

**SB3007**



**SB3007**  
**RELATING TO HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE**  
Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs  
Senate Committee on Economic Development and Technology

February 22, 2012

1:15 p.m.

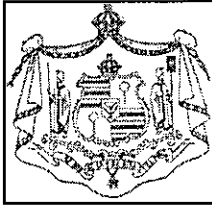
Room: 016

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) offers the following comments on SB3007, which would re-designate the second Monday of October from “Discoverers’ Day” to “Indigenous Peoples’ Day.”

Many indigenous peoples find “Columbus Day” disturbing because it celebrates the actions of European voyager Christopher Columbus without acknowledging the catastrophic destruction that his actions brought to the indigenous societies flourishing within the Americas prior to his arrival. We appreciate that SB3007 attempts to provide some form of justice with respect to this issue by recognizing the common plight of indigenous communities that have been devastated by more than 500 years of European colonization.

However, we note that the State of Hawai’i does not recognize Columbus Day. Instead, we celebrate “Discoverers’ Day” in recognition of the accomplishments of the Native Hawaiian people’s Polynesian ancestors, who voyaged across the vast Pacific – without the use of modern navigational equipment and while their European counterparts were still sailing close to the coastline – and discovered Hawai’i, one of the most isolated places in the world. The discovery and settlement of Hawai’i is one of the greatest feats of humankind and, accordingly, we ask that the bill maintain the current statute’s recognition of Hawai’i’s unique history and the amazing deeds of our kūpuna.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.



## **Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs**

P. O. Box 1135

Honolulu, Hawai'i 96807

TESTIMONY OF PRESIDENT SOULEE STROUD

### **Senate Bill 3007 RELATING TO INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY**

COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

And the

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY

Wednesday; February 22, 2012; 1:15 p.m.; Rm. 016

Aloha Chairman Galuteria, Madam Chair Fukunaga and member of the Committees on Hawaiian Affairs and Economic Development and Technology. I am Soulee Stroud, president of the Association of Hawaiian Affairs and would like to offer an amendment to this bill.

SB3007 amends Section 8-1.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes to change "Discoverers' Day" to "Indigenous Peoples' Day". We suggest that after the language: "...The second Monday in October shall be known as Indigenous Peoples' Day, to..." that the existing language be deleted and the following be inserted:

- (1) recognize that Native Hawaiians are the indigenous, native people of the Hawaiian archipelago and are a distinctly native community;
- (2) recognize that the Native Hawaiian peoples existed and flourished for a thousand years prior to contact by Westerners and continue to flourish for a thousand years after contact; and
- (3) educate the general public on the State of Hawaii's obligations to the Native peoples of Hawaii and continued protection of all rights, customarily and traditionally exercised by its descendants.

The new language being proposed comes from Act 195 as passed by the Legislature and signed by Governor Abercrombie last year. If this Committee chooses to enact Indigenous People's Day it should also serve as a memorial of the State's recognition of the Native peoples of Hawaii and stand as a testament to that recognition.

We find the language proposed in SB 3007 to be somewhat ambiguous and believe that our amendment clarifies the language.

We see also, an opportunity for the State Legislature to further codify its support for the Native peoples of Hawaii in the acceptance of this amendment and the passage of this legislation. Mahalo for allowing me to testify today.

Contact: [jalna.keala2@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:jalna.keala2@hawaiiantel.net)

# Ke Aupuni O Hawaii

*Ua mau ke Eā i ka 'Āina i ka Pono*  
*The Sovereignty of the Land is perpetuated in Righteousness*  
Box 62107 • Manoa Station • Manoa, O'ahu, Hawaiian Islands

## JOINT HEARING OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS AND THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

FEBRUARY 22, 2012 - 1:15 PM, ROOM 016

### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT IN PRINCIPLE OF SB 3007 – RELATING TO INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY

CHAIRS GALUTERIA and FUKUNAGA and COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Aloha. I offer this testimony today on behalf of the Cabinet Council of Ke Aupuni O Hawaii, comprised of nationals and residents of the sovereign, independent nation, Ko Hawaii Pae Aina.

