

SCR55

Testimony

March 26, 2011

Dr. Anthony Castanha, Lecturer  
Department of Ethnic Studies  
University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa

Re: SCR 55 - Testimony to Support Legislation That Redesignates Discoverers' Day in Hawai‘i to Indigenous Peoples' Day

Aloha kakou and guatiao,

Thank you very much for allowing me to speak on behalf of this issue. My name is Tony Castanha. I am a lecturer in the Department of Ethnic Studies at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. I have been the coordinator of the annual Indigenous Peoples' Day gathering that began here in Hawai‘i in 1997. The name of our organization is called Kosmos Indigena. We normally meet on or around October 12 at Fort Street Mall, a response to when “Columbus Day” is recognized in the United States and “Discoverers' Day” in Hawai‘i. This educational event builds awareness of indigenous human rights issues taking place internationally and in Hawai‘i, and how the fifteenth century concept of discovery still influences society today.

While some may see the changing of the name of a day, like the changing of a street name or building, somewhat frivolous, the process of naming is substantive and the names we assign in the public sphere are important because they carry meaning and symbolize the values we place on our society. I'm sure that when the name Discoverers' Day was first used in Hawai‘i to represent this day in 1988, it was well intentionally brought about. We all grow up learning of incredible journeys of exploration that Europeans and Polynesians undertook in search of new and familiar places. What we are not taught in the schools, however, is the darker side of history, or particularly of the European finding and colonization of lands.

The Western concept of discovery and the body of laws that have become known as the “doctrine of discovery” were based on papal decrees issued by the Roman Catholic Church beginning in the mid-fifteenth century. These decrees sanctioned Christian dominion over non-Christian peoples and called for their subjugation and the taking of their lands. For example, in the May 4, 1493 papal bull *Inter Caetera* issued to Christopher Columbus, territories that were not in the possession of Christian rulers were claimed by the Spanish Crown, referring to “all their dominions, cities, camps, places, and villages, and all rights, jurisdictions, and appurtenances, all islands and mainlands found and to be found, discovered and to be discovered towards the west and south.”<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>The Bull *Inter Caetera* (Alexander VI), May 4, 1493, in Frances Gardiner Davenport, ed., *European Treaties bearing on the History of the United States and its Dependencies to 1648*, Washington, D.C.: Carnegie Institution of Washington, 1917, p. 77.

Columbus seized on the opportunity to claim all lands possible and implemented the *encomienda* forced labor slavery system in the Caribbean, where he worked as governor. As a result of the legacy of discovery, which was inherited by other European powers, tens of millions of indigenous peoples were killed off worldwide from the policies that were enacted. These population figures have been documented through recent research and scholarship.

Over the past twenty years or so this history has been increasingly exposed. In 1992, many indigenous peoples resisted and opposed the quincentennial celebration of the European arrival in the Americas. In that same year the city of Berkeley, California abolished Columbus Day and renamed it “Indigenous Peoples’ Day,” in part, to call attention to the plight of Native Americans. Since then, an increasing number of American states, cities, local governments, and institutions have renamed or abolished Columbus Day.

To recognize the name “Discoverers’ Day” in Hawai‘i is synonymous with Columbus Day because it acknowledges the inhumane nature of the concept of discovery and unwittingly upholds the many crimes that were committed. The concept applies to Hawai‘i too because Captain James Cook’s journeys were ones of “scientific discovery” in the European imagination, in his naming, mapping and charting of the region. Captain Cook is still thought of by many as the “Discoverer” of Hawai‘i. For many others, particularly the Kānaka Maoli, Cook’s legacy is one of death and destruction from the scourge of diseases he left behind.

Since October 2002, indigenous peoples and supporters, along with many students, have been informally calling this day in Hawai‘i “Indigenous Peoples’ Day.” We have already taken back the day to celebrate indigenous survival, pride, cultural continuity, and to build public awareness around this important issue. Thus, and in important recognition of the countless numbers of indigenous peoples who perished as a result of this history, we believe the name Discoverers’ Day should be changed to Indigenous Peoples’ Day to support and stand in solidarity with indigenous peoples around the world. Mahalo nui loa.

