

## finance1

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**From:** Tadia Rice <tadiarice@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 27, 2014 12:56 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** Will Espero; Sen. Will Espero  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2598

### TESTIMONY FOR SB 2598 IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 2598 RELATING TO THE CULTURAL EXCHANGES BETWEEN HAWAII AND AFRICAN AMERICANS

Establishes the Hawaii commission on African American History and Culture to recognize the contributions of the African American people in Hawaii and educate residents and visitors to the State about these contributions. Appropriates funds to the Governor for the expenses of the commission.

Aloha House Finance Committee:

Senate Bill 2598 is important to our beloved State for many reasons. Hawaii occupies a unique and remarkable position in both American geography and world history, so it is only appropriate to acknowledge the cultural contributions of African Americans as we have acknowledged the involvement of other peoples who have populated these Islands.

Individuals of African descent have resided in Hawaii since the 18th century, and made many contributions toward the advancement of our civil society, education, entertainment, law, science, agriculture, business, medicine, religion, sports, and politics. The election of our country's first African American President, Barak Obama, speaks loudly to how influential people of African descent have become. Furthermore, there are many historical firsts made by African Americans in Hawaii:

- “Black Joe” – a master sail maker for King Kamehameha II;
- Betsy Stockton – educator and co-founder of the Lahainaluna School on Maui;
- Richard Armstrong – a pastor who served at Kawaiahao Church in Honolulu;
- William Lineas Maples, a physician; and his brother, Samuel Maples, a lawyer – both who worked at the Hawaii Commercial and Sugar Company;
- Alice Augusta Ball – the first African-American woman to graduate with a Master of Science degree in chemistry from the University of Hawaii, and who taught at that institution and helped develop a treatment for those suffering from Hansen’s Disease;
- Carlotta Stewart-Lai – an African-American woman trailblazer in Hawaii’s educational system who served as principal of the multi-ethnic Koolau Elementary;
- Kamaka Fernandez – Hawaii's top traditional Hawaiian falsetto singer immersed in Hawaiian culture on the island of Maui; and last but not least,
- Dorie Miller – a Navy cook assigned to the USS West Virginia who was stationed at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. With no previous training, he operated an anti-aircraft gun and shot down enemy aircraft.

Senate Bill 2598 will not only recognize these important and numerous contributions, but will encourage continued involvement. African Americans in Hawaii continue to make contemporary history, and Senate Bill 2598 will foster dialogue to advance the knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of the history of African-Americans in Hawaii. I strongly support Senate Bill 2598, and urge you to pass this legislation.

TADIA RICE

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*"The road to success is always under construction."*

## finance8-Danyl

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**From:** Pansy Yarbrough <nvminka@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 27, 2014 2:25 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Subject:** Support - SB 2598 - MARCH 2014

Good Morning Honorable Senate Members,

My Name is Pansy Yarbrough LLB INTENATIONAL LAW /MA BUSINESS STUDIES ECONOMICS

I am a current resident of Hawaii.

Hawaii has an incredible and delicate foundation history, that was built by blood, sweat and tears of many people of different origins.

Americans of African decent are among these people, traced by historians to over two hundred years in Hawaiian History. Their carbon foot prints contributions to this society should not be forgotten, do not shut them out, let us remember the foundations of the past.

Many Cultures exists in Hawaii Today, let's begin to understand the similarities among people rather than concentrating on our differences.

With Historical knowledge shared, it will develop a cultural awareness and a new facet to a Modern developing Hawaii.

I fully support SB 2598 ,

P YARBROUGH  
[NVMINKA@GMAIL.COM](mailto:NVMINKA@GMAIL.COM)

## Steven Guttman

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1022 Prospect Street, #908  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

March 27, 2014

Representative Sylvia J. Luke, Chairperson  
Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chairperson  
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chairperson  
House Committee on Finance  
State Capitol Building  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: SB 2598  
Hearing: March 28, 2014 at 3:00 p.m.

Dear Chairperson Luke, Vice Chairperson Nishimoto,  
Vice Chairperson Johanson and Members of the Committee,

This testimony is submitted in support of SB 2598. I request that it be passed out of this Committee.

SB 2598 is an excellent idea and I was pleased to learn of its introduction. The long historical involvement of the African American community in Hawaii is not well known. This is due, in part, to the integration of the early African American settlers into the Hawaiian community. For example, most people do not know that a significant percentage of the whalers were African American and that many left their ships to live in a free land, the Kingdom of Hawaii. There are many individual stories that can and should be told. Passage of this bill will encourage the sharing of these stories, which illustrates the openness of the Hawaii community.

Thank you for considering this legislation. I encourage you to pass SB 2598.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Steven Guttman".