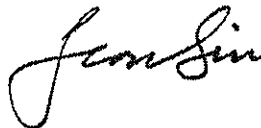
We are here today to lend our **SUPPORT IN PRINCIPLE** to **SB 3007** to change what is presently designated in the State of Hawaii as "Discoverers' Day," to "Indigenous Peoples' Day."

However, we strongly recommend that rather than striking out the current language in the statute that reads: "...in recognition of the Polynesian discoverers of the Hawaiian Islands,..." that this bill retains that language, so that it reads as follows:

**Indigenous Peoples' Day.** The second Monday in October shall be known as Indigenous Peoples' Day to:

- (1) Recognize the Polynesian discoverers of the Hawaiian Islands and those indigenous discoverers that settled the myriad islands of the Pacific more than a thousand years before Columbus was born;
- (2) Recognize the countless indigenous people who perished as a result of the indigenous-European confrontation;
- (3) Recognize those indigenous people who have survived the past five hundred years; and
- (4) Educate the general public about the ongoing plight of indigenous people, provided that this day is not and shall not be construed to be a state holiday.

Malama pono,



Leon Siu  
Cabinet Council Member  
Ke Aupuni O Hawaii,  
Ko Hawaii Pae Aina

**galuteria1 - Davis**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2012 8:54 AM  
**To:** HWN Testimony  
**Cc:** info@schha.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB3007 on 2/22/2012 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for HWN/EDT 2/22/2012 1:15:00 PM SB3007

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Annie Au Hoon, President  
Organization: Kewalo Hawaiian Homestead Community Assn., SCHHA  
E-mail: [info@schha.com](mailto:info@schha.com)  
Submitted on: 2/21/2012

Comments:

**galuteria1 - Davis**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2012 12:33 PM  
**To:** HWN Testimony  
**Cc:** dr.blaisdell@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB3007 on 2/22/2012 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for HWN/EDT 2/22/2012 1:15:00 PM SB3007

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Dr. Richard Kekuni Akana Blaisdell  
Organization: Ka Pakaukau  
E-mail: [dr.blaisdell@gmail.com](mailto:dr.blaisdell@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/21/2012

Comments:  
Feb. 20, 2012

SB 3007 - Testimony for Indigenous Peoples' Day

Welina mai kakou. The term "Discoverer's Day" in Hawai'i unwittingly reflects and condones a history based on the subjugation of Indigenous people.

The fifteenth century Western concept of Discovery justified enslavement and the taking of lands.

Countless numbers of indigenous peoples subsequently perished worldwide as a result of the European "discovery" and colonization process.

Today, an increasing number of states, cities, governments and institutions have renamed or abolished "Columbus" or "Discoverers'" Day, which is synonymous with the concept of the Colonization of Indigenous People.

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

Me ka 'oia'io,

Richard Kekuni Akana Blaisdell

**galuteria1 - Davis**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2012 12:54 PM  
**To:** HWN Testimony  
**Cc:** JSAviles1@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB3007 on 2/22/2012 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for HWN/EDT 2/22/2012 1:15:00 PM SB3007

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Joanna Soto-Aviles  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [JSAviles1@gmail.com](mailto:JSAviles1@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/21/2012

**Comments:**

Aloha. As an Indigenous Ta'no Boricua woman, my family and I understand that the use of words and names carries important meaning and symbolizes the values we place on our society. The name "Discoverers' Day" in Hawai'i unwittingly reflects and condones a history based on subjugation and genocide. The fifteenth century Western concept of discovery established Christian dominion over non-Christians which allowed for their enslavement, their exploitation and the taking of their lands. Countless numbers of Indigenous Peoples subsequently perished worldwide as a result of the European "discovery", colonization, exploitation and genocide 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," loss of basic human rights, exploitation, genocide and the recognition of 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 as well as the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Thank you.



**galuteria1 - Davis**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2012 5:15 PM  
**To:** HWN Testimony  
**Cc:** ziegelaschm@bellsouth.net  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB3007 on 2/22/2012 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for HWN/EDT 2/22/2012 1:15:00 PM SB3007

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position:  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Mildred Karaira Gandia Reyes  
Organization: United Confederation of Taino People  
E-mail: [ziegelaschm@bellsouth.net](mailto:ziegelaschm@bellsouth.net)  
Submitted on: 2/21/2012

**Comments:**

Aloha. The use of names carries important meaning and symbolizes the values we place on our society. The name "Discoverers' Day" in Hawai'i unwittingly 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 "discovery" 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 the recognition of 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.

