to educate locals and visitors alike and save lives.

I strongly urge you to pass this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this written testimony.

Mahalo,

Douglas L. Ostrem  
Kayaker

*(Name)*

*(Title)*

**Download or duplicate to make edits.**

## **YOUR LETTERHEAD**

**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Wednesday, April 5, 2023, at 10 a.m.  
Conference Room 221 & Videoconference**

**RE: HB 110, HD1, SD1, Relating to LICENSE PLATES**

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and the Committee on Ways and Means:

I am in **strong support** of HB 110, HD1, SD1 to authorize the issuance of special number plates to commemorate Duke Kahanamoku to raise funds for water safety in Hawaii.

*(Insert background information on yourself or your organization.)*

This is a great opportunity to honor Duke Kahanamoku and educate the next generation of local kids and visitors about his supreme achievements as a Native Hawaiian athlete and waterman as well as how he showed the world Hawaii's aloha spirit.

Despite our waterman heritage, Hawaii has one of the highest drowning rates in the nation for residents and a high drowning rate for visitors. If this bill is passed, proceeds will fund local water safety initiatives to educate locals and visitors alike and save lives.

I strongly urge you to pass this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this written testimony.

Mahalo,

*(Name)*

*(Title)*

**HB-110-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2023 7:28:24 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Marcy Fleming	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and the Committee on Ways and Means:**

**Thank you for the opportunity to express my strong support of HB 110, HD1, SD1 to authorize the issuance of special number plates to commemorate Duke Kahanamoku to raise funds for water safety in Hawaii.**

**Sadly many families in Hawaii don't have the opportunity to enjoy our ocean playground as they don't know how to swim. Funds generated from the proposed License Plate will be used for swim training and to support our many fine keiki athletes in their athletic endeavors.**

**This is a great opportunity to honor Duke Kahanamoku and educate the next generation of local kids and visitors about his supreme achievements as a Native Hawaiian athlete and waterman as well as how he showed the world Hawaii's aloha spirit.**

**I strongly urge you to pass this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this written testimony.**

**Mahalo, Marcy E Fleming**

**HB-110-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2023 8:19:20 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Betty Depolito	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As an avid surfer I do indeed think this is a wonderful idea. This bill is a great idea and much needed for our community! We are so in need of more safety for our visitors and locals and this is a perfect way to educate our keike. To have the Duke Foundationl, a trusted organization, to facillitae this money raising opportunitihy is the best ever.

**HB-110-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2023 8:58:45 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
monty downs, m.d.	Testifying for Kauai lifeguard association	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Wednesday, April 5, 2023, at 10 a.m.

Conference Room 221 & Videoconference

RE: HB 110, HD1, SD1, Relating to LICENSE PLATES

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and the Committee on Ways and Means:

I am in strong support of HB 110, HD1, SD1 to authorize the issuance of special number plates to commemorate Duke Kahanamoku to raise funds for water safety in Hawaii.

I have been an ER doctor on Kauai since 1972 and I have witnessed many family-crushing tragedies in our waters, as well as many exhilarating moments when lives were saved because of Hawaii water safety programs. Beginning of course with Lifeguards themselves, and also due to efforts by non-profits such as the one I represent, the Kauai Lifeguard Association.

This is a great opportunity to honor the great Duke Kahanamoku and to educate the next generation of local kids and visitors about his supreme achievements as a Native Hawaiian athlete and waterman as well as how he showed the world Hawaii's aloha spirit. I myself always thrill when I think of how he boarded a ship to go half way around the world to Stockholm in 1912, and again to Antwerp in 1920, dove in the pool, and won Olympic gold medals in the 100 free. This was in the days before the highly technical training we see today. He just swam and surfed and dove in the pool and beat everybody.

Despite his and our waterman heritage, Hawaii has one of the highest drowning rates in the nation for residents and a high drowning rate for visitors. On Kauai we suffer more drowning deaths than we do MVA deaths.

