

I am a silent voice on the matter of State recognition for the Hawaiian people. My opposition condemns me to invisibility of those in disagreement to a bill that will ultimately affect my family, my friends, my neighbors, and my future.

I have read the amendments and even the testimonies of those both in opposition and support. It is not only disappointing but even terrifying when those like me have no voice on such a large issue. I understand the need to have our people recognized as a nation as presented by those in support. But I cannot help but to continue my stance in opposition for one sole reason; division.

Forgive me but I am reminded of a scripture that simply states: "A nation divided against itself cannot stand." By dividing and separating the American citizens who are descendant of the indigenous peoples of this very state, is exactly what this bill proposes. Despite what one may think, now is not the time to divide our current nation as a whole.

Our state is suffering as we continue to dive deeper into debt, and scrambling for a solution to the problems affecting all citizens under your care. Simply said cannot this issue be re-addressed at a later more sturdy time in our government's livelihood. I could quote the violations made in the constitution and bill of rights, but that is not my primary stand point.

Currently neither the state nor its indigenous people are ready for such a measure. To separate now would only entertain a larger budget crisis on the state as a whole, and regardless of how we may feel, the Hawaiian people lack the knowledge, resources, and experience to self-manage a separate government.

I am not in opposition of the Hawaiian people being given the opportunity to one day govern themselves. I am simply pointing out the dire need for the Hawaiian people to face one cruel fact; we are not ready no matter how passionate we are about the past.

I humbly ask your consideration of my thoughts on the matter, and plead my cause for cessation of the current measures at this current time. Please defer SB 1 and SB 1520 at this time, and allow the Hawaiian nation the chance to educate themselves on the responsibilities as opposed to strictly the benefits of such a proposed government. Such will ensure enough time until both sides are readily equipped to manage and work together harmoniously.

LATE TESTIMONY