



SB2268
RELATING TO QUEEN LILIUOKALANI
Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

January 30, 2012

3:00 p.m.

Room 224

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) offers the following comments on SB2268, which would require that the inscription on the statue of Queen Lili'uokalani on the grounds of the State Capitol be changed to reflect that she was the queen of the Kingdom of Hawai'i from her coronation on January 29, 1891, until her death on November 11, 1917.

The OHA Administration will recommend that the OHA Board of Trustees support SB2268.

From the moment she became queen until she died, Queen Lili'uokalani's tenure as Hawai'i's last ruling monarch was beset by political turmoil and personal distress. Her kingdom was illegally overthrown with the aid of the U.S. military, and she was imprisoned in her own palace. Through it all, she exhibited remarkable courage and an unwavering commitment to her people and her kingdom. To honor Queen Lili'uokalani, the inscription of her statue should be changed as proposed in SB2268.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.



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TESTIMONY OF
STATE FOUNDATION ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS
TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
ON
January 30, 2012

S. B. 2268

Chair Galuteria and members of the committee, I am Eva Laird Smith, executive director of the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA) and I am pleased to offer testimony on S. B. 2268.

The State Foundation acknowledges the memory of Queen Liliu'okalani and the need to recognize her importance to Hawai'i and Hawaii's people. Should the State Legislature call for physical changes by way of primary data pertaining to the Queen's statue, the State Foundation would be honored to assist in this endeavor.

We also recommend that any new text be formulated by a legislatively appointed committee or an art advisory committee chaired by the SFCA.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you.

ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS
TESTIMONY OF PRESIDENT SOULEE STROUD

SENATE BILL 2268
RELATING TO QUEEN LILIUOKALANI

COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
Monday; Jan. 30, 2012; 3:00 pm; Room 224

Aloha Chairman Galuteria, vice chair Ryan and members of the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs. I am Soulee Stroud, president of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, representing sixty component clubs located in eleven states of the continent and all counties of Hawaii.

Mahalo for introducing this bill that corrects a historical error by fixing the inscription on Queen Liliuokalani's statue on the grounds of the State Capitol.

The new inscription will make it clear that Liliuokalani was Queen until her death in 1917, but in truth, Mr. Chairman, she will always reign as Queen in our hearts and as long as there are Hawaiians alive to tell her story.

Thank you for allowing me to testify.

Contact: jalna.keala2@hawaiiantel.net

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To: Hawaii Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

Re: SB2268

RELATING TO QUEEN LILIUOKALANI.

Changes inscription on Queen Liliuokalani statue to the dates of her coronation and death.

Testimony in opposition

For hearing on Monday, January 30, 2012 at 3:00 PM

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<http://tinyurl.com/6gkzk>

Book: "Hawaiian Apartheid: Racial Separatism and Ethnic Nationalism in the Aloha State"

<http://tinyurl.com/2a9fqa>

I offer testimony in opposition to SB2268.

This bill proposes to put on the Liliuokalani statue only two dates: her "coronation on January 29, 1891, to the date of her death on November 11, 1917."

Those two dates, standing alone, would give the impression that Liliuokalani actually reigned from 1891 to 1917. Indeed, the whole purpose of such an inscription is to twist history by leading people to believe the monarchy was never overthrown. Numerous falsehoods and misleading statements in the text of the bill make clear that is its purpose.

My testimony provides detailed proof to refute the history-twisting. One element of that proof is photographs of a letter of abdication and an oath of allegiance to the Republic of Hawaii, both personally signed by Liliuokalani and notarized on January 24, 1895 in the presence of her personal attorney and (former) cabinet ministers. Another element of that proof is photographs showing that emperors, kings, queens, and presidents of at least 20 nations personally signed letters of recognition de jure, in Fall 1894, formally recognizing the Republic as the rightful successor government to the Kingdom. Several of those letters were signed by heads of state whom King Kalakaua had personally met on his trip around the world, and to whom he had awarded the highest order of medal in the Kingdom. They agreed the monarchy was finished. It's time for Hawaii legislators to acknowledge that incontrovertible fact.

The most appropriate dates to appear would be Liliuokalani's birth and death dates. If the date she ascended the throne is to be listed, then the date she was deposed must also be listed -- perhaps by including a line which says "Queen of Hawaii, January 29, 1891 to January 17, 1893."

Here's the rest of my detailed testimony.

Page 1, lines 6-11 says that U.S. diplomatic representative John Stevens "conspired ... to overthrow the indigenous and lawful government of the Kingdom of Hawaii." There is one doubtful matter of interpretation, and one flagrant error of fact, in that sentence.