Sincerely,

Anthony Castanha

# Ke Aupuni O Hawai'i

## THE HAWAIIAN KINGDOM

Box 62107 • Manoa Station • Manoa, Oahu, Hawaiian Islands

### Testimony Supporting SCR 55 and SR29

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair

Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

DATE: Monday, March 28, 2011

Aloha Chair Hee and Vice Chair Shimabukuro and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary And Labor:

The Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples was adopted on September 13, 2007 by 143 member states of the United Nations at their General Assembly meeting in New York City. At that historic General Assembly vote, only four UN members voted against the Declaration: Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United States.

However, after intensive lobbying by the indigenous peoples, those four states adopted the Declaration last year 2010, with the US being the very last when President Obama finally announced US' acceptance on December 16, 2010.

The Declaration sets out the individual and collective rights of the world's 370 million native peoples, calls for the maintenance and strengthening of their cultural identities, and emphasizes their right to pursue development in keeping with their own needs and aspirations. The Declaration signifies a turning point in breaking the discriminatory genocidal policies and practices instituted by the Papal Bulls beginning in 1493.

The reason I mention the Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is that Hawaii played a significant role in creating it. Dozens of Hawaiians contributed significantly at the United Nations in the formulation of this declaration. They include: Kawaipuna Prejean, Poka Laenui, Dennis Pu'uhonua Kanahale, Mililani Trask, Lilikala Kame'eleihiwa, Keli'i Gora, Malia Nobrega, Kaiopua Fyfe, 'Ehu Kekahu Cardwell, Butch Kekahu, Joshua Cooper, along with a number of UH students.

The other reason I mention the Declaration is that the Legislature of the State of Hawaii adopted it in 2006 prior to the 2007 adoption by the UN General Assembly. Thus, it is only fitting that the State of Hawaii, in order to dissociate from the horrific injustices suffered by indigenous peoples at the hands of so-called "discoverers," pass SCR 55 and SR29 and change, in Hawaii, "Discoverers' Day" to "Indigenous People's Day." It would not only be appropriate it would be a true reflection of Aloha.



Leon Siu  
Hawaiian National

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [akitchitay@gmail.com](mailto:akitchitay@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Testimony for SCR55 on 3/28/2011 9:30:00 AM  
**Date:** Saturday, March 26, 2011 1:18:16 PM

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Testimony for JDL 3/28/2011 9:30:00 AM SCR55

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Bruce Akitchitay Carlino  
Organization: Yukayeke Taino Of Pennsylvania  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [akitchitay@gmail.com](mailto:akitchitay@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 3/26/2011

Comments:  
I support the change, NO MORE HOLIDAYS FOR TERRORISTS!

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [ekandagawa@gmail.com](mailto:ekandagawa@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Testimony for SCR55 on 3/28/2011 9:30:00 AM  
**Date:** Friday, March 25, 2011 5:40:49 PM

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Testimony for JDL 3/28/2011 9:30:00 AM SCR55

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Emily Kandagawa  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [ekandagawa@gmail.com](mailto:ekandagawa@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 3/25/2011

Comments:

The name "Discoverers' Day" in Hawaii reflects and condones a history based on subjugation. The fifteenth century Western concept of discovery established Christian dominion over non-Christians that allowed for their enslavement and the taking of their lands, and countless numbers of indigenous peoples have been killed in this imperialist process. Today, an increasing number of American states, cities, local governments, and institutions have renamed or abolished "Columbus Day," which is synonymous with the concept of discovery and recognizing a "Discoverers' Day." I request that the holiday be renamed Indigenous Peoples' Day. Please support and stand in solidarity with indigenous peoples around the world -- honor our histories and our nations.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [niga80@hotmail.com](mailto:niga80@hotmail.com)  
**Subject:** Testimony for SCR55 on 3/28/2011 9:30:00 AM  
**Date:** Saturday, March 26, 2011 5:51:01 PM

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Testimony for JDL 3/28/2011 9:30:00 AM SCR55

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Nidia Garcia Aljandro  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [niga80@hotmail.com](mailto:niga80@hotmail.com)  
Submitted on: 3/26/2011

Comments:  
Testimony - Nidia

Aloha. I support the initiative to change the name of "DISCOVERERS' DAY" in Hawaii to INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY, since until the day of the encounter our peoples lived with their rules, customs and proper traditions, with their roots grounded in these traditions and of different ways of appreciating life. Until this day the purest knowledge that comes from the coexistence with nature and its contemplation were free to be inherited from generation to generation. After this day, all this began to be erased by the knife-edge of the sword and in the name of God, a God who according to the colonizers gave them permission to massacre our peoples and take our lands. This gesture will be a small step in bringing peace to our world. Muchas gracias.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [caney@prtc.net](mailto:caney@prtc.net)  
**Subject:** Testimony for SCR55 on 3/28/2011 9:30:00 AM  
**Date:** Sunday, March 27, 2011 4:54:39 AM

