

SB 2598

JAN 17 2014

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE CULTURAL EXCHANGES BETWEEN HAWAII AND AFRICAN AMERICANS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that since the arrival of
2 the first African Americans in Hawaii between 1778 and 1850, the
3 African American people have contributed significantly to all
4 phases of Hawaii's development. The rich culture and proud
5 heritage of the African American people have been and continue
6 to be positive influences upon life in Hawaii. However, little
7 is known or preserved due to a lack of understanding and racial
8 divides. Recognition of the contributions of the African
9 American people and their culture is important to the promotion
10 and awareness of Hawaii's diverse and multicultural society.

11 The purpose of this Act is to establish a commission on
12 African American history and culture to recognize the
13 contributions of the African American people in Hawaii and
14 educate Hawaii's citizens.

15 SECTION 2. Chapter 6E, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended
16 by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to
17 read as follows:



1 "§6E- Hawaii commission on African American history and
2 culture. (a) There is established a commission to be known as
3 the Hawaii commission on African American history and culture.

4 (b) The commission shall be temporarily placed within the
5 office of the governor for administrative purposes.

6 (c) The Hawaii commission on African American history and
7 culture shall consist of eleven members to be appointed by the
8 governor without regard to section 26-34. Of the eleven
9 members:

10 (1) Two members shall be from the African American
11 Diversity Culture Center Hawaii;

12 (2) Two members shall be from the National Association for
13 the Advancement of Colored People;

14 (3) One member shall be from the University of Hawaii; and

15 (4) Six members shall serve at-large.

16 (d) The chair of the commission shall be selected by the
17 commission members.

18 (e) The members shall not receive compensation for their
19 services but shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses,
20 including travel expenses, incurred in the performance of their
21 duties under this section.



1 (f) The Hawaii commission of African American history and
2 culture may:

3 (1) Initiate, direct, and coordinate projects and events
4 to further the understanding of African American
5 history and culture;

6 (2) Educate citizens and visitors to the State about the
7 significance and impact of the African American
8 experience in the State; and

9 (3) Publish an annual report to the legislature with
10 recommendations to honor and recognize the
11 contributions of African American people in the
12 State."

13 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

14 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

15
INTRODUCED BY: Will Espero
Thomas Chun Oakland
Clarence Michikawa
Heleena J.



S.B. NO. 2598

Report Title:

Commission on African American History and Culture

Description:

Establishes the commission on African American history and culture to recognize the contributions of the African American people in Hawaii and educate citizens of the State.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.



Hawaii Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Coalition
www.mlk-Hawaii.com * mrjoy@hawaii.rr.com

February 3, 2014

COMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY AND THE ARTS

Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

DATE: Tuesday, February 04, 2014
TIME: 1:15 pm
PLACE: Conference Room 414
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Testimony in support
for
S.B. 2598

RELATING TO THE CULTURAL EXCHANGES BETWEEN HAWAII AND AFRICAN AMERICANS.

Establishes the commission on African American history and culture to recognize the contributions of the African American people in Hawaii and educate citizens of the State.

We, The Hawaii Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Coalition are in support of S.B. 2598.

We support the formation of the commission on African American history and culture and request that we are included in the commission.

We have been active in the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday since October 1986, the very beginning of the idea and formation of the holiday.

2014 is the 26th anniversary of the Dr. Martin Luther King Holiday in Hawai'i. The celebration has grown a lot over these years. The Holiday was officially proclaimed by the state legislature to be the 3rd Monday of January and signed into law by Governor John Waihe'e to begin January 16, 1989.

During the heady days of the 80s when the state had lots of money the Martin Luther King commission was formed by the state. The interim commission was formed July 1, 1989 to June 30 1990. Then a permanent commission was formed. The State of Hawai'i Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission, (with commissioners from many different ethnic groups), won National awards for its scope and depth of the holiday celebrations. In 1995 as the state's money dried up the commission was sunset. The remaining money was transferred to the Civil Rights Commission.

To continue the work of the Commission, The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Coalition was incorporated in 1995 by a group of dedicated African-American residents of Honolulu. The coalition is a non-profit organization, which performs many community service events that carry on Dr. King's principles of peace for all mankind. To assist the fledging organization in 1996 the Civil Rights Commission stepped in with financial aid and expertise.

Since that time the Coalition has coordinated the Holiday Parade, Unity Rally, Candlelight Bell Ringing Ceremony, Statewide Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Peace Poem Contest and other community events, which have grown larger every year.

At the behest of Mayor Jeremy Harris in 1998 the City & County of Honolulu has been the co-sponsor of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday.

Mahalo

MarshaRose Joyner
Past President – Hawaii Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Coalition
www.mlk-hawaii.com
mrjoy@hawaii.rr.com

TESTIMONY

Senator Glenn Wakai, Senate Committee Chair, Technology, Culture and Arts, and Committee members:

My name is Eva Laird Smith, a private citizen and a taxpayer. I am submitting Testimony in full support of SB2598 relating to cultural exchanges between Hawaii and African Americans:

African Americans in our state deserve to be treated with respect, appreciation, and support in acknowledgement of their rich cultural heritage, and their positive contribution to our state across many fields of endeavor.