If this bill is passed, proceeds will fund local water safety initiatives to educate locals and visitors alike and save lives.

I urge you to pass this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this written testimony.

Monty Downs, M.D., Secretary.  
Kauai Lifeguard Association

**HB-110-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2023 10:27:43 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kenneth BERGER	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please consider my message to be in strong support for the measure regarding Duke Kahanamoku being honored on the State of Hawaii's license Plates.

Duke deserves this strong honor due to his lifelong and tireless work supporting and promoting the State of Hawaii, not only in the islands, but globally, as our Ambassador of Aloha. Whether as an athlete, Olympian, life-saver, movie star, sherrif, or local hero, Duke Kahanamoku lived his entire life demonstrating humility, class, respect, and honor.

We should be so lucky to have his name recognized in association with our great state.

thank you,



**HB-110-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2023 12:31:44 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Bill Lane	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a 56 year ex-surfer, I am testifying in favor of a Duke Kahanamoku liscense plate. Duke was an inspiration to me when I first started surfing in1964. His calm demeanor and equanimity to all he came into contact with is exemplary. I would certainly buy the license plate should it become available. I only wish that in my senior years that I could still be driving a "surf" vehicle with his license plate on it.

**HB-110-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2023 7:05:35 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
D. Kalani Vierra	Testifying for Hawaiian Lifeguard Association	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

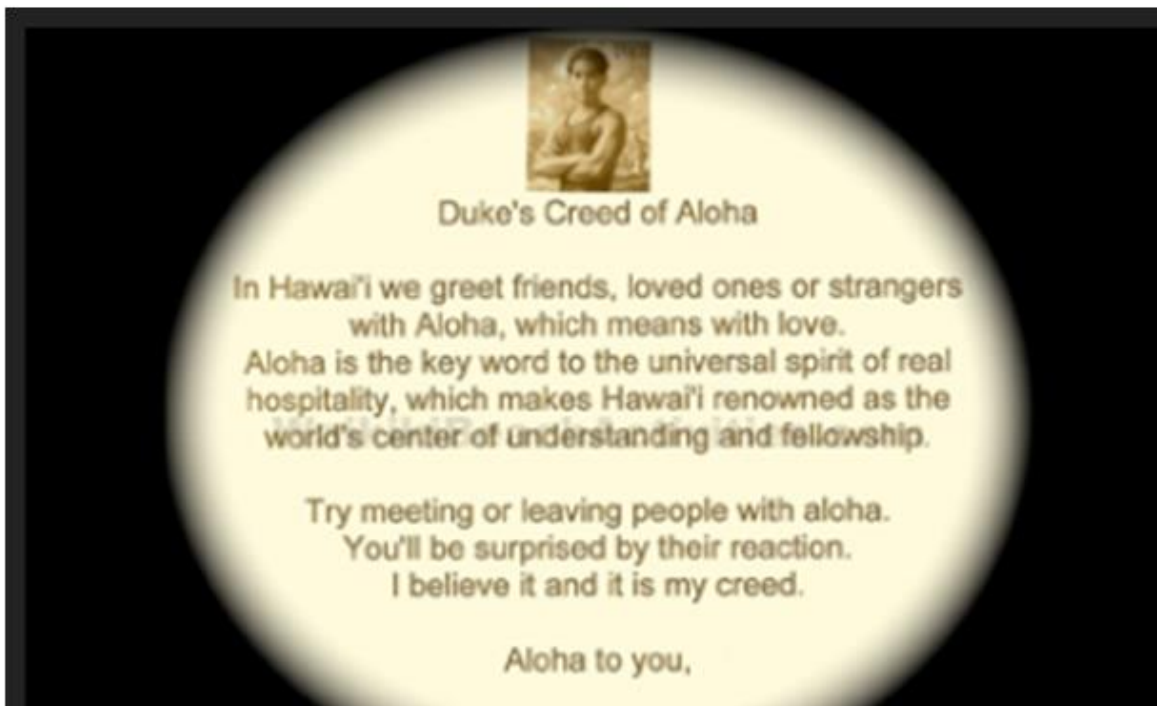
Water Safety is a huge concern on our Hawaiian Islands as we have the most beautiful beaches in the world but can be the most dangerous. Education and creating more water safety programs in Hawaii is a vital step in preventative measures. We fully support HB110!