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Testimony for JDL 3/28/2011 9:30:00 AM SCR55

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Naniki Reyes Ocasio  
Organization: Caney  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [caney@prtc.net](mailto:caney@prtc.net)  
Submitted on: 3/27/2011

Comments:

Takaji, The names given to national and local holidays possess important meaning, and represent the values we place on our society. The name "Discoverers' Day" in Hawaii reflects and condones a history based on subjugation. The fifteenth century Western concept of discovery established Christian dominion over non-Christians that allowed for their enslavement, the taking of their lands and genocide.

Countless numbers of indigenous peoples subsequently perished worldwide as a result of the European imperial and colonization process. Today, an increasing number of American states, cities, local governments, and institutions have renamed or abolished "Columbus Day," which is synonymous with the concept of discovery and recognizing a "Discoverers' Day."

Therefore, it is requested that the name of this day in Hawaii be changed to Indigenous Peoples' Day to recognize, support and stand in solidarity with indigenous peoples around the world. Thank you.



**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [kauahi@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:kauahi@hawaii.rr.com)  
**Subject:** Testimony for SCR55 on 3/28/2011 9:30:00 AM  
**Date:** Sunday, March 27, 2011 3:30:30 PM

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Testimony for JDL 3/28/2011 9:30:00 AM SCR55

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Dr. Kekuni Blaisdell  
Organization: Ka Pakaukau  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [kauahi@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:kauahi@hawaii.rr.com)  
Submitted on: 3/27/2011

Comments:

Aloha mai kakou, The use of names carries important meaning and symbolizes the values we place on our society. The name "Discoverers' Day" in Hawai'i reflects and condones a history based on subjugation. The fifteenth century Western concept of discovery established Christian dominion over non-Christians that allowed for their enslavement, taking of their lands, and genocide. Countless numbers of indigenous peoples subsequently perished worldwide as a result of the European imperial and colonization process. Today, an increasing number of American states, cities, local governments, and institutions have renamed or abolished "Columbus Day," which is synonymous with the concept of discovery and recognizing a "Discoverers' Day." Therefore, it is requested that the name of this day in Hawai'i be changed to Indigenous Peoples' Day to support and stand in solidarity with indigenous peoples around the world. Me ke aloha.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [kahiwal@cs.com](mailto:kahiwal@cs.com)  
**Subject:** Testimony for SCR55 on 3/28/2011 9:30:00 AM  
**Date:** Saturday, March 26, 2011 5:49:41 PM

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Testimony for JDL 3/28/2011 9:30:00 AM SCR55

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Kukauakahi (Clarence Ching)  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [kahiwal@cs.com](mailto:kahiwal@cs.com)  
Submitted on: 3/26/2011

Comments:

The "old" Discoverer's Day was a fraud. Capt. James Cook was a late-comer in Hawai'i. He was no Discoverer.

The "real" Discoverer's of Hawai'i were the Polynesians.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [swartzg001@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:swartzg001@hawaii.rr.com)  
**Subject:** Testimony for SCR55 on 3/28/2011 9:30:00 AM  
**Date:** Thursday, March 24, 2011 6:57:15 PM

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Testimony for JDL 3/28/2011 9:30:00 AM SCR55

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: gregory swartz  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [swartzg001@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:swartzg001@hawaii.rr.com)  
Submitted on: 3/24/2011

Comments:

Much of what is said in the resolution about what occurred 100's of years ago may be factually correct. On the other hand, Polynesians, Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders themselves were extremely prominent discoverers. However, the language of this resolution goes out of its way to express a political point of view and insult a lot of people based on race and religious beliefs. It is neither advisable nor necessary to insult anybody or more importantly "Bite the hand that feeds you." I suggest that the Legislature just abolish Discoverers' Day. Who needs it?

