

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.

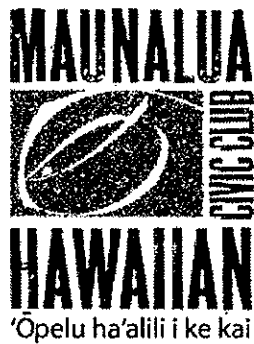
Our state is suffering as we continue to dive deeper into debt, and scrambling for a solution to the problems affecting all citizens under your care. Simply said cannot this issue be re-addressed at a later more sturdy time in our government's livelihood. I could quote the violations made in the constitution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



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March 21, 2011

Testimony in support of SB01, Relating to the State Recognition of the Native Hawaiian People, Their Lands, Entitlements, Health Education, Welfare, Heritage and Culture

Submitted to: The House Committee on Judiciary

From: Kitty M. Simonds, President Maunaloa Hawaiian Civic Club

Aloha, Representative Keith-Agaran and Members of the Committee:

The Maunaloa Hawaii Civic Club supports SB1 SD2 HD1 and appreciates the effort of the Legislature to move the reconciliation process further along and assist in the reorganization of the Hawaiian government. Much of our leadership, government structure and trust reserves have been reduced since the overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawaii 118 years ago. It will take a major effort to rebuild them. However, we believe that the Hawaiian communities have been vigilant and have the capacity for this major reorganization.

We thank the Legislature for making the changes to this legislation that has been supported in the community.

In the Constitution of 1840, Kamehameha III declared that all of the lands of Hawaii belonged to the chiefs and the people with the King as trustee for all.

Kamehameha I, was the founder of the kingdom, and to him belonged all the land from one end of the Islands to the other, although it was not his own private property. It belonged to the chiefs and the people in common, of whom Kamehameha was the head and had the management of the landed property. Wherefore, there was not formerly, and is not now any person who could or can convey away the smallest portion of land without the consent of the one who had or has the direction of the kingdom.”

—Fundamental Law of Hawaii 3 (1904)

The Constitution of 1840 established the governance structure of the kingdom and made the chiefs and people (*makaainana*) beneficiaries of the kingdom. The *makaainana* are the remaining beneficiary of this trust relationship. SB01 SD2 HD1 furthers the process to return this trust to the rightful beneficiaries.

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