Hahom (Thank you)

Oma'bahari (With Respect)

Madame Chair: Senator Carol Fukunaga

Vice Chair: Senator Glenn Wakai

Committee Members: Senator Rosalyn Baker, Senator Malama Solomon and Senator Sam Slom

February 22, 2012

Arviella Benavides

89-232 Pililaau Avenue

Waianae, HI 96792

Aloha Mai Kakou Honorable Senators,

My name is Arviella Benavides. I am a native Hawaiian and a resident to the Nanakuli Hawaiian Homestead (fourth generation). I am in support of the Senate Bill 3007. I would very much like to see more people educated to the background of the original inhabitants of our mother island among many more other promising educational programs and activities our children, youth and teens (as well as our young adults, makuas and kupunas) may relate to that this Senate Bill affords to our communities, city and counties as well as our Hawaiian Islands.

My support was influenced upon researching an earlier statement made by none other than Senator Daniel Akaka. According to Senator Daniel Akaka who sponsored the SB17, sec 3, definitions' read as follow:

- (1) "ABORIGINAL, INDIGENOUS, NATIVE PEOPLE. - The term "aboriginal, indigenous, native people" means people whom Congress has recognized as the original inhabitants of the lands that later became part of the United States and who exercised sovereignty in the areas that later became part of the United States" (2005, Mar).

My inability to be present at this hearing urges me to submit and stand upon my written testimony in support of the SB3007, Indigenous Peoples' Day Bill. Mahalo for your time and hope my efforts to supporting this testimony have your favorable approval.

Sincerely,

Arviella Benavides

(Community Resident of Nanakuli)

## galuteria1 - Davis

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 20, 2012 8:48 PM  
**To:** HWN Testimony  
**Cc:** kanakaoomaunawili@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB3007 on 2/22/2012 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for HWN/EDT 2/22/2012 1:15:00 PM SB3007

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Luwella Leonardi  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [kanakaoomaunawili@gmail.com](mailto:kanakaoomaunawili@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/20/2012

**Comments:**

I am in support of SB 3007. It's imperative that one be in agreement to changing Discovery Day to Indigenous Peoples' 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.

I have visited Mexico on several occasions as well as participated over time numerous relationship building with indigenous people. I have listened to many sad and tragic testimonies on mistreatment indigenous people. A corrective approach would generate humanity in the world. Thank you for considering my testimony for such an important intent!  
Luwella Leonardi

**galuteria1 - Davis**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2012 12:47 AM  
**To:** HWN Testimony  
**Cc:** niga80@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB3007 on 2/22/2012 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for HWN/EDT 2/22/2012 1:15:00 PM SB3007

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: Yes  
Submitted by: Nidia Garcia Alejandro  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [niga80@hotmail.com](mailto:niga80@hotmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/21/2012

**Comments:**

Aloha. I support the initiative to change the name of "DISCOVERERS' DAY" in Hawai'i 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.

**galuteria1 - Davis**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2012 5:59 AM  
**To:** HWN Testimony  
**Cc:** Rmiller@lclark.edu  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB3007 on 2/22/2012 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for HWN/EDT 2/22/2012 1:15:00 PM SB3007

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Prof. Robert J. Miller  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [Rmiller@lclark.edu](mailto:Rmiller@lclark.edu)  
Submitted on: 2/21/2012

**Comments:**

Please pass this bill. It is time for majority societies to recognize and learn about the true history of the lands they inhabit today and the Indigenous Peoples who preceded them and live among them still today. A Hawaiian state holiday that honors as "founders" Capt. James Cook, who accidentally wandered by the islands, and the Euro-American politicians, missionaries and agriculturalists who followed, ignores the true history of the islands and the Indigenous Peoples who truly founded a human culture in the islands and lived there thousands of years before Euro-Americans arrived. Please enact this bill to honor Hawaii's Indigenous Peoples.