Far too long, African Americans have, in general, been marginalized from the general mainstream of American life. In Hawaii, while they currently make up only 2.1% of the general population, their active engagement in the community is very evident. For a state that takes pride in embracing multiculturalism, we need to ensure that our African American populations are fully embraced into our midst.

It is time to officially recognize their positive contribution in the fabric of our islands, through the establishment of a commission on African American history and culture.

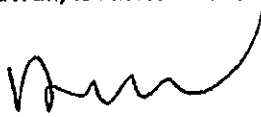
During my two-year tenure as Executive Director of the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts, I persisted in showcasing the various creative talents of our African American artists through jazz concerts staged at the Hawaii State Art Museum's First Friday event in 2012 and 2013. This was but a small gesture acknowledging their rich history and contribution to our creative arts environment. Their art needs to be considered within the Art in Public Places collection, and their engagement in various education programs should be encouraged.

It is a dream, but one that is achievable-to have our African American community sit on the table, and be part of a greater participatory conversation.

2-4-14

Dear Senator Espero and Committee Members:

I support SB 2598 which is needed and will go a long way in ensuring African American History and contributions to Hawaii is recognized and documented. I urge you to pass this bill. Very little literature acknowledges Black History In Hawaii and the positive achievements of African American in this State. African Americans have been business men (Anthony Allen), School Principals (Carlotta Stewart Lai), Judges (William F.Crocket II and Sandra Simms), UH Professors and writers(Dr. Kathryn Takara, Dr. Miles Jackson), UH Women's Athletic and Title IX champions and Hawaii State Department of Education Superintendent (Dr. Donnis Thompson), Politicians, Senator and City Councilman (Charles M.Campbell) State Representatives (Helene Hale and Nolle Smith) dancers and choreographers (Earnest Morgan and Adele Chu), and lawyers (T. McCants Stewart). Let's include African American history in the State education system and share this history with all. After all, our President Obama, who was born in Hawaii, is African American. Thank you.



Daphne Barbee-Wooten

Attorney at Law

wakai3 - Kristen

From: Alphonso Braggs <abraggs@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 04, 2014 9:10 AM
To: TECTestimony
Cc: hcovington21@gmail.com
Subject: SB2598 (Commission on African American History and Culture) SUPPORT FOR

Senator Will Espero
415 S. Beretania St., Rm. 231
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Senate Bill 2598

Dear Senator Espero,

The Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Hawaii strongly supports Senate Bill 2598. Prince Hall Masons have been an integral part of the Hawaiian Islands and have made significant contributions throughout the Islands. The establishment of a Commission on African American History and Culture is the most efficient means to firmly put in place a formal process to perpetuate the African American history, contributions, and culture in Hawaii. Moreover, it establishes a substantive protocol to educate citizens of the State.

Sincerely,

Howard L. Covington, Sr.
Grand Master of Masons
Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Hawaii
P. O. Box 89-3553
Mililani, Hawaii 96789

wakai3 - Kristen

From: Juliet Begley <juliet.begley@icloud.com>
ent: Tuesday, February 04, 2014 9:33 AM
To: TECTestimony
Cc: William Espero
Subject: SB2598 Commission on African American History & Culture

February 4, 2014

Hearing today - February 4, 2014
Conference Room 414
Hawaii State Capitol

COMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY AND THE ARTS
SEN. GLENN WAKAI - CHAIR
SEN. CLARENCE NISHIHARA, V-CHAIR

Testimony in Support of SB2598 Commission on African American History & Culture

Dear Chair Wakai and Committee members:

I am in support of any move to educate people in Hawaii about the many contributions that African-American people have made in the islands. Every year The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Coalition puts on cultural events in January. Our website at www.mlk-hawaii.com informs members of the community and others about the events in honor of Dr. King. This year we celebrated the 50th Anniversary of his last time in Hawaii, as well as the 50th Anniversary of the passage of the Civil Rights Act. An Act that was ushered through the House by Hawaii's very own Thomas Gill, at the request of President Johnson. When King came in 1959, he addressed the first Hawaii State Legislature. Between these two visits by Dr. King, Barry Obama came into the world at Kapiolani Hospital. I like to think that this makes us a very special place as King spoke of :

(words to the state legislature in 1959) "I come to you with a great deal of appreciation and great feeling of appreciation, I should say, for what has been accomplished in this beautiful setting and in this beautiful state of our Union. As I think of the struggle that we are engaged in in the South land, we look to you for inspiration and as a noble example, where you have already accomplished in the area of racial harmony and racial justice, what we are struggling to accomplish in other sections of the country, and you can never know what it means to those of us caught for the moment in the tragic and often dark midnight of man's inhumanity to man, to come to a place where we see the glowing daybreak of freedom and dignity and racial justice."

