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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
SENATE COMMITTEE
ON
WAYS AND MEANS
ON
APRIL 1, 2015

H.B. 1368

RELATING TO THE KING KAMEHAMEHA CELEBRATION COMMISSION

Chair Tokuda 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 supports the intent of H.B. 1368, provided the measure does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget.

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



KING KAMEHAMEHA CELEBRATION COMMISSION

Written Comments Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Wednesday, April 1, 2015, 1:30pm

By

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

HB 1368 – RELATING TO THE KING KAMEHAMEHA CELEBRATION COMMISSION

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi 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 in support of this measure. The intent of this measure is two-fold: 1) amend the commission membership and 2) modifies the funding mechanism for the staffing positions from "special" funds to "general" funds. These changes will enhance the commission's effectiveness and provide greater stability in its operations.

The first intent makes important changes to the composition of the commission and will provide valuable tools to the commission's effectiveness with respect to our organizational and administrative structure.

The second intent addresses the "State" employees. The Commission, as a whole, has not met since March 2014. Our staff, a state employee, has been on unpaid leave since November 2014. Since then, I filled that staffing role, as a volunteer, despite my own full-time job and part-time weekend job. This is an addition of 10 to 15 hours a week on commission matters.

As you know, 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 and secure payroll resources for a "State" employee. Numerous efforts have been made; however, the responses are 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 that the commission's arts program specialist and a part-time specialist salaries funding mechanism be modified from special (trust) funds to general funds. Specifically, we are seeking the committee's insight, if these positions could be included in the Department of Account and General Services operating budget. 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.

The general revenue appropriation requests is modest and hopes to kick-start this momentum.

Operating Cost for FY 2015-2016 and 2016-2017

	Item	Description		2015-16	2016-17
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	\$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	\$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	\$240
		Total:		\$24,040	\$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 were 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.



Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs

P. O. Box 1135

Honolulu, Hawai`i 96807

HB1368 RELATING TO THE KING KAMEHAMEHA DAY CELEBRATION COMMISSION

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

Wednesday, 4/01/15; 1:30 pm; Room 211

Aloha Madam Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi and members of the Ways and Means committee meeting to consider HB 1368. The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs supports this bill that would invest State funds into what has become a major visitor attraction, especially in Honolulu. It is a good economic investment considering the growing competition Hawaii has in the field of tourism.

King Kamehameha festivities have grown to be more than simply a parade and draping leis on a statue but is a trigger for celebrations throughout Hawaii.

We urge the committee to adequately fund the commission. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

Contact: Jalna.keala2@hawaiiantel.net

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: kamakane73@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1368 on Apr 1, 2015 13:30PM*
Date: Tuesday, March 31, 2015 9:52:43 AM

HB1368

Submitted on: 3/31/2015

Testimony for WAM on Apr 1, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kama Hopkins	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.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: mkhan@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1368 on Apr 1, 2015 13:30PM
Date: Monday, March 30, 2015 10:25:39 PM

HB1368

Submitted on: 3/30/2015

Testimony for WAM on Apr 1, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leimomi Khan	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Urge passage of this bill to enable the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission to continue delivering a state-wide quality celebration that honors King Kamehameha, that respects the Native Hawaiian culture, and that attracts tourists and kama'aina alike, and thus, promoting revenue for the state.

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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