



**KING KAMEHAMEHA CELEBRATION
COMMISSION**

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
Wednesday, February 25, 2015, 2:00pm

By
Elmer K. Ka'ai, Jr., Chairperson
King Kamehameha Celebration Commission

**HB 1368 – RELATING TO THE KING KAMEHAMEHA CELEBRATION
COMMISSION**

Position: Comments

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto and members of the committee:

My name is Elmer Ka'ai and I am the Chairperson of the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission (Commission), representing the Royal Order of Kamehameha, Chapter 1. Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with our written comments on this measure. The intent of this measure is two-fold: 1) amend the commission membership and 2) change the funding mechanism for the operating cost from "special" funds to "general" funds. These changes will enhance the commission's effectiveness and provide greater stability in its operations.

The first amendment is a simple housekeeping matter. It is correcting the name for the Waimānalo Hawaiian Homestead Association.

The next amendments effects the non-organizational island representatives (Hawai'i, Maui, Moloka'i and Kaua'i). To provide a transparent and fair representation on the commission for all residents, the island representatives will be changed to county representatives. This will change the dynamic of the commission by removing the perception that the island commission member is only committed to their respective island. The commission is committed to state-wide policy decisions. Unfortunately, this shift will remove the Moloka'i Island representative, but I am confident that the residents of Moloka'i and Lāna'i will be sufficiently represented by Maui County member and we also hope that this shift, creating consistency with the County districts, will lead to leveraging our partnerships with our County Offices.

The third amendment is to add the Daughters of Hawai'i to the commission. The Daughters of Hawai'i will be returning to the commission after a long hiatus. They bring a wealth of business and philanthropic expertise to the commission. We anticipate they will be able to help some of the members meet their responsibilities to the Commission. As you may have been aware, we have had some serious challenges with lei making and

other related events in recent years. Adding the Daughters of Hawai‘i is intended to help address these challenges.

The Commission, as a whole, has not met since March 2014. Our staff, a state employee, has been on unpaid leave since November 2014. Our testimony is a reflection of this bill. The Commission is a state entity, but it is asked to run its business as a non-profit organization. It is requesting the commissioners, whom are not required to have business/non-profit/philanthropy expertise, to seeking private donations and funds to hold official State meetings or secure payroll resources for a “State” employee. Numerous efforts have been made; however, the responses have been consistent and constant – ask the State to pay for the State work and employees. The final amendment addresses this issue.

The final amendment is requesting general fund appropriations for commission’s arts program specialist position. To clarify this request, the commission greatest challenge is to overcome a decision made in 2000, in which, the general fund appropriations were eliminated due to state budget cuts, leaving the commission to rely on private donations to operate. Oddly, the corpus of the commission’s trust fund was substantial enough to cover the operating cost of the commission for several years. Unfortunately, this ended up to be a double-edged sword for the commission. It delayed a critical process – the discussion and creation of a transitional plan to move the commission from a “general” fund to a “special” fund budget operation. This process finally started last year. This amendment is a small step in a new business plan (not yet adopted by the commission) to refocus the commission’s commitment to its mission.

Personnel and Operating Cost

1.	Seek reinstatement the arts program specialist (0.5) under the Department of Accounting and General Services General Funds Operating Budget.	Art Program Specialist	0.5	\$22,000
2.	Seek reinstatement of the commissioners’ travel costs for four (4) quarterly public meetings on O‘ahu:			
	Travel Air	3 Neighbor island Commissioners X 4 Regular Public Meeting on O‘ahu	\$150	\$1,800
	Travel Cost	Transportation cost for 3		

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



DOUGLAS MURDOCK
Comptroller

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES

P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

WRITTEN TESTIMONY
OF
DOUGLAS MURDOCK, COMPTROLLER
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE
ON
FINANCE
ON
FEBRUARY 25, 2015

H.B. 1368

RELATING TO THE KING KAMEHAMEHA CELEBRATION COMMISSION

Chair Luke and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on H.B. 1368. The Department of Accounting and General Services does not support H.B. 1368.

We do not support this measure as any general funds appropriated to support the operations of the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission will have a negative impact on the administration's executive biennium budget and initiatives submitted for fiscal years 2016 and 2017.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on this matter.

finance8-Melanie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 23, 2015 5:25 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: mkhan@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1368 on Feb 25, 2015 14:00PM

HB1368

Submitted on: 2/23/2015

Testimony for FIN on Feb 25, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leimomi Khan	Kalihi Palama Hawaiian Civic Club	Support	No

Comments: Strongly support HB1368 and especially that provision that calls for state appropriations for its arts program specialist and part-time clerk-typist. This is a State-wide celebration requiring enormous planning and organizing. Funding by the State is appropriate to enable the Commission to carry out its duties as required by the Hawaii Revised Statutes. We also note that the Commission is under the purview of the Dept of Accounting and General Services for administrative purposes. In the Dept of Accounting and General Services testimony in an earlier hearing, they stated that they “do not support this measure as any general funds appropriated to support the operations of the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission will have a negative impact on the administration’s executive biennium budget and initiatives submitted for fiscal years 2016 and 2017.” How awful and demoralizing it is to receive this kind of non-support by the agency that the State placed the Commission under. To begin, why didn’t DAGS include in the biennium budget funding for the Commission knowing full well that this statewide celebration is hurting for funds; and why do they fail to recognize that having this kind of celebration brings in revenue for the state as a tourism attraction? Would it not have been better for DAGS to support the bill but to indicate that they budget would need to be increased? NOT SUPPORT BY DAGS CONVEYS A VERY NEGATIVE MESSAGE ABOUT THEIR SUPPORT FOR THIS CELEBRATION AND BRINGS INTO QUESTION EXACTLY WHAT DO THEY DO FOR THE COMMISSION. Please support this bill. It’s the right thing to do. Continue the legacy of past legislators who established by law the commission and who respected its value to the state and to the people of Hawaii.

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FIN-Jo

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 24, 2015 11:04 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: kaluhiokalanik@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1368 on Feb 25, 2015 14:00PM

HB1368

Submitted on: 2/24/2015

Testimony for FIN on Feb 25, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Iu Faborito	Hawaii Women's Rodeo Assn	Comments Only	No

Comments: as participants we strongly support every effort to improve and make the commission's job alittle easier in acknowledging and honoring the King.

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LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 24, 2015 10:00 PM
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Cc: amybrinker@mac.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1368 on Feb 25, 2015 14:00PM*

HB1368

Submitted on: 2/24/2015

Testimony for FIN on Feb 25, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amy Brinker	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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