

Ernest Golden

Testimony

In Support of

Senate Bill No. 2598

I support the preservation of African cultural heritage in Hawaii. The history of Black people's contributions to the Hawaiian Islands includes all facets of island life pre and post-World War II. Until recently, we were not thought of as having existed, although, our history dates back to the early 18th century. After World War II through the 1960s, was a dynamic and exciting period for all in Hawaii, especially for Black citizens of the island state. Many who made up this history are no longer with us. I am 90 years old and live in Laie. I came to the Hawaii in 1943, a civilian defense worker at Pearl Harbor Naval Yard. I fled the mainland south to escape apartheid. I am part of the living cultural history that makes up the diversity of Hawaii today. My greatest fear has been that this history will be lost forever if the State of Hawaii, the governor, legislators and citizens continue to ignore our existence and contributions to this great State and America.