



# IOLANI PALACE

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## TESTIMONY OF KIPPEN DE ALBA CHU

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COMMITTEE ON TOURISM  
Rep. Tom Brower, Chair  
Rep. Romy M. Cachola, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 20, 2014  
11:00 am

### **SB 2042**

Chair Brower, Vice Chair Cachola, and members of the Committee, 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.

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!

**brower1-Luke**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, March 17, 2014 7:02 PM  
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**SB2042**

Submitted on: 3/17/2014

Testimony for TOU on Mar 20, 2014 11:00AM in Conference Room Auditorium

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Springer Kaye	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I support this proposal, and respectfully offer the following amendment: that with every exchange, a number of coqui frogs be returned to Puerto Rico, to fortify their endangered population there. 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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