



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
SENATE COMMITTEE
ON
HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
ON
MARCH 18, 2015

H.B. 1368

RELATING TO THE KING KAMEHAMEHA CELEBRATION COMMISSION

Chair Shimabukuro 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.



KING KAMEHAMEHA CELEBRATION COMMISSION

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
Wednesday, March 18, 2015, 1:20pm

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

HB 1368 – RELATING TO THE KING KAMEHAMEHA CELEBRATION COMMISSION

Position: Comments

Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Galuteria 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		

		Neighbor Island Commissioners between the airport and the meeting site. 4 Regular Public Meeting on Oahu	\$20	\$240
				\$24,040

Final note, the Parade nears its 100th anniversary and these changes are direly needed to help the Commission fulfill its Mission.

On a personal note, the challenges and issues facing the Commission could have been avoided with simple planning. Nonetheless, instead of pointing why, when or who are at fault, as Chairperson, I believe in moving forward (*holomua*) and getting this done.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HWNTestimony](#)
Cc: kaluhiokalanik@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1368 on Mar 18, 2015 13:20PM
Date: Monday, March 16, 2015 9:45:48 AM

HB1368

Submitted on: 3/16/2015

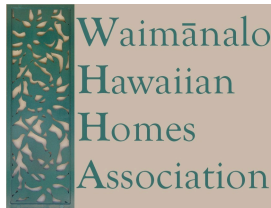
Testimony for HWN on Mar 18, 2015 13:20PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Iu Faborito	Makaha Hawaiian Civic Club	Support	No

Comments: In order for us commissioners to be able to help in the King's Celebration it is imperative that this measure be supported for a more efficient and hopefully smoother way to complete the celebration as intended. Our Club totally supports every effort for this measure.

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P.O. Box 353, Waimanalo, Hawaii 96795-0353

TESTIMONY IN **STRONG SUPPORT** OF
HB 1368 - Relating to the King Kamehameha Celebration.

March 17, 2015

Aloha e Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Galuteria and members of the committee,

My name is Kamakana Aquino and I am the President of the Waimanalo Hawaiian Homes Association and a member of the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission. Please consider this testimony in strong support of HB 1368 - Relating to the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission.

First, I would like to stress the importance of amending subsection (d) to read as: "(d) The commission may appoint and dismiss an arts program specialist and a part-time clerk typist, without regard to chapter 76, who shall serve as the commission's pleasure, and whose salaries shall be provided through state funds". Since 2000, this "state commission" has solely relied on public contributions and private donations. Over the years, this has been a great challenge and barrier for the commission to continue in its mission. It is time that the state begin to re-appropriate general funds to this commission.

The next amendments focus on the membership of the commission. Please note that the name of our organization is the Waimanalo Hawaiian Homes Association. Next, reorganizing the island representatives (Hawai'i, Maui, Moloka'i and Kaua'i) to county representatives (Kaua'i, Maui, and Hawai'i). Although eliminating the Moloka'i representative, this change hopes to work towards statewide policy decisions. The last amendment adds the Daughters of Hawai'i to the commission. In the past, they have been apart of the commission and will bring in new and innovative ideas and further support the commission and fulfill its mission.

Furthermore, this commission really depends on the volunteers of its membership organizations and others. We all take great pride to ensuring a successful lei draping ceremony, parade, and celebration event every year. We humbly ask for your support. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HWNTestimony](#)
Cc: mkhan@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1368 on Mar 18, 2015 13:20PM
Date: Friday, March 13, 2015 5:16:50 PM

HB1368

Submitted on: 3/13/2015

Testimony for HWN on Mar 18, 2015 13:20PM in Conference Room 224

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

Comments: We continue to strongly support HB1368 and especially that provision that calls for state appropriations for its staff. 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 their 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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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HWNTestimony](#)
Cc: amybrinker@mac.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1368 on Mar 18, 2015 13:20PM*
Date: Sunday, March 15, 2015 4:34:28 PM

HB1368

Submitted on: 3/15/2015

Testimony for HWN on Mar 18, 2015 13:20PM in Conference Room 224

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

Comments:

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Testimony from: Mr. Kainoa Daines
Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
March 18, 2015 – 1:20 p.m.
HB1368: Relating to the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission

Aloha Chair Shimabukuro and distinguished members of the Hawaiian Affairs Committee,

My name is Kainoa Daines and I am submitting testimony in *strong support* of House Bill 1368, relating to the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission. I am the former Chair of the Commission, representing the Royal Order of Kamehameha I, Honolulu's King Kamehameha Celebration Floral Parade Chairman since 2011, former Arts Program Specialist (April – June 2011) and most recently commissioner representing the Kamehameha Schools Alumni Association, pending renewal with State Boards and Commissions.

