



The Caledonian Society of Hawaii
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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM AND CULTURE
THE HONORABLE RYAN I. YAMANE, CHAIR
THE HONORABLE JOEY MANAHAN, VICE CHAIR

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 81, scheduled for hearing on MARCH 31, 2008

Testimony of Bruce McEwan,
Chieftain of The Caledonian Society of Hawaii, Inc.

Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Manahan, and Members of the House Tourism and Culture Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HCR 81.

The Caledonian Society of Hawaii supports the intent of the bill, which we view as the recognition of the contributions of people of Scottish heritage to the State of Hawaii and the opportunity of citizens of all ethnic backgrounds to celebrate our State through the wearing of the unique Hawaii Tartan and have a special day of the year, April 6th, to highlight the tartan, as is done throughout the U.S.

The tartan, while usually perceived as a traditional cultural item of Scots and other Celtic peoples, is a symbol and the Hawaii tartan makes celebrating a Tartan Day in Hawaii much more meaningful to all citizens. The kilt I am wearing this morning is made of the Hawaii tartan and I hope that anyone seeing it will understand how it is representative of our great State.

The resolution as originally submitted had some factual errors and did not precisely identify the Hawaii tartan, so a revised version was provided to the Chair and Vice Chair of this committee. The revised version is what we believe should be passed out of this committee.

The Caledonian Society is a 501(c)(3) educational and cultural organization and is the largest of several Scottish and Celtic organizations in Hawaii. Our membership consists of Hawaii citizens from various ethnic backgrounds who are interested in the Scottish culture. Many of our residents will be attending the annual Highland Festival at Kapiolani Park on April 5th & 6th, which, as you can see, coincides with the National Tartan Day. I hope that this year we can look forward to celebrating Tartan Day in Hawaii and the Hawaii Tartan.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

manahan2-Allan

From: Douglas Herring [dherring@flex.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 29, 2008 9:48 AM
To: TACTestimony
Subject: Testimony for HCR 81

Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
Representative Joey Manahan, Vice-chair
Committee on Tourism and Culture
Douglas A. Herring, Vice-Chieftain, Caledonian Society of Hawai'i

Monday, March 31, 2008

Support of HCR 81, Supporting the Designation of April 6th of Every Year as Tartan Day in Hawai'i

I am Douglas Herring, the current Vice-Chieftain of the Caledonian Society of Hawai'i, a Scottish organization committed to promoting fellowship among Scots, those of Scottish descent, and those interested in Scotland, in Hawai'i. I am also the designer of the Hawai'i Tartan, which has been widely supported by both Scottish and Irish groups locally, as well as by many visitors to our state. In my capacity as Vice-Chieftain, I can say that the Caledonian Society wholeheartedly supports HCR 81, Tartan Day in Hawai'i. As a private citizen, I also support HCR 81, Tartan Day in Hawai'i.

The tartan was originally a regional symbol, identifying people as hailing from certain areas of Scotland and Ireland. In recent centuries, it has become closely identified with Scottish clans, though there are still many regional tartans. Several states, including Washington, Oregon, California, Nevada, Texas, Louisiana and Arkansas have adopted tartans for their citizenry. The United States adopted a tartan to celebrate the Bicentennial.

Many of the states have also adopted Tartan Day - a relatively recent celebration, as a day to celebrate Scottish and Irish culture and accomplishments. Here in Hawai'i, the Scots advised Kamehameha the Great, married into the royal family, and helped to build the foundations of the state. Scottish and Irish names can be found in many of the oldest families in Hawaii. Crown Princess Ka'iulani, was half-Scottish, with her father being Archibald Cleghorn of Scotland.

The Kawanakoa family's ancestor James Campbell - the founder of Campbell Estate - was from Ireland. Of the three non-Hawaiians buried at Mauna 'Ala, the Royal Mausoleum, two are Scottish or of Scottish descent.

I designed the Hawai'i Tartan to honor the Kingdom of Hawai'i, with the colors of red and yellow, those being the colors of the ali'i.

The tartan was also designed with an eye towards the origins of Hawai'i, as the red and yellow also symbolize the fire and lava that created the islands. This can be observed by the pairing of the red and yellow and by the fact that there are two distinct patterns of red and yellow. As the designer of the tartan, I request that the language of the resolution be changed to reflect this dual nature.

Like the Hawai'i Tartan, Tartan Day is not solely for people of Scottish or Irish background. The Vice-President of the Celtic Pipes and Drums of Hawai'i, Masa Yamaguchi, has no Scottish background. One of the pipers from the Isle of Maui Pipe Band, a Hawaiian lady by the name of Trinette U'ilani Furtado, was so thrilled when she learned that there was a Hawaii Tartan that she composed and performed an 'oli for it.

Like Chinese New Year or the Bon Odori Festival, Tartan Day in Hawai'i and the Hawai'i Tartan are intended as embracing gestures - not intended simply for one group of people, but for all of Hawai'i.

Please pass HCR 81. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

manahan2-Allan

From: Hardy Spoehr [hspoehr@papaolalokahi.org]
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2008 6:32 AM
To: TACtestimony
Subject: Testimony: HCR No. 81 - Monday, March 31, 2008 @ 9:30am/ Conference Room 325

Aloha. My name is Hardy Spoehr, past-president of the Celtic Pipes and Drums of Hawai'i, Honolulu's official bagpipe band. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of HCR No. 81, supporting the designation of April 6th of every year as Tartan Day in Hawai'i. This is entirely appropriate for it not only coincides with Congressional action of a similar nature in which our Congressman Neil Abercrombie had a major role, but it also recognizes the tremendous influence the Celtic nations of Scotland, Ireland, and Wales (yes, and bits of England) have had on Hawai'i. The resolution identifies a number of those instances. The band is pleased to be presenting each of the members of the House Committee on Tourism and Culture and staff to the Committee a copy of [`Upoho Ika Nui `O Kekokia \(Scotland's Great Highland Bagpipe\)](#), 2004, a publication which highlights many of Hawai'i's ties to Scotland, Ireland, and England and which has a picture of the Hawai'i tartan on page 126.

We ask for your speedy adoption of this worthy resolution.

Hardy Spoehr, Past President
Celtic Pipes and Drums of Hawai'i