



LATE TESTIMONY

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS**

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February 4, 2012

To: The Honorable Jessica Wooley, Chair, Della Au Belatti, Vice Chair,
and Members of the House Committee on Culture & The Arts

Date: Saturday, February 4, 2012

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Place: Conference Room 329, State Capitol

From: Dwight Y. Takamine, Director
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR)

**Re: S.B. No. 1983 RELATING TO THE COLLECTION OF DEMOGRAPHIC DATA BY
STATE AGENCIES, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

I. OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

HB1983 proposes to facilitate collection and reporting of demographic data by requiring data disaggregation consistent with federal standards and requiring publication of such data. Key provisions of the measure include:

- Adding a new section to Chapter 27, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), to require any state agency, board or commission that collects demographic data as to ancestry or ethnicity to use separate collection categories and tabulations for Native Hawaiians, Asian groups and Pacific Islanders.
- Requiring the inclusion of data collected and tabulated in the new section of Chapter 27, HRS, in every demographic report on ancestry or ethnic origins published or released on or after July 1, 2013.
- Requiring publication of the data on the web, subject to all applicable state and federal laws regarding personal information, on or before July 1, 2013 and thereafter.
- Requiring state agencies to update their data collection to reflect the additional groups in the manner they are reported by the Census Bureau 18 months after the 2020 census.

DLIR appreciates the intent of this measure to increase the amount of demographic

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information available, but offers concerns and a suggestion below.

II. COMMENTS ON THE HOUSE BILL

Various programs in the DLIR collect and report racial or ethnic data, mostly for federal reporting requirements. A minority of such collection exceeds federal standards and allows the disaggregation of some but not all of the Asian and Pacific Islander groups in the measure. The department notes that survey recipients self-reporting on a voluntary basis accomplish much of the data capture. Moreover, the measure does not provide guidance on how to collect and tabulate data to take into account our state's large population of multiracial individuals. The department also notes that the measure does not explicitly require the inclusion of the population of the individuals from the Compact of Free Association nations.

The measure requires that the disaggregated data be included in all reports on ancestry or ethnic origins. This requirement conflicts with current federal reporting requirements tied to the largest funding sources for the department. DLIR requests an amendment to the measure to avoid this conflict with federal reporting requirements.

The department is also concerned about the potential costs associated with this measure, which would include labor costs as well as retooling data collection and storage systems.

Considering all the aforementioned concerns and that the DLIR is still supportive of the intent to collect and report data of the target populations, the department suggests the legislature consider a task force to do a more detailed analysis of the issues and cost implications involved. DLIR is willing to participate in a such a task force.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

belatti2 - Kate

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 03, 2012 8:10 PM
To: CUAtestimony
Cc: Brenda.Kosky@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1983 on 2/4/2012 9:30:00 AM

Testimony for CUA 2/4/2012 9:30:00 AM HB1983

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Brenda Kosky
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Brenda.Kosky@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/3/2012

Comments:

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ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS

TESTIMONY OF PRESIDENT SOULEE STROUD

HOUSE BILL 1983

RELATING TO THE COLLECTION OF DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

BY STATE AGENCIES, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE & ARTS

Saturday; February 4, 2011; 9:30 a.m.; Room 329

Aloha Madame Chair Wooley, Vice Chair Belatti and members of the Committee on Culture and Arts. I am Soulee Stroud, President of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs comprised of sixty affiliate clubs in all areas of Hawaii and eleven states on the continent. We were founded in 1918 to advocate for the passage of the Hawaiian Homesteads Act of 1920 and have been an advocacy organization for Native Hawaiians ever since.

We wish to support HB1983 that would require State agencies, boards and commissions to make a distinction in the way they keep demographic data according to prevailing federal standards. The Hawaiian Civic Clubs fought for many years to have a separate Native Hawaiian category with the United States Census Bureau and it is appropriate that the State of Hawaii also keep separate data. Given the trust responsibilities the State has to Native Hawaiians, this bill is well overdue.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this bill and we urge its passage.

Contact: jalna.keala2@hawaiiantel.net