

**TESTIMONY**  
**SB 2378**



Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs  
P. O. Box 1135  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96807

January 30, 2010

**TESTIMONY OF LEIMOMI KHAN, PRESIDENT  
IN SUPPORT OF  
S. B. 2378, RELATING TO THE OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**Hearing date and time: Wednesday, February 3, 2010, 3:00 p.m.  
Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs**

Aloha Senator Hee, Chair, and members of the Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of S.B. 2378. The reasons for our support are articulated in the attached resolution which was adopted by the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs on November 20, 2001, at its 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual convention.

The Association is a growing national confederation of fifty-eight Hawaiian Civic Clubs, located throughout the State of Hawai'i and in the States of Alaska, California, Colorado, Illinois, Nevada, Utah, Virginia, Washington State, Tennessee, and Texas. It initiates and works to support actions that enhance the civic, economic, educational, health and social welfare of our communities, and in particular, the culture and welfare of the Native Hawaiian community.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-5

**REQUESTING THE STATE TO PROVIDE A PRIMARY  
ELECTION FOR THE ELECTION OF OHA TRUSTEES**

WHEREAS, incumbent political candidates for any governmental office have a distinct advantage because of face and name recognition while serving in office; and

WHEREAS, OHA Trustees have the further advantage of a monthly newsletter distributed to their constituency in which each Trustee can present him- or herself in the best light to prospective voters for at least two years; and

WHEREAS, voters have difficulty in deciding among many candidates for a political office which is why the Primary Election is held biannually for all other State and County offices; and

WHEREAS, it is unfair to deprive OHA voters alone of the privilege of comparing candidate qualifications leading to an intelligent decision governing the investment of a vote; and

WHEREAS, it is similarly unfair to target solely the State Office of Hawaiian Affairs and to deny a Primary Election solely to those candidates and their constituencies; and

WHEREAS, good government depends absolutely on the wise and carefully considered selection of officials based on their qualifications for the office;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs in Convention at Honolulu, Hawai'i, this 10<sup>th</sup> day of November 2001, that the Hawai'i State Government is respectfully requested to provide a Primary Election for OHA Trustees; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the number of candidates for each Trustee office in the General Election be limited to two candidates; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that a certified copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Governor of the State of Hawai'i, to the Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, to the President of the Senate of the State of Hawai'i and to the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the State of Hawai'i.

The undersigned hereby certifies that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted on November 20, 2001, at the 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Convention of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs at Honolulu, Hawai'i

/s/ Charles R. Rose  
President



**SB2378**  
**RELATING TO THE OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

Senate Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian  
Affairs

February 3, 2010  
Room: 229

3:00 p.m.

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The Office of Hawaiian Affairs offers the following  
comments on SB2378:

This bill would provide for the election of the members of the OHA Board of Trustees through a system of primary and general elections. Currently the Trustees are elected at a special election held in conjunction with the general election.

We respectfully request that in weighing the pros and cons of this bill, you take into account the financial costs to the State and to the candidates for Trustee. For the State, the costs include the administrative expenses of shifting to a different system for electing the Trustees. For the candidates, the costs include the added expense of competing in two elections instead of one. The distinction of running state-wide for OHA Trustee (similar to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and two U.S. Senators) makes the costs even more prohibitive.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**TESTIMONY**

**SB 2378**

**(END)**