

**LATE**

February 28, 2008

TO: Senate Committee on Economic Development and Taxation  
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair  
Senator Will Espero, Vice Chair

FROM: Sarah Kaopuiki

RE: **SUPPORT** for **SB 2498** Relating to Makahiki Day Commemoration

I strongly support the passage of SB 2498 Relating to Makahiki Day Commemoration. As this bill does not require funding or mandate a State holiday, it is a unique opportunity for the Hawaii State Legislature to demonstrate its dedication to the culture of the people of Hawaii in a positive and non obtrusive way. This bill establishes the importance of the Makahiki without dictating the nature in which it should be celebrated. Therefore, we should support this bill and similar endeavors, which begin to effectively engage Hawaii's residents without trespassing on the beliefs of those for whom this is an important aspect of life and culture.

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February 28, 2008

TO: Senate Economic Development and Taxation  
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair  
Senator Will Espero, Vice Chair

FROM: Jennifer Carrell

RE: **SUPPORT** for **SB 2498** Relating to Makahiki Day Commemoration

I support the intent of SB 2498 Relating to Makahiki Day Commemoration; however, I would like to offer the suggestion that the bill be amended to designate Makahiki Day a State Holiday as an expression of the importance of the Polynesian culture and its contributions to the State of Hawaii.

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February 7, 2008

TO: Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair  
Senator Will Espero, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Economic Development  
And Taxation

FROM: Sharon Lum Ho

RE: **SUPPORT** for **SB 2498** Relating to Makahiki Day Commemoration

A bill designating November 20 as Makahiki Day is very important because it raises public awareness of the contributions of the Polynesian people who have populated the archipelago of Hawai'i for centuries. Makahiki season represents a time of peace, unity and abundance. Therefore, it is appropriate for the State to set aside this day as not only a day in recognition of Hawai'i's native roots but as a day to observe global peace and unity.

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February 7, 2008

TO: Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair  
Senator Will Espero, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Economic Development  
And Taxation

FROM: Libby Kimball

RE: **SUPPORT** for **SB 2498** Relating to Makahiki Day Commemoration

I support SB 2498 because as a Hawaiian, Makahiki is a time of great personal significance. It was a time of replanting, a time to stop all conflicts, and a time of spiritual observance. Although, Makahiki occurred over months, designating November 20<sup>th</sup> as Makahiki day is appropriate because it symbolizes in one day all of the values that we as Hawaiian people hold dear to our hearts. The Makahiki values of peace, love, unity, and working in harmony to create a bountiful harvest transcends us all. Mahalo for your consideration.

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February 7, 2008

TO: Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair  
Senator Will Espero, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Economic Development  
And Taxation

FROM: Viola Ahlo

RE: **SUPPORT** for **SB 2498** Relating to Makahiki Day Commemoration

Makahiki symbolizes a time of peace in the Pacific. Besides being a festival, it was a time of prayer in thanks for food that kept people alive, a time to set aside conflicts and a time to live in harmony. Setting aside November 20<sup>th</sup> as a day to commemorate peace in the Pacific is a statement of your belief and recognition in pacific ideas and concepts that contribute to the changing identity of what it means to be a United States citizen living in the middle of the Pacific Ocean among Polynesians.

*Viola Ahlo*

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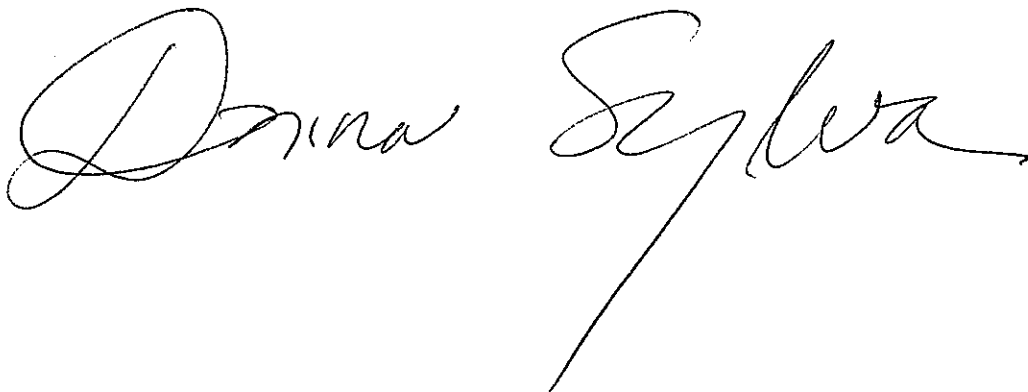
February 7, 2008

TO: Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair  
Senator Will Espero, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Economic Development  
And Taxation

FROM: Donna Sylva

RE: **SUPPORT** for **SB 2498** Relating to Makahiki Day Commemoration

As a Hawaiian Taxpayer, I pay to recognize many diverse cultural holidays. As more and more Hawaiians die, and there are less of us to speak up for our beliefs, those who can must at least try to stand up for our deep ancestral roots and beliefs and let our voices echo through our ancestral past and forward throughout the land. Therefore, we pay to recognize the contributions of those who have come to our shores to have a better life through the many holidays we celebrate. So, it is fitting that we set aside November 20 as a day to commemorate Makahiki season to recognize the contributions of the people of the Pacific, other Polynesian groups already do so by gathering in Tahiti.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donna Sylva". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the letter 'a' at the end.

TO: Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair  
Senator Will Espero, Vice Chair

FROM: Sheryll Bonilla

DATE: February 28, 2008

RE: SB 2498, Makahiki Day Commemoration – Please pass

Please establish November 20 as Makahiki Day for Hawaii. Hawaii is known as the Aloha State because our diverse ethnic groups have learned to co-exist in a more or less harmonious condition. Makahiki Day recognizes the values of the Hawaiians who generously share this state with all of us whose ancestors came from other regions of the world. The Hawaiian values that teach peace and unity transcend the Pacific and unify our global community.

I had the pleasure a few years ago of watching my children participate in the Makahiki at Bishop Museum. All of the children played the various competitions, all of them with the innate sense that everyone belonged, that no one should be left out because of racial divides. My little daughter won the Konane championship that day, a memory that is still a thrill for her and us.

This is the spirit of Hawaii, the spirit that enables us to have the melting pot we do, where we can get along, love, work, raise families, take care of our land and our community. We owe this appreciation to the Hawaiian people, to honor their culture of respect and acceptance. Establishing November 20 as Makahiki Day gives the Native Hawaiian people the recognition and appreciation they have long deserved for allowing those of us who are descendants of peoples from other countries to be here and call Hawaii our home.

**LATE**



**SB2498, RELATING TO A MAKAHKI DAY COMMEMORATION**  
Senate Committee on Economic Development & Taxation

February 28, 2008

1:15 p.m.

Room: 224

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The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS, with amendments**, S.B. 2498, 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 urges the Committee to PASS S.B. 2498, taking the above request into account. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.