See more at: <http://www.hsta.org/index.php/news/martin-luther-king-jr#sthash.B9PIVCHD.eawIp0S2.dpuf>

I would like to add a suggestion that the Commission on African American History & Culture not miss the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Coalition in their membership. We are a small group of people honoring the legacy of Dr. King. We are the ones who coordinate the Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade through the streets of Waikiki and the Unity Rally at Kapiolani Park. I have been involved with these events for 17 years now. Where I would like to see greater involvement is in the collection of a publicly

accessible archive that chronicles Dr. King's visits to Hawaii. I would like to suggest that this collection would reside in State Archives and on-line for global reach. (Currently I have produced a Facebook page in honor of King that chronicles this years events at Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr - please 'like' the page).

Thank you for addressing this issue of expanding our collective knowledge of African Americans in Hawaii, through the creation of a Commission.

Sincerely,

Juliet Begley (testimony as a private citizen)
juliet.begley@icloud.com

Senator Will Espero

415 S. Beretania St., Rm. 231

Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Senate Bill 2598

The Baham-Goldsborough Hawaii Chapter of Tuskegee Airman Inc. strongly support the passage of Senate Bill 2598. Hawaii has been home for decades to two original Tuskegee Airmen who have made significant contributions to Hawaii and the United States military as a whole. With the establishment of a commission on African American History and Culture, we can help educate the citizens of Hawaii on all the contributions that individuals such as Romaine Goldsborough and Philip Baham (documented original Tuskegee Airmen) have made on our society. Even after retirement, Mr. Goldsborough helped to train our United States military on jet engines while working for General Electric. His wife, Dr. Dorothy Goldsborough, is a college professor and has made substantial strides toward educating our local youth on the contributions of African Americans as well as the law. Our chapter, like many others, is dedicated to helping enrich the young minds of today with African American history and the contributions that they have made in the past and show how they affect our culture today.

Mahalo!

JAMAR P. SELVY, TSgt, USAF

BAHAM-GOLDSBOROUGH Hawaii Chapter of TAI

President

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii

Work Phone: (808)448-3205

Home Phone: (808)738-7256

Work Email: jamar.selvy@us.af.mil

Home Email: princemar01@hotmail.com TAI Webpage: www.taihawaii.com

Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Baham-Goldsborough-Hawaii-Chapter-of-Tuskegee-Airmen-Inc/174151825977024>

wakai3 - Kristen

From: SELVY, JAMAR P TSgt USAF PACAF PACAF/A3YR <jamar.selvy@us.af.mil>
Sent: Tuesday, February 04, 2014 10:50 AM
To: TECTestimony
Subject: Written Testimony for SB2598 (Commission on African American History and Culture)

Senator Will Espero
415 S. Beretania St., Rm. 231
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Senate Bill 2598

The Baham-Goldsborough Hawaii Chapter of Tuskegee Airman Inc. strongly support the passage of Senate Bill 2598. Hawaii has been home for decades to two original Tuskegee Airmen who have made significant contributions to Hawaii and the United States military as a whole. With the establishment of a commission on African American History and Culture, we can help educate the citizens of Hawaii on all the contributions that individuals such as Romaine Goldsborough and Philip Baham (documented original Tuskegee Airmen) have made on our society. Even after retirement, Mr. Goldsborough helped to train our United States military on jet engines while working for General Electric. His wife, Dr. Dorothy Goldsborough, is a college professor and has made substantial strides toward educating our local youth on the contributions of African Americans as well as the law. Our chapter, like many others, is dedicated to helping enrich the young minds of today with African American history and the contributions that they have made in the past and show how they affect our culture today.

Mahalo!

JAMAR P. SELVY, TSgt, USAF
BAHAM-GOLDSBOROUGH Hawaii Chapter of TAI President Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii Work Phone:
(808)448-3205 Home Phone: (808)738-7256 Work Email: jamar.selvy@us.af.mil Home Email:
princemar01@hotmail.com TAI Webpage: www.taihawaii.com
Facebook:
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Baham-Goldsborough-Hawaii-Chapter-of-Tuskegee-Airmen-Inc/174151825977024>

wakai3 - Kristen

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 04, 2014 9:32 AM
To: TECTestimony
Cc: lyntillus_boyd@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2598 on Feb 4, 2014 13:15PM
Attachments: Testimony for SB 2598.doc

SB2598

Submitted on: 2/4/2014

Testimony for TEC on Feb 4, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lyntillus J. Boyd	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

Greetings and aloha,

This will be very brief because I only became aware of this hearing last night. As an African American, I find it to be very important to acknowledge and celebrate my ancestor's contribution to the fabric of our society. So many individuals, mainly our youth, have forgotten the many sacrifices made by those courageous individuals before us (from all ethnicities).

This particular bill will seriously serve as an outline for the creation of remembering and never forgetting the successes achieved by men, women and children during a time when resources and assistance were practically unheard of.

Our present way of life is directly linked to those amazing efforts made by those courageous individuals. It's my sincerest hope that this bill will be passed so that our cultures will be able to join together and produce wise young men and women capable of working together for the greater cause of peace and solidarity in "our" state and in "our" nation.

Mahalo Nui Loa

Mr. Lyntillus J. Boyd
2714 Kahoaloha Lane PH3
Honolulu, Hawaii 96826
(808) 782-6177