**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Wednesday, April 5, 2023, at 10 a.m.  
Conference Room 221 & Videoconference**

**RE: HB 110, HD1, SD1, Relating to LICENSE PLATES**

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and the Committee on Ways and Means:

I am in very **strong support** –may I say Olympian–size support- of HB110 to authorize the issuance of a special number plate to commemorate Duke Kahanamoku which would raise funds for drowning prevention and aquatic water safety in Hawaii.



**A Duke license plate will on an everyday basis bring to mind his Creed of Aloha**

Let's also always remember that in 1986, 16 years after Duke's death, the **State Legislature passed into law HRS 5-7.5 stating that all who work for the people of Hawaii are to be guided to the best of their ability by the Aloha Spirit.**

The Statute reads in full:

"Aloha Spirit" (a)"Aloha Spirit" is the coordination of mind and heart within each person. It brings each person to the self. Each person must think and emote good feelings to others. In the contemplation and presence of the life force, "aloha", the following unuhilaulaloa may be used:

"Akahai", meaning kindness to be expressed with tenderness;

"Lokahi", meaning unity, to be expressed with harmony;

"Oluolu", meaning agreeable, to be expressed with pleasantness;

"Haahaa", meaning humility, to be expressed with modesty;

"Ahonui", meaning patience, to be expressed with perseverance.

These are traits of character that express the charm, warmth and sincerity of Hawaii's people. It was the working philosophy of native Hawaiians and was presented as a gift to the people of Hawaii. "Aloha" is more than a word of greeting or farewell or a salutation. "Aloha" means mutual regard and affection and extends warmth in caring with no obligation in return. "Aloha" is the essence of relationships in which each person is important to every other person for collective existence. "Aloha" means to hear what is not said, to see what cannot be seen and to know the unknowable.

(b) In exercising their power on behalf of the people and in fulfillment of their responsibilities, obligations and service to the people, the Legislature, governor, lieutenant governor, executive officers of each department, the chief justice, associate justices, and judges of the appellate, circuit and district courts may contemplate and reside with the life force and give consideration to the "Aloha Spirit". Passed 1986.

Other places around the globe remind *their* citizens of Duke's Aloha-- New Brighton, Christchurch New Zealand hosts an annual Duke's Festival in March; Stockholm Sweden has a plaque; Atlantic City NJ has a mural; Freshwater Beach, Australia has a statue, and a Walk of Fame that shows how surfing radiating from Hawaii, Corona del Mar in California is considering a statue for Duke to honor his brave rescue of drowning fishermen in 1925; Huntington Beach CA has a Walk of Fame and a Duke bust; Rockaway Beach, NY has a plaque; plus he is an inductee of at least 8 Halls of Fame.

One of the most recent honors is the April 2022 announcement that Duke is one of the first 17 people or places to be recognized with a Blue Plaque award, voted by the people of New South Wales Australia for his influential role in the history of that most populous state!

Duke was our first and greatest Olympian will be remembered forever as a Native Hawaiian who taught the world about ALOHA.

A license plate for Duke will be prized by the scores of plate collectors worldwide, plus it will be an everyday reminder to us here in Hawaii-nei on how to live.

Aloha to you!

