

SB 261
LATE TESTIMONY



NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor

MIKE MCCARTNEY
President and
Chief Executive Officer

Hawai'i Tourism Authority

Hawai'i Convention Center, 1801 Kalākaua Avenue, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96815
Website: www.hawaiitourismauthority.org

Telephone: (808) 973-2255
Fax: (808) 973-2253

Testimony of
Mike McCartney
President and Chief Executive Officer
Hawai'i Tourism Authority
on
S.B. 261
Relating to Hawaiian Music and Dance

Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
Wednesday, February 16, 2011
3:00 p.m.
Conference Room 224

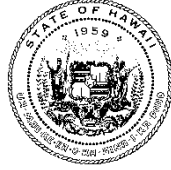
The Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) supports S.B. 261, which proposes to establish the Museum of Hawaiian Music and Dance, outlines the various steps that must be taken in order to make the Museum a reality, and provides funding for the design and environmental assessment relating to the construction of the museum facilities.

The HTA provides the following comments:

- Act 230, SLH 2007 was signed into law by the Governor on June 13, 2007, establishing the Museum of Hawaiian Music and Dance Committee to determine the appropriate type of institution that should be established, its location, possible financing mechanisms and the completion of an initial business plan. This measure also appropriated funds to HTA to assist the Committee and identified HTA as a member of the Committee.
- Act 48, SLH 2008 was signed into law by the Governor on April 30, 2008 to allow the Committee's extension through June 30, 2009 and to request a final report to the Legislature on the Committee's findings and recommendations. The report submitted in January 2009 recommended the state to proceed with the construction of the museum, identified a preferred site and addressed related considerations.
- The HTA supports the establishment of a Museum of Hawaiian Music and Dance as it will enable the work on this project to continue as well as support the goals of two initiatives in the 2005-2015 Hawai'i Tourism Strategic Plan:
 - Hawaiian Culture and Community: *Honor and perpetuate the Hawaiian culture and community.*
 - Tourism Product Development: *Provide a diverse and quality tourism product unique to Hawai'i that enhances the Hawai'i visitor experience and enriches residents' quality of life.*

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



BRUCE A. COPPA
Comptroller

RYAN OKAHARA
Deputy Comptroller

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING
AND GENERAL SERVICES
P.O. BOX 119
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

WRITTEN TESTIMONY
OF
BRUCE A. COPPA, COMPTROLLER
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE
ON
HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
ON
February 16, 2011

S.B. 261

RELATING TO HAWAIIAN DANCE AND MUSIC

Chair Galuteria and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on S.B. 261.

The Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) supports S.B. 261

DAGS defers to the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts' testimony and on any administration-related concerns or considerations for this proposed bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on this matter.

A. VAN HORN DIAMOND

1523-F Halekula Way
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822
Telephone (808) 943-8675

February 16, 2011

Senator Brickwood Galuteria, Chairperson and Members
Committee of Hawaiian Affairs
2011 Senate, Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Hearing, Conference Room 224
Wednesday, 16 February 2011
At 3:00 PM RE/SB261 – Relating to Hawaiian Music & Dance

Subject: Testimony by A. Van Horn Diamond (private citizen)

Testimony

Senator Galuteria, Honorable Chairperson & members of this committee on Hawaiian affairs:

Aloha. My name is A. Van Horn Diamond, private citizen, i.e. testifying for myself.

Mahalo for receiving and considering this testimony. Further, thank you for permitting me to testify in person.

Before continuing, I need to make sure there is no misunderstanding, misconstruing and/or misinterpretation. It is that I am a member of the Hawaiian Music Hall of Fame – presently serving on the Board of Directors. Hence, I support this organization's stand on SB261. But, this testimony is my personal mana'o regarding SB261 based on my experience and/or awareness.

With the foregoing, hopefully, what is shared will prove helpful in your favorably considering and enabling SB261 to successfully pass through the Legislative process and enacted into State Law.

First, with respect and sincerity, I support SB261 and ask its passage to enable it becoming law.

Please know my support of SB261 comes from the belief and opinion that Hawaiian music and hula:

- (1) Transcends time.
- (2) Manifests the vitality of the Hawaiian Civilization.
- (3) Has a history needing to be captured, preserved, perpetuated.
- (4) Serves today and the future of the principal art and communication means of Hawaii's indigenous and contemporary peoples.

Further, if Rock and Roll and Country Western music can have museums, why can't we of Hawaii Nei?

Indeed, there is also, for me, a feeling of urgency for the proposed museum to happen. That is, it is imperative to establish an on-going capability for Hawaii to capture, for purposes of the future, and, securing the foundation, as much as of what exists so to enable it being passed on. In other words, Hawaiian institutional memory – so to perpetuate.

Let me illustrate with myself.

I am third generation with linkages to Hawaiian Hula and Music as a professional performing musical artist for more than 50 years. My mother and father's generation includes, Kamaka Ukuleles, performing for Presidents Roosevelt, Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, performing on the Hawaii Calls program. My grandmother founded the Honolulu Girls Glee Club performing through WWII, at the Royal Hawaiian, Moana, Young Hotels on the mainland Huntington Hotel (Pasadena, CA), 1939 Worlds Fair (Treasure Island, San Francisco). My grandaunt leader and of the Royal Hawaiian Girls Glee Club which performed uninterrupted (T, W, Th) for over 70 years the Kodak then Pleasant Holidays Hula Show. Other members of my family include, Aunt Irmagard Aluli, Maiki Aiu, Kaahoanu Lake, John Kedola Lake, Ipo Kumukahi, Joe Recca, Sol, Andy, Simeon Bright, Kupuna Lila Guerrero Reiplinger, Marion Kanekapolei Diamond, David Kamai Diamond. I apologize for inadvertently excluding several hula and musical family members in this list. But it would take up much of your valuable time and I would need some time to remember so many names of past and present musician family members.

Within those activities is a history which needs to be affirmed for children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren to know. Who and how can it be affirmed and pursued on?

Those of us who know are now near the time of passing on to "join the giant luau with all our forebearers".

So, such an edifice and its potential to record as well as to impart the etc. as well is critical to the culture, to the Hawaiian Civilization. Above all, us - The Hawaiian.

Thank you for your understanding and kokua in what SB261 means.