



# IOLANI PALACE

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## TESTIMONY OF KIPPEN DE ALBA CHU

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### COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Sen. J. Kalani English, Chair  
Sen. Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair

### COMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY AND THE ARTS

Sen. Glenn Wakai, Chair  
Sen. Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 13, 2014  
1:16 pm

## **SB 2042**

Chairs English and Wakai, and members of the Joint Committees, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in strong support** of this measure. While some may wonder why the Palace would be interested in a bill commemorating the arrival of Puerto Ricans to Hawaii, which occurred on a large scale after the overthrow of the Hawaiian monarchy, the simple answer is that Iolani Palace is a living entity not stuck in time. Our "Hale Alii" is the multicultural epicenter of Hawaii, with the symbolism that Ellis Island has for European immigrants to the United States. Immigration to these islands took place because of decisions made by the various ruling monarchs who resided on the Palace grounds, as well as by the succeeding governments that made Iolani Palace the Capitol building.

We have already had preliminary discussions with the Institute of Puerto Rican Culture, the Art Museum of Puerto Rico, and the Art Museum of Ponce in November 2013 at a meeting in Puerto Rico in regards to cultural exchanges between our two islands.

Of particular interest in our discussions was the considerable amount of similarities we already share. The Puerto Rican nationalist art movement shares common themes with Hawaiian sovereignty art. While Puerto Rico itself has a population of 3.6 million, there are 4.6 million Puerto Ricans living in other states including Hawaii. The same is true for Hawaiians, who totaled over half a million nationwide in the 2010 Census. Of this amount, only 38% lived in Hawaii, where as 62% of all Native Hawaiians live in other states (with the largest concentration in California).

This helps to explain why our distinctive island cultures are well known beyond our geographic boundaries. Our respective Diasporas maintain a vibrant pride and cultural links to the "homeland" that transcend generations. The official flower of Puerto Rico is the red Hibiscus, while for Hawaii it is the yellow one. The official tree of Puerto Rico is the Kapok, also known as the Silk Cotton. The Kapok is the most impressive and stunning tree on the Makai side of Iolani Palace, having been planted during the reign of King Kalakaua. Obviously, this is just the surface as there are more profound commonalities to be explored.

Iolani Palace would welcome the opportunity to be a part of the Puerto Rican Exchange Commission and to help commemorate this rich chapter in Hawaii's diverse history.

Mahalo nui loa / muchas gracias!

**Sharon Lum Ho**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 11, 2014 2:13 PM  
**To:** TIATestimony  
**Cc:** dcamp42@aol.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB2042 on Feb 13, 2014 13:16PM

**SB2042**

Submitted on: 2/11/2014

Testimony for TIA/TEC on Feb 13, 2014 13:16PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Douglas Campbell	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I believe this bill will cause me great difficulty using my medical marijuana, due to the fact I am unable to smoke it. I get more lasting effects and it works better using edibles.. We need to be more concerned with getting a pharmacy or dispensary bill passed..

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**Sharon Lum Ho**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 12, 2014 12:54 PM  
**To:** TIATestimony  
**Cc:** anohano@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB2042 on Feb.13, 2014 13:16PM

**SB2042**

Submitted on: 2/12/2014

Testimony for TIA/TEC on Feb 13, 2014 13:16PM in Conference Room 414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Anolani Hanohano	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Focus needs to be on the rehabilitaion of the Hawaiian people first and foremost.

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