

SR 124 / SCR 163



SCR163/SR124

**COMMEMORATING AND HONORING THE LIFE OF ROBERT WILLIAM KALANIHIAPO
WILCOX, AN ENDURING PATRIOT AND ADVOCATE FOR THE RIGHTS OF NATIVE
HAWAIIANS, WHO SERVED AS HAWAII'S FIRST ELECTED REPRESENTATIVE TO THE
UNITED STATES CONGRESS.**

Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

March 28, 2016

1:16 p.m.

Room 016

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** SCR163/SR124, which honors the contributions of Robert William Kalanihiapo Wilcox to Native Hawaiians, our political history, and our enduring rights and privileges.

Mr. Wilcox demonstrated a great degree of political acumen, first being elected to serve in the Royal Legislature of Hawai'i in 1880, at the young age of 25. Even this early in his life and career, Mr. Wilcox exhibited concern about the rapidly changing economic and social landscape of his native country, and skepticism toward the increasingly powerful interests of wealthy American and European foreigners in Hawai'i.

Mr. Wilcox was studying abroad at Italy's Royal Military Academy at the behest of King Kalākaua, when he received word that foreign businessmen had organized to usurp the power of the Hawaiian government, and commenced the series of events that would lead to the forceful overthrow of the Hawaiian monarchy. Over the course of the next several years, Mr. Wilcox organized Native Hawaiians and led them in continual counterrevolutionary efforts, advocating for the return of power to the Hawaiian monarchy and people. To inspire his people, he employed the use of media with his news publication, "The Liberal"; to defend his people, he engaged in two armed conflicts with the militias of the newly self-appointed government. Most notably, however, Mr. Wilcox was