King Kamehameha V declared a national holiday to honor his grandfather. It has been a national holiday since 1872. The holiday continued through the Republic of Hawai'i, the Territory of Hawai'i and today, the happy responsibility lies with the State of Hawai'i.

In 1939, the Territorial Legislature of Hawai'i created the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission to formally develop and execute events focused around celebrating the great statesman of Hawai'i. With the creation of this commission, two positions were created as well. The primary position today is the Arts Program Specialist.

This position is vital in running the daily operations and aiding the volunteer commission in the planning and executing of celebration events and festivities statewide. In the late 90s, the funding for celebration activities was eliminated. Wages were meant to have been cut as well, but weren't actually cut until 2009, when I became Chair. The celebration of our state's unifier and symbol of collective pride should not have been viewed as a mere line item. I am asking this committee to reinstate general funds to the staff salary.

The commission is in place to celebrate the life and memory of Kamehameha I, centralized around a *state holiday*. We are asking the state to continue this kuleana into perpetuity.

Regarding the Commission seats, the Daughters of Hawai'i have always been strong supporters of the Commission, and this is a motion to reinstate their seat. The Maui seat absorbing the Moloka'i seat would be in line with most "county" related business. It's been difficult keeping the Moloka'i seat filled.

Mahalo for your time.

Aloha,

Kainoa Daines
Ph: (808) 780-8411
E: kainoadaines@gmail.com

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HWNTestimony](#)
Cc: kamakane73@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1368 on Mar 18, 2015 13:20PM*
Date: Monday, March 16, 2015 10:16:43 AM

HB1368

Submitted on: 3/16/2015

Testimony for HWN on Mar 18, 2015 13:20PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kama Hopkins	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: [lehuakalima](#)
To: [HWNTestimony](#)
Subject: Testimony in support of HB 1368 relating to King Kamehameha Celebration commission
Date: Tuesday, March 17, 2015 1:01:01 PM

I am in support of HB 1368. The King Kamehameha Celebration Commission brings together thousands of locals and visitors alike to celebrate the life and legacy of Hawaii's first King - who continues to be an important part of the culture and heritage of all the people of Hawaii. HRS 8-5 is one of the oldest statutes in the state and for this commission and the work it does it is important that the state continues to support the celebration events statewide. Mahalo for your consideration.
Lehua Kalima

Sent on a Sprint Samsung Galaxy Note® 3

Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of HB 1368
STATE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Chair: Senator Maile Shimabukuro

Tuesday, March 17, 2015

by

William P. Hā'ole, III

Relating to the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission

Aloha Chair Shimabukuro and Committee Members:

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of House Bill 1368, relating to the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission.


My name is William Hā'ole and I am a current supporter and former participant and member on the King Kamehameha Celebration Floral Parade Committee, representing Hale O Na Ali'i O Hawai'i. I am also the past Treasurer of the combined Benevolent Royal Societies, Aha Hīpu'u, where with we are collectively enjoined to honor, protect, preserve and perpetuate are Native Hawaiian Culture and Arts

The King Kamehameha Celebration is one of three signature events of this state and one of two state recognized Ali'i celebrations that has surveyed the changes of time. These events are more than mere entertainment and celebration, it is also opportunities in which Hawai'i's true history, culture and arts mean something to people of Hawai'i and allows us to share it with those who come to experience the uniqueness of our island home.

Funding by the State for its arts program specialist and part-time clerk-typist is appropriate in order to enable the commission to carry out its mission as mandated in Hawai'i Revised Statutes, Section 1. The changes proposed by this bill will enhance the management and effectiveness of the Commission as it fulfills the kuleana assigned them by the people of this State.

I humbly encourage that State Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs encourage and support this bill.

Respectfully,



William P. Hā'ole, III