



**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB2795 SD1**  
RELATING TO THE HAWAIIAN FLAG

Ke Kōmike ‘Aha Kenekoa o ka Ho‘okolokolo  
Ke Kapikala o Hawai‘i

Malaki 3, 2026

10:15AM

Lumi 016

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Aloha e Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary:

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS SB2795 SD1**, which affirms and protects the right to display Ka Hae Hawai‘i at one’s home.

For over two centuries, Ka Hae Hawai‘i has been a powerful symbol of the Hawaiian Kingdom and the lāhui. Ka Hae Hawai‘i reflects a legacy of sovereign governance, international diplomacy, and aloha ‘āina. Despite the illegal overthrow of the Kingdom, Ka Hae Hawai‘i has endured as a symbol of kū‘e (resistance) and ‘onipa‘a (steadfastness).

Today, Ka Hae Hawai‘i remains a cherished symbol of Hawai‘i’s history, culture, and identity. It is both reasonable and just to protect the right to display Ka Hae Hawai‘i consistent with fundamental rights to free speech and political protest. Moreover, OHA is concerned about the proposed loophole in the bill allowing an HOA’s “substantial interest” to justify restrictions on flying Ka Hae Hawai‘i. This loophole is contrary to the overall intent of the bill to provide residents with security and certainty concerning their right to fly Ka Hae Hawai‘i.

OHA respectfully urges this committee to **PASS SB2795 SD1 with attention to our concerns.**

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this critical issue.

**SB-2795-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 3:59:24 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2026 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Philip Nerney	Testifying for CAI	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

CAI has no objection to the proper display of the Hawaiian flag. The essential issue is that authority must exist to reasonably regulate the time, place and manner of display. Community interests must be taken into account.

For example, and without limitation, flags that are disproportionately large, or that are displayed upside down, could become a distraction or divisive.

SB 2795 SD1 provides for 20 foot flagpoles. That is far too high to be safe. That would be far too high even if necessary safety standards were prescribed. The omission of design and construction standards should be considered to be a fatal defect in the SD1.

SB 2795 SD1 also provides for 4'x6' flags. That may be far too large in many circumstances.

Associations must be allowed to prescribe and enforce reasonable restrictions relative to particular properties. One size does not fit all circumstances. Size restrictions should be within the regulatory authority of affected associations.

**SB-2795-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 8:10:56 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2026 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Keoni Shizuma	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Agree that the Hawaiian flag remains a historic and beloved symbol of Hawai‘i, it also ties many to a cultural identity deeply rooted in these islands.

It is not disparaging, exclusive, or demeaning to anyone and thus should be allowed to be displayed or flown on all properties in Hawai‘i, with no entity, corporation or otherwise, able to prohibit the display of this symbol of Hawai‘i.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Keoni Shizuma

**SB-2795-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 6:42:35 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2026 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry, Support the INTENT of the bill

HOWEVER, TENANTS, OWNERS, RENTERS MUST FOLLOW WRITTEN AGREEMENTS. HOA AGREEMENT TO CHANGE RULES/POLICIES.

2795 SB RELATING TO THE HAWAIIAN FLAG.

**To :** Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

**From :** Vivian L. Ho Ching

**Re :** SB 2795 SD1

**Date :** February 26, 2026

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

My name is Vivian Ho Ching, and as a Samoan Indigenous person, I strongly support Senate Bill 2795 SD1.

I have personally experienced hate and pushback when trying to display my cultural flag in places outside of Samoa, especially here in the U.S.—moments that felt like underlying racism, where my heritage was dismissed or challenged simply for wanting to honor my roots.

Living on Oahu, I see the American flag waved far more freely than the Indigenous Hawaiian flag, which locals and Native Hawaiians deserve at the very least to display with pride. This bill ensures housing associations like co-ops and planned communities must allow the Hawaiian flag on residents' properties, with reasonable restrictions for safety and aesthetics. It promotes cultural expression and corrects an imbalance where Native Hawaiian pride is sidelined.

Native Hawaiians endured immense hardship from the illegal occupation of their land, and encouraging their flag's display is a small but vital step toward healing and recognition. SB2795 SD1 honors that history while fostering aloha for all Indigenous peoples in Hawaii.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify. I urge the committee to pass this bill.

Vivian Ho Ching

# Letter in Support of SB2795

February 27, 2026

To: Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection  
Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs  
Hawaii State Legislature  
Hawaii State Capitol  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**RE: Strong Support for SB2795 – Hawaiian Flag Display in Common Interest Communities**

Aloha Chairs and Vice Chairs, and Honorable Committee Members,

My name is Ryan K Gomes, and I am a resident of Honolulu. I am writing in strong support of SB2795, which protects the right of residents in condominiums, cooperative housing corporations, and planned community associations to display the Hawaiian flag at their homes.

## The Hawaiian Flag as Symbol of Identity and Pride

The Hawaiian flag is more than a decorative banner. It is a living symbol of our history, our lāhui, and our enduring connection to this ‘āina. For many of us, flying the Hawaiian flag is an expression of identity, respect, and love for Hawai‘i itself. SB2795 recognizes that this expression should not be unreasonably restricted by association rules or private governance documents.

I understand that associations may have legitimate interests in safety and aesthetics, and SB2795 preserves their ability to adopt reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions. What it rightly rejects is the idea that any association should be able to categorically prohibit residents from flying the Hawaiian flag. Such a prohibition sends a deeply troubling message about whose history, culture, and pride are welcome.

## A Matter of Cultural Respect

I cannot help but feel that if someone hates the Hawaiian flag, they must, at some level, hate Hawai‘i—and perhaps they are living in the wrong state. The flag represents this place and its people. To attempt to erase it from our own homes is to deny a core part of who we are.

SB2795 strikes a fair and respectful balance: it preserves association interests while affirming that the Hawaiian flag belongs here, visibly and proudly, in our communities. It honors the cultural and historical significance of the flag and ensures that residents are free to express that pride without fear of punitive action from their associations.

## Why This Bill Matters

### **SB2795 benefits:**

- **Individual homeowners** in condominiums, cooperatives, and planned communities who want to display the Hawaiian flag without being blocked by overly restrictive association rules.
- **Native Hawaiian and local residents** who view the flag as a key symbol of identity, culture, and history and want assurance they can display it at their own homes.
- **Our broader community** by affirming that Hawaiian identity and pride have a rightful place in every neighborhood across the state, regardless of housing type or governance structure.

The bill does not create chaos or eliminate association authority. It simply ensures that one specific, culturally significant symbol—the Hawaiian flag—cannot be categorically banned. Associations retain the ability to impose reasonable restrictions that protect legitimate interests such as safety, structural integrity, and aesthetic consistency.

## **Conclusion**

SB2795 is a straightforward, respectful measure that protects cultural expression while preserving association authority to regulate the manner of display. It recognizes that the Hawaiian flag is not just another decoration—it is a statement of belonging, history, and pride that should be welcomed, not suppressed.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committees to pass SB2795.

Mahalo nui for your consideration and for your work to uphold the dignity and identity of Hawai'i's people.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

Ryan K Gomes  
Honolulu, Hawai'i