



Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs

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SB233 (SSCR2464) RELATING TO QUEEN LILIUOKALANI

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS, MILITARY &
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS & CULTURE AND THE ARTS

Wednesday, March 12, 2014; 8:30 am; Room 312

Aloha Chairman Takai, vice chair Ito and members of the Committee. The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs is pleased to support the inscription change at the statue of Queen Liliuokalani that more accurately reflects the dates of her reign as being the day of her coronation as Queen on January 29, 1891 to the day of her death, November 17, 1917.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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Unity, Equality, Aloha for all



To: VMI
For hearing Wednesday March 12, 2014

Re: SB 233 RELATING TO QUEEN LILIUOKALANI.
Changes inscription on Queen Liliuokalani statue to the dates of her coronation and death.

Testimony in opposition

My dear Legislators, are you not aware that the history-twisting inscription called for in SB233 has already been done? Yes, historical revisionism runs amok in Hawaii, where future generations of schoolchildren and tourists will be (mis)led to believe the revolution of 1893 never happened and Lili'uokalani was never overthrown.

An article in Ka Wai Ola [the monthly OHA newspaper] for November 2013 reports on pages 6 and 31 that "the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts, which supported the change, said a bill wasn't needed. ... and on Sept. 2 -- the 175th anniversary of the queen's birthday -- the plaque was unveiled at a rededication ceremony honoring 'the dignity

and memory of Queen Lili'uokalani as the reigning monarch until her death in 1917.' At the ceremony, Gov. Neil Abercrombie addressed the crowd of about 150, and former Gov. John Waihe'e, chairman of the Native Hawaiian Roll Commission, gave a speech about Hawaiians' unrelinquished sovereignty.”

A photo gallery from the September 2 event, showing the plaque where it has already been installed, is on Governor Abercrombie's Facebook page: top row, second from the left, click on the photo for an easily readable closeup of the plaque.

[https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.](https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10151623734262409.1073742093.150237952408&type=3)

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So it seems that the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts, although much maligned by Representative Hanohano, is behaving like President Obama and implementing executive orders with no need for approval from you irrelevant folks in the legislature.

Since the purpose of this bill has already been carried out, please throw this bill in the trash.

However, in case you decide to consider this bill as though your decision might actually be relevant anymore, then please take account of the facts presented below.

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. Indeed, the top two lines on page 4 make this purpose of the bill crystal clear: "Queen Liliuokalani remained the Queen of the Kingdom of Hawaii until her death."

But no she didn't. It's both historically and morally wrong to say that.

No doubt Lili'uokalani had some very devoted followers. In their hearts she was always Queen until the day she died. Apparently the Baghdad Bobs of today -- the diehard deadenders of the Hawaiian Kingdom -- want to defy reality and turn their wishes into facts. The question is: will the taxpayers be forced to pay for the inscription on her statue to be changed, so that tourists and schoolchildren will be led to believe a lie?

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. See details and photographs later in this testimony.

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. See details and photographs later in this testimony.

Consider these three lines for an inscription:

1. Lili'uokalani
2. Born September 2, 1838, Died November 11, 1917.
3. Reigning Queen January 29, 1891 to January 17, 1893.

There are four possibilities for an accurate and respectful inscription:

Line 1 alone; or

Lines 1 and 2 together; or

Lines 1 and 3 together; or

All three lines together.

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 before Congress, under oath with cross-examination, says the opposite 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 and raised in Hawaii, while others were immigrants who became naturalized subjects (citizens).

Another disputable interpretation in SB233 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'ala'e, 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 de facto 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."

But it's false to say she never relinquished the throne. And it's easy to prove that's false.

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 Knights Grand Cross of the Royal Order of Kamehameha With Collar 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 niece 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>

It is an indisputable fact that the monarchy in Hawaii ended on January 17, 1893. In 1894 emperors, kings, queens, and presidents of 20

nations on four continents personally signed letters giving de jure recognition to the Republic; and you, dear legislators, have been shown photos of those letters. Several of those heads of government were personal friends of King Kalakaua, and the King had given them Hawaii's highest royal order; yet they recognized that the monarchy had ended and they recognized the successor Republic. In 1895, following a failed attempt at a counterrevolution, the ex- queen herself signed a letter of abdication and oath of loyalty to the Republic; and you, dear legislators, have been shown photos of those documents.

Please do not conspire with the history-twisters to change the inscription on the Lili'uokalani statue to create the false impression that Lili'uokalani remained the reigning monarch until her death in 1917.

Roxanne Kamalu

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, March 08, 2014 8:46 AM
To: vmitestimony
Cc: thirr33@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB233 on Mar 12, 2014 08:30AM

SB233

Submitted on: 3/8/2014

Testimony for VMI on Mar 12, 2014 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Arvid Tadao Youngquist	Sky Ohana	Support	Yes

Comments: Chair, VMI Committee Vice Chair, VMI Committee The Right Honorable VMI Committee Members The statue of the Queen is a very emotional and poignant place for the Kanaka. The sponsors of the measure include at least four Kanaka members of the Senate. The statue turns her back to 'Iolani Palace as she is released from her "prison" and walks to the private "prison" of her Washington Place where she used to share quarters with her husband John Dominis, the former Governor of Oahu. It is the location where the Queen after Armistice Day, raised the Hawaiian and the US Flag welcoming her boys back home from Europe in victory and in injury. I welcome the measure and its intent. It is setimetal and I approve the sentiment. Yet as far as the phrase "illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom" I wonder what a "legal overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom" would have looked like? The Kingdom, or the annexation under great deal of International dispute as well, as to whether the Kingdom ever faded and whether the Territory ever was legally annexed by the USA through the Senate Treaty ratification, never-the-less, even though after the Queen vacated the Palace, the TV Show Hawaii 50 occpied the premised longer after the "so called abdication and pardon", but if you ever visit the Palace and take a tour, you can feel that the Queen and the Kanaka Spirit never, ever, never departed from the Ground, nor the Premises. The property may be in the safe keeping of the locals through the Chair, DLNR, but as long as there are Kanaka and their desiere for a Place of Their Own exists, the Palace and the Queen, never, ever, never left these Shores. Therefore, the Sky Ohana is very pleased to add our support for this worthy, yet overdue gesture and Law to make things Pono, not just for the Kanaka, but for the People of Hawaii on a wider scope and spirit. Mahalo for this moment before you. Sincerely, Arvid Tadao Youngquist, Administrator & Founder The Sky Ohana *CD1 US Congressional District Registered Voter

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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TESTIMONY OF
THE STATE FOUNDATION ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS
TO THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS, MILITARY & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
& CULTURE AND THE ARTS
on March 12, 2014

SB 233

RELATING TO QUEEN LILIUOKALANI

Chair Takai, and members of the committee, I am Barbara Saromines-Ganne, Chairperson of the Commission of the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA) and I am pleased to testify in support of SB 233.

The SFCA does not advocate taking a particular position regarding the inscription on the Queen Liliuokalani statue, but as the agency responsible for the creation of the statue, we are obliged to implement the recommendations called for in this bill.

We are aware that the reign of Queen Liliuokalani symbolizes an important chapter in the history of Hawai'i and Hawaii's people. We are in the process of having the inscription changed with respect to the wishes of the Hawaiian community and the lawmakers who are responding to their concerns.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you on this matter.