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
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**Cc:** [jlfujio@hawaii.edu](mailto:jlfujio@hawaii.edu)  
**Subject:** Testimony for SCR55 on 3/28/2011 9:30:00 AM  
**Date:** Sunday, March 27, 2011 3:12:49 AM

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Testimony for JDL 3/28/2011 9:30:00 AM SCR55

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Jennifer Fujio  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [jlfujio@hawaii.edu](mailto:jlfujio@hawaii.edu)  
Submitted on: 3/27/2011

Comments:

Aloha. The use of names carries important meaning and symbolizes the values we place on our society. The name "Discoverers' Day" in Hawaii reflects and condones a history based on subjugation. The fifteenth century Western concept of discovery established Christian dominion over non-Christians that allowed for their enslavement and the taking of their lands. Countless numbers of indigenous peoples subsequently perished worldwide as a result of the European imperial and colonization process. Today, an increasing number of American states, cities, local governments, and institutions have renamed or abolished "Columbus Day," which is synonymous with the concept of discovery and recognizing a "Discoverers' Day." Therefore, it is requested that the name of this day in Hawaii be changed to Indigenous Peoples' Day to support and stand in solidarity with indigenous peoples around the world. Thank you.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [evelyn.dyegarcia@gmail.com](mailto:evelyn.dyegarcia@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Testimony for SCR55 on 3/28/2011 9:30:00 AM  
**Date:** Friday, March 25, 2011 5:33:11 PM

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Testimony for JDL 3/28/2011 9:30:00 AM SCR55

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Evelyn Dye-Garcia  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [evelyn.dyegarcia@gmail.com](mailto:evelyn.dyegarcia@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 3/25/2011

Comments:

Columbus, Captain Cook, Hernando Cortez, Francisco Pizarro and all the others came to gain wealth for themselves and they did so using any means necessary, exploiting, enslaving and/or killing the local people to fulfill their own dreams of wealth. Columbus/Discoverers do NOT deserve a Holy Day (that is what holiday originally meant). If anyone deserves to be honored and/or remembered on this day, it is the people who WERE here when the greedy invaders arrived and disrupted everything.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [mgil1119@hotmail.com](mailto:mgil1119@hotmail.com)  
**Subject:** Testimony for SCR55 on 3/28/2011 9:30:00 AM  
**Date:** Sunday, March 27, 2011 3:44:39 PM

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Testimony for JDL 3/28/2011 9:30:00 AM SCR55

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Maria Gil  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [mgil1119@hotmail.com](mailto:mgil1119@hotmail.com)  
Submitted on: 3/27/2011

Comments:

Aloha. The use of names carries important meaning and symbolizes the values we place on our society. The name "Discoverers' Day" in Hawaii reflects and condones a history based on subjugation. The fifteenth century Western concept of discovery established Christian dominion over non-Christians that allowed for their enslavement and the taking of their lands. Countless numbers of indigenous peoples subsequently perished worldwide as a result of the European imperial and colonization process. Today, an increasing number of American states, cities, local governments, and institutions have renamed or abolished "Columbus Day," which is synonymous with the concept of discovery and recognizing a "Discoverers' Day." Therefore, it is requested that the name of this day in Hawaii be changed to Indigenous Peoples' Day to support and stand in solidarity with indigenous peoples around the world. Thank you.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [rmiller@lclark.edu](mailto:rmiller@lclark.edu)  
**Subject:** Testimony for SCR55 on 3/28/2011 9:30:00 AM  
**Date:** Sunday, March 27, 2011 11:21:03 AM

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Testimony for JDL 3/28/2011 9:30:00 AM SCR55

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Professor Robert J. Miller  
Organization: Lewis & Clark Law School Oregon  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [rmiller@lclark.edu](mailto:rmiller@lclark.edu)  
Submitted on: 3/27/2011

Comments:

I support this bill to change Hawaii's Discovery Day to Indigenous Peoples' Day. James Cook did not "discover" Hawaii. Hundreds of thousands of Indigenous Peoples were already living in the Hawaiian Islands when Cook accidentally arrived there.

