



OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

‘Ōlelo Hō‘ike ‘Aha Kau Kānāwai

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB2795 SD2**

RELATING TO THE HAWAIIAN FLAG

Ke Kōmike Hale o ka Mo‘omeheu a me nā Hana No‘eau

Ke Kapikala o Hawai‘i

Malaki 18, 2026

10:30AM

Lumi 309

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Aloha e Chair Kapela, Vice Chair Kong, and Members of the House Committee on Culture and Arts:

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS SB2795 SD2**, 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. The proposed restrictions relating to size, height, and impeding neighboring views (page 4, lines 3-8) do not appear rationally tied to a substantial interest of the association and as proposed may unfairly single out the ka Hae Hawai‘i for restrictions not applied to other flags (e.g., sports team flags). These mandatory restrictions are contrary to the overall intent of the bill to provide residents with security and certainty concerning their right to fly ka Hae Hawai‘i.

For the reasons stated above, OHA respectfully urges this committee to **PASS SB2795 SD2 with attention to our concerns**. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this critical issue.

**SB-2795-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 11:01:41 AM

Testimony for CAA on 3/18/2026 10:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

CAI has no objection to the proper display of the Hawaiian flag. SB 2795 S.D.2 largely addresses concerns about health and safety. Some communities may, however, have practical concerns about the proposed size of the flag and of the flagpole. Community interests must be taken into account.

**SB-2795-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 7:12:18 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/18/2026 10:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I am testifying in support of this bill. I 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