STEVEN GUTTMAN

**LATE**

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 27, 2014 5:11 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** lyntillus\_boyd@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB2598 on Mar 28, 2014 15:00PM

**SB2598**

Submitted on: 3/27/2014

Testimony for FIN on Mar 28, 2014 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lyntillus J. Boyd	Individual	Support	No

Comments: There is no greater future than the one sincerely established by the minds and hearts of those left in charge. Please pass this bill. Mahalo

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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# DAPHNE E. BARBEE

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**LATE**

## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB2598

Please support and pass SB 2598. SB 2598 goes a long way in ensuring African American History and contribution in Hawaii are recognized and documented. Very little literature acknowledges Black History in Hawaii and the positive achievements of African Americans in this State. African Americans have been business men (Anthony Allen), Educators and School Principals (Carlotta Stewart Lai), Attorneys ( G. McCant Stewart, William F Crockett), Judges ( Sandra Simms) politicians ( Charles M. Campbell, Helene Hale, Nolle Smith), Professors and writers (Dr. Kathryn Takara, Dr Miles Jackson) UH Women's Athletic and Title 1X champions an Hawaii State DOE Superintendent (Dr. Donnis Thompson), dancers and choreographers (Earnest Morgan and Adele Chu). Let's include positive images of African Americans in this State and share this history with all. After all, President Barack Obama, 44th President of the United State, was born in Hawaii and is African American.

The following books contain more information on African Americans contributions in Hawaii:

And They Came ( Four -G Publishers Inc. 2001)


They Followed the Trade winds (UH Press 2004)

African American Attorneys in Hawaii (Pacific Raven Press 2010)

African Americans in Hawaii : A Search for Identity (Pacific Raven Press 2010)

African Americans in Hawai'i (Arcadia Publishing 2011)

Thank you,



Daphne Barbee-Wooten  
Attorney at Law



**From:** D. Molentia Guttman <deloris.guttman@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 27, 2014 8:49 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Subject:** Support Senate Bill 2598



To: Chairman, Budget and Finance Committee

I support Senate Bill 2598 because it gives voice and visibility to Americans of African descent in the Hawaiian Islands and acknowledges their contributions for two centuries.

More importantly, this Hawaiian history includes the President of the United States, Barack Obama. Our history is an integral part of the Hawaiian people because the early pioneers' children are living among us today. We want our history to be recognized along with all the ethnic groups in the Hawaiian Islands. Your support of SN Bill 2598 is very important.

Deloris Guttman  
Historian/Archivist  
African American Diversity Cultural Center Hawaii

**LATE**



**Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2598 by Sharon Thomas Yarbrough**

The urgency to recover the history of blacks in Hawaii is becoming more and more apparent with each passing minute. Since the election of Barack Obama, the first African American President of the United States, more local and national attention is being focused on Hawaii black history and the experiences and identity issues of blacks in Hawaii where Obama passed a formative time of his youth. The ideas and personal philosophy of Barack Obama were undoubtedly influenced by his socialization and education in the Hawaiian Islands. Certainly his democratic approach to politics and his beliefs in diversity, unity, and community were in part formulated by his multi-racial family and his life in a diverse and sometimes challenging community with few black role models.

Sharon Thomas Yarbrough is founder and president of Sisters Empowering Hawaii (SEH), a ten year old exclusive knowledge sharing networking organization based in Honolulu, Hawaii. Realizing that women needed to seek new directions of personal and professional growth and development, Sharon created **Sisters Empowering Hawaii, Hawaii Foremost Women's Empowerment Organization.**

Fortunately, SEH was able to coordinate two major fundraisers here in Honolulu to help elect the first Black president of the United States of America. What an honor and privilege.

**Black History LITTLE KNOWN FACTS**

**Facts/ History of Achievements**

**BLACK INVENTORS**

<u>INVENTION</u>	<u>WHO DID IT?</u>
Ironing Board.....	Sarah Boone
1 <sup>st</sup> US Wooden Clock.....	Benjamin Banneker
Fire Extinguisher.....	Thomas J. Martin
Toilet.....	T. Elkins



Elevator..... Alexander Miles  
Ice Cream..... Augustus Jackson  
Guitar..... Robert Flemming, Jr.  
Golf Tee..... G.F. Grant

**WHO IS IT?**

First Black Astronaut in Space Colonel Guion “Guy” Bluford  
Performed first open-heart surgery Dr. Daniel Hale Williams  
Advisor to President Abraham Lincoln Frederick Douglas  
Developed drug to combat glaucoma Percy Julian  
First Black to reach North Pole Matthew Henson

These are only a very few accomplishments African Americans have contributed to the world, let alone Hawaii. African Americans have such a rich history.

Oceans of Aloha,

Sharon Thomas Yarbrough  
Sisters Empowering Hawaii  
President  
(808) 599-2998