It's a matter of interpretation whether Mr. Stevens conspired to overthrow the government. There is credible evidence on both sides of that question. The well-known "Blount Report" and U.S. President Grover Cleveland said one thing; the less-well-known but now easily available Morgan Report, containing testimony under

oath with cross-examination, says another and includes proof that Minister Blount told lies in his report. See <http://morganreport.org>

The flagrant error of fact is the assertion that the Kingdom government was "indigenous." The truth is that throughout the Kingdom, from the time of its founding until the revolution of 1893, a majority of cabinet ministers, nearly all the department heads, and about 1/4 of the members of the legislature (both Nobles and Representatives) were Caucasian. Many of those Caucasians were native-born in Hawaii (and thus, according to common usage of the term could be called "indigenous"), while others were immigrants who became naturalized subjects (citizens).

Another disputable interpretation comes on page 1, lines 16-17, which says the U.S. peacekeepers positioned themselves "to intimidate Queen Liliuokalani and her government." It should be noted that as soon as the peacekeepers had landed and began marching unavoidably past the Palace on their way to their anticipated bivouac in Wai'alaie, they dipped the U.S. flag as a sign of respect in salute to the Queen -- an act that cannot possibly be interpreted to intimidate her.

Page 2, lines 5-10 says "The United States Minister thereupon extended diplomatic recognition to the provisional government in violation of treaties between the two nations and of international law." It should be noted that within two days after the revolution, every local consul of every nation that had a consulate in Hawaii sent a letter of diplomatic recognition to Sanford B. Dole, President of the Provisional Government. That's not a violation of treaties nor of international law. It's the normal course of events after a revolution. Foreign nations recognize the new government (and thereby confirm that existing treaties remain in effect). Those letters were published in the Honolulu Commercial Advertiser, and their text can be seen at

<http://tinyurl.com/9f4vh4>

Formal letters of de jure recognition of the Republic, personally signed by emperors, kings, queens, and presidents of 20 nations on 4 continents in 11 languages can be seen at

<http://tinyurl.com/4wtwdz>

If you know teachers of any of those languages, suggest they use these letters in the classroom!

Page 3, lines 18 to page 4, line 2 says "Queen Liliuokalani never relinquished the throne in the face of the overthrow, notwithstanding her forced removal from the throne. Therefore, the legislature finds that Hawaiian sovereignty was never relinquished in the overthrow and that Queen Liliuokalani remained the Queen of the Kingdom of Hawaii until her death." That sentence is false and also would be inconsequential even if it were true.

On January 24, 1895 ex-queen Liliuokalani signed a five-page letter of abdication and a one-page oath of loyalty to the Republic of Hawaii. Six witnesses including her personal attorney and her cabinet ministers signed a statement certifying that she had freely and voluntarily signed in their presence. Notary W.L. Stanley also notarized the documents. Knowing that at least 19 nations had already recognized the Republic of Hawaii, and that the attempted counter-revolution by Robert Wilcox had been crushed earlier in the month, Liliuokalani decisively ended any hope for the monarchy and pledged her loyalty to the Republic. Thus Liliuokalani herself formally recognized the Republic — her abdication and loyalty oath belong among the letters whereby heads of government around the world (including Liliuokalani for those who believed her position as head of state for the Kingdom of Hawaii was still viable) gave de jure recognition to the Republic as the rightful government of Hawaii. The originals of Liliuokalani's letter of abdication and her oath of loyalty to the Republic, personally signed by herself, are in the Archives of the State of Hawaii. Photographs of them can be

seen on the internet at
<http://tinyurl.com/4u8es4>

But even if she had not signed a formal abdication and loyalty oath, it would not matter. Very few revolutions throughout the history of the world, including in modern times, have ever been followed by a formal abdication. In many cases the monarch, dictator, or head of state who was overthrown was killed during or soon after the revolution without the nicety of signing an abdication. Whether the deposed head of state dies without signing an abdication, or continues living for many years, his/her government was ended by the revolution and he/she does not remain head of state. To say otherwise is absurd. During the 19th, 20th, and 21st Centuries, how many monarchs, dictators, or presidents in Europe, South America or Africa were overthrown? How many of them signed letters of abdication? How many of the overthrown dictators continued to be recognized as head of state until they died, by their treaty partners or under international law? Following the Russian revolution of 1917, the Tsar and his family were all shot to death. Or were they? For many decades the royalists said Princess Anastasia had escaped, and if she could be found she would be the rightful ruler of Russia. But only a few diehard deadenders (like today's Hawaiian sovereignty activists) believed that she would actually take over Russia, even if she could be found.