Thank you for passing this legislation

Sandra K. Hall

Honolulu, Hawai`i

**HB-110-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2023 9:48:32 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Gene Grounds	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means**

**Wednesday, April 5, 2023, at 10 a.m.**

**Conference Room 221 & Videoconference**

**RE: HB 110, HD1, SD1, Relating to LICENSE PLATES**

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and the Committee on Ways and Means:

I am in **strong support** of HB 110, HD1, SD1 to authorize the issuance of special number plates to commemorate Duke Kahanamoku to raise funds for water safety in Hawaii.

I am a 30 year member of the Waikiki Swim Club and a several time winner in the annual Waikiki Rough Water Swim, a Life Member of the Waikiki Yacht Club of which Duke Kahanamoku was a past Commodore, and a 2 time All-American swimmer. Duke set an example for all water activities by his several time Olympic awards, his taking Hawaii's surfing around the world which is now an Olympic event, and his endearing Aloha Spirit.

This is a great opportunity to honor Duke Kahanamoku and educate the next generation of local kids and visitors about his supreme achievements as a Native Hawaiian athlete and waterman as well as how he showed the world Hawaii's aloha spirit.

Despite our waterman heritage, Hawaii has one of the highest drowning rates in the nation for residents and a high drowning rate for visitors. If this bill is passed, proceeds will fund local water safety initiatives to educate locals and visitors alike and save lives.

I strongly urge you to pass this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this written testimony.

Mahalo,

*Gene H. Grounds*

**HB-110-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2023 9:57:29 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
John Flanagan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means**

**Wednesday, April 5, 2023, at 10 a.m.**

**Conference Room 221 & Videoconference**

**RE: HB 110, HD1, SD1, Relating to LICENSE PLATES**

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and the Committee on Ways and Means:

I am in **strong support** of HB 110, HD1, SD1 to authorize the issuance of special number plates to commemorate Duke Kahanamoku to raise funds for water safety in Hawaii.

As a swimmer and ocean athlete as well as swim coach for Kamehameha Swim Club I understand the value of being safe in the water. It was a desire to have both of my daughters strong swimmers so they could enjoy the ocean and all that it has to offer. Both have also benefited from the Honolulu Jr Lifeguard Program.



This is a great opportunity to honor Duke Kahanamoku and educate the next generation of local kids and visitors about his supreme achievements as a Native Hawaiian athlete and waterman as well as how he showed the world Hawaii's aloha spirit.

Despite our waterman heritage, Hawaii has one of the highest drowning rates in the nation for residents and a high drowning rate for visitors. If this bill is passed, proceeds will fund local water safety initiatives to educate locals and visitors alike and save lives.

I strongly urge you to pass this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this written testimony.

Mahalo,

John Flanagan

Kamehameha Swim Club

**HB-110-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2023 9:59:47 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
jeanlin Bower	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this bill as Duke Kahanamoku would be the ideal image for a Hawaii license plate... Encouraging the spirit of aloha, especially on our roads!

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Wednesday, April 5, 2023, at 10 a.m.  
Conference Room 221 & Videoconference

**LATE**

**RE: HB 110, HD1, SD1, Relating to LICENSE PLATES**

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and the Committee on Ways and Means:

I **strongly support** HB 110, HD1, and SD1 to authorize the issuance of special number plates to commemorate Duke Kahanamoku to raise funds for water safety in Hawaii.

Duke Kahanamoku is one of my greatest inspirations as a waterman -- always giving me the motivation to continue my hobbies in the water and be grateful for the life I have been blessed with here in Hawai'i.

This is a great opportunity to honor Duke Kahanamoku and educate the next generation of local kids and visitors about his supreme achievements as a Native Hawaiian athlete and waterman and how he showed the world Hawaii's aloha spirit.

Despite our waterman heritage, Hawaii has one of the highest drowning rates in the nation for residents and a high drowning rate for visitors. If this bill is passed, proceeds will fund local water safety initiatives to educate locals and visitors and save lives.

I strongly urge you to pass this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this written testimony.

Mahalo,

Jotis Russell-Christian  
Student, UH Hilo