By changing this day's name, your state will be historically accurate, and you will provide an excellent example to other states and the United States itself to recognize Indigenous Peoples and the reality of history that Europeans arrived in the 50 states as settler/colonizer societies but that thriving Indigenous nations already occupied and owned these areas. Thank you.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [yoselyn7034@yahoo.com](mailto:yoselyn7034@yahoo.com)  
**Subject:** Testimony for SCR55 on 3/28/2011 9:30:00 AM  
**Date:** Saturday, March 26, 2011 10:17:39 AM

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Testimony for JDL 3/28/2011 9:30:00 AM SCR55

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Ramona Ferreyra  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [yoselyn7034@yahoo.com](mailto:yoselyn7034@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 3/26/2011

Comments:

Aloha. The use of names carries important meaning and symbolizes the values we place on our society. The name "Discoverers' Day" in Hawaii reflects and condones a history based on subjugation. The fifteenth century Western concept of discovery established Christian dominion over non-Christians that allowed for their enslavement and the taking of their lands. Countless numbers of indigenous peoples subsequently perished worldwide as a result of the European imperial and colonization process. Today, an increasing number of American states, cities, local governments, and institutions have renamed or abolished "Columbus Day," which is synonymous with the concept of discovery and recognizing a "Discoverers' Day." Therefore, it is requested that the name of this day in Hawaii be changed to Indigenous Peoples' Day to support and stand in solidarity with indigenous peoples around the world. Thank you.



**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [JSAviles1@gmail.com](mailto:JSAviles1@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Testimony for SCR55 on 3/28/2011 9:30:00 AM  
**Date:** Friday, March 25, 2011 5:33:20 PM

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Testimony for JDL 3/28/2011 9:30:00 AM SCR55

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Joanna Soto-Aviles  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [JSAviles1@gmail.com](mailto:JSAviles1@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 3/25/2011

Comments:

Aloha. The use of names carries important meaning and energy, and symbolizes the values we place on our society. The name "Discoverers' Day" in Hawaii reflects and condones a history based on subjugation, exploitation, enslavement and institutionalized genocide. The fifteenth century Western concept of discovery established Christian dominion over non-Christians that allowed for their enslavement and the taking of their lands and basic human rights. Countless numbers of indigenous peoples subsequently perished worldwide as a result of the European imperial and colonization process. Today, an increasing number of American states, cities, local governments, and institutions have renamed or abolished "Columbus Day," which is synonymous with the concept of discovery and recognizing a "Discoverers' Day." It is time for everyone to acknowledge the truth about the past and learn from it in order to not repeat the mistakes of the past. Only in this way can we work together to create a present and a future based on enlightenment, peace, life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. To do this we must acknowledge the unjust subjugation and exploitation of indigenous people and honor the countless numbers of indigenous people worldwide who perished as a result of the indigenous-European clash of civilizations as well as those indigenous people who have endured and survived over the past five hundred years and who wish to celebrate their continuity and breath of life, educate the general public about this issue, and create a more peaceful world. Therefore, it is requested that the name of this day in Hawaii be changed to "Indigenous Peoples' Day" to support and stand in solidarity with indigenous peoples around the world.  
Thank you.

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**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [hehawaiiimakou@aol.com](mailto:hehawaiiimakou@aol.com)  
**Subject:** Testimony for SCR55 on 3/28/2011 9:30:00 AM  
**Date:** Friday, March 25, 2011 6:21:56 PM

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Testimony for JDL 3/28/2011 9:30:00 AM SCR55

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: Yes  
Submitted by: shane lee  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [hehawaiiimakou@aol.com](mailto:hehawaiiimakou@aol.com)  
Submitted on: 3/25/2011

Comments:

Aloha. The use of names carries important meaning and symbolizes the values we place on our society. The name "Discoverers' Day" in Hawaii reflects and condones a history based on subjugation. The fifteenth century Western concept of discovery established Christian dominion over non-Christians that allowed for their enslavement and the taking of their lands. Countless numbers of indigenous peoples subsequently perished worldwide as a result of the European imperial and colonization process. Today, an increasing number of American states, cities, local governments, and institutions have renamed or abolished "Columbus Day," which is synonymous with the concept of discovery and recognizing a "Discoverers' Day." Therefore, it is requested that the name of this day in Hawaii be changed to Indigenous Peoples' Day to support and stand in solidarity with indigenous peoples around the world. Thank you.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [pilipohale@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:pilipohale@hawaii.rr.com)  
**Subject:** Testimony for SCR55 on 3/28/2011 9:30:00 AM  
**Date:** Friday, March 25, 2011 11:05:04 PM

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Testimony for JDL 3/28/2011 9:30:00 AM SCR55

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: Yes  
Submitted by: Pilipo Souza  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [pilipohale@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:pilipohale@hawaii.rr.com)  
Submitted on: 3/25/2011

Comments:

It is about time we recognize the people that God guided to various loctions of the world, instead of those who Corporation sent.

aloha ke Akua,  
pilipo Souza