



**SB1035, SD1, HD1, RELATING TO A MAKAHI DAY COMMEMORATION**  
House Committee on Water, Land, Ocean Resources & Hawaiian  
Affairs

March 17, 2008

9:00 a.m.

Room: 312

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The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) SUPPORTS, with amendments, S.B. 1035, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, which would establish each November 20<sup>th</sup> as the Makahiki commemoration day.

From traditional to present times, the Makahiki season provides the opportunity to honor practices that ensure the proper stewardship of the land, which provides all of the resources necessary for man to survive. Through these practices, a balance between man and his natural environment is maintained. When this guidance is applied, the natural environment is healthy and man thrives. From a traditional perspective, the Makahiki season is also a time to honor and pay tribute to the appropriate deities who provide the necessary guidance for man to properly manage natural resources.

OHA requests that input from knowledgeable Native Hawaiian cultural practitioners be sought to ensure that establishing a set date for commemorating the Makahiki season does not affect the ability to perpetuate traditions associated with the Makahiki. OHA prefers S.B. 2498, S.D. 1, because it already contains language that addresses this precise request.

OHA urges the Committee to PASS S.B. 1035, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, taking the above request into account. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.