## galuteria1 - Davis

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2012 7:07 AM  
**To:** HWN Testimony  
**Cc:** pkaleikini@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB3007 on 2/22/2012 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for HWN/EDT 2/22/2012 1:15:00 PM SB3007

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Paulette Kaleikini  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [pkaleikini@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:pkaleikini@hawaii.rr.com)  
Submitted on: 2/21/2012

### Comments:

Aloha. The use of names carries important meaning and symbolizes the values we place on our society. The name "Discoverers' Day" in Hawai'i unwittingly 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 "discovery" 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 the recognition of 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. Mahalo

**galuteria1 - Davis**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2012 7:40 AM  
**To:** HWN Testimony  
**Cc:** mh@interpac.net  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB3007 on 2/22/2012 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for HWN/EDT 2/22/2012 1:15:00 PM SB3007

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Cory Harden  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [mh@interpac.net](mailto:mh@interpac.net)  
Submitted on: 2/21/2012

Comments:  
Honor the people who first discovered and cared for the land!

**galuteria1 - Davis**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2012 8:05 AM  
**To:** HWN Testimony  
**Cc:** luciano@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB3007 on 2/22/2012 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for HWN/EDT 2/22/2012 1:15:00 PM SB3007

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Luciano Minerbi  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [luciano@hawaii.edu](mailto:luciano@hawaii.edu)  
Submitted on: 2/21/2012

**Comments:**

I am in support of dropping Discovery Day for People's Day Thank you very much Luciano



February 20, 2012

Dr. Anthony Castanha  
Department of Ethnic Studies  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Re: SB 3007 - Testimony to Support Legislation that Redesignates Discoverers' Day in Hawai'i to Indigenous Peoples' Day

Aloha kakou and guatiao,

I want to thank you very much for taking up and allowing this issue to be heard. My name is Tony Castanha. I am a lecturer of Indigenous and American Indian Studies in the Department of Ethnic Studies at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and 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 in 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 in Hawai'i and internationally, and how the fifteenth century concept of discovery still influences society today.

My testimony in the last session, when Senate Resolution 29 was heard and passed by the Senate, went into more detail about the history of how the concept of discovery sanctioned Christian dominion over primarily indigenous peoples and legalized the taking of their lands. I'm sure that when this day was renamed "Discoverers' Day" in 1988 in recognition of the "Polynesian discoverers," it was well intentionally brought about. There is no question that the Polynesians or Kānaka Maoli were the first peoples to find the Hawaiian Islands and should be recognized as such. However this is not the issue. To recognize the name "Discoverers' Day" in Hawai'i is synonymous with Columbus Day because it unwittingly acknowledges the inhumane nature of the concept of discovery and upholds the many crimes that were committed. Evoking the name of discovery as a holiday or publicly recognized in any such capacity can summon a tormented history for many American Indian people and indigenous peoples in general.

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. We wish to now formalize the naming of the day. Since 1992, an increasing number of American states, cities, local governments, and institutions have renamed or abolished Columbus Day. Therefore, and in important recognition of the countless numbers of indigenous peoples who perished as a result of this history, we request that the name Discoverers' Day in Hawai'i be changed

to Indigenous Peoples' Day to support and stand in solidarity with indigenous peoples around the world. Mahalo nui loa.

As agreed upon by and in thanks to Senator Maile Shimabukuro, I would like to briefly point out the amendments to the bill:

**“Indigenous Peoples’ Day.** The second Monday in October shall be known as Indigenous Peoples’ Day, to:

- (1) Recognize the countless indigenous people[s] who perished as a result of the indigenous-European confrontation;
- (2) Recognize those indigenous people[s] who have survived the past five hundred years;
- [add] (3) Recognize the Polynesian voyagers to the Hawaiian Islands; and
- (4) Educate the general public about the ongoing plight of indigenous people[s], provided that this day is not and shall not be construed to be a state holiday.”

Sincerely,

Anthony Castanha

Aloha

The idea of a special day for "discoverers" is anathema to me. The discovery was only to acquire wealth. The Indigenous people of the "discovered" lands were considered a commodity; either as slaves or as labor to be used to exploit that wealth. They were less than human to the conquerors, their culture was not respected.

These lands were not discovered, they were conquered lands. Should we have a "Conquerors Day?"

I support SB 3007. I vote and appreciate this bill being introduced.

Thank You

Judith Pettibone,