The highest order of medals awarded by the monarchs of the Kingdom of Hawaii was the Knights Grand Cross of the Royal Order of Kamehameha With Collar. Below are stories about three monarchs who had received that medal from King Kalakaua during the 1880s, and who were still reigning at the time of the Hawaiian revolution of 1893 and establishment of the Republic in 1894. All three of them personally signed letters of recognition de jure to President Sanford B. Dole, toward the end of 1894, formally recognizing the Republic as the rightful successor government of

Hawaii following the overthrow of the monarchy. They did that despite the fact that Dole had overthrown a fellow monarch with whom they had very close relations. They knew the revolution had overthrown the Hawaiian monarchy, yet these monarchs went out of their way to formally acknowledge that fact. Will the Hawaii legislature now try to rewrite history?

In the basement of Iolani Palace there's a display of medals or photos of them, with notes identifying who were the recipients.

Queen Victoria of Britain was given the medal personally by King Kalakaua in June of 1881 during his trip around the world. Queen Liliuokalani had also personally attended Victoria's golden jubilee in 1887. Queen Victoria was also godmother to Prince Albert Leiopapa Kamehameha, son of dowager Queen Emma (granddaughter of Englishman John Young) and King Alexander Liholiho Kamehameha IV, to whom Victoria sent a baby crib still on display in Queen Emma's summer palace. Nevertheless, after the Hawaiian revolution and after the Republic had been established, Queen Victoria personally signed a warm and friendly letter to President Sanford Dole formally recognizing the Republic as the rightful government of Hawaii. Victoria knew what was right. Despite the fact that Liliuokalani was her friend and Victoria had very close relations with three monarchs of the Kingdom of Hawaii over a period spanning several decades, she officially confirmed that the Hawaiian monarchy had ended and the Republic was the rightful government. Who are you, members of the legislature, to disagree with her at the behest of a few insurgent history-twisters? See Queen Victoria's personally signed letter, and accompanying documents, at <http://tinyurl.com/6e3lh3>

In 1881 Tsar Alexander III of Russia rose to the throne upon the death of his father. King Kalakaua had met him during his trip around the world. In 1883 Kalakaua sent envoy extraordinary and

minister plenipotentiary Col. Curtis P. Iaukea to attend the Tsar's delayed coronation ceremony. At that time Minister Iaukea, by command of King Kalakaua, presented the Tsar with the Royal Order of Kamehameha With Collar. Alexander III remained Tsar of Russia during the Hawaiian revolution of 1893. When he was notified of the establishment of the Republic of Hawaii in 1894, he then personally signed a letter of recognition de jure, formally recognizing the Republic as Hawaii's rightful government. See the Tsar's original letter in Russian, accompanied by a contemporaneous certified translation into French, at <http://tinyurl.com/3m57m5>

In March of 1881 King Kalakaua personally visited the Meiji Emperor of Japan. Mutsuhito, during Kalakaua's trip around the world. Kalakaua gave the Emperor the Knights Grand Cross of the Royal Order of Kamehameha With Collar, and also offered his niece, Princess Kaiulani, to become the future bride of Mutsuhito's eldest son, the Crown Prince of Japan. Despite that close relationship between the monarchical governments, the Japanese consul in Honolulu, Suburo Fujii, delivered a letter of de facto recognition to the Provisional Government of Hawaii on January 19, 1893, two days after the revolution. Contents of the letter are at <http://tinyurl.com/9f4vh4>

Apparently the Japanese consulate continued the same level of relations with the Provisional Government, and later the Republic, as it had maintained with the Kingdom. It is unclear whether the subsequent establishment of the Republic resulted in a formal letter of recognition de jure like the ones given by at least nineteen other nations. No such letter can be found in the archives of the State of Hawaii. However, on April 24, 1897, the Japanese government presented a letter to President Sanford B. Dole, personally signed by Emperor Mutsuhito, naming "Mr. R. Shimamura, His Imperial Japanese Majesty's Diplomatic Agent and Consul General." When presenting the letter from the Emperor, Mr. Shimamura said to President Dole, "Mr. President: The Consulate

General of Japan in Hawaii has been raised to the rank of Legation" -- a higher rank than had previously been given to the Japanese consulate throughout the Kingdom. Thus it is clear that the Emperor of Japan recognized the Republic of Hawaii as rightful successor to the Kingdom -- the same Emperor to whom King Kalakaua had personally given the Kingdom's highest medal and an offer of his neice Kaiulani's hand in marriage to the Crown Prince. A photo of the newspaper report from 1897, containing full text of the Emperor's letter, is at <http://tinyurl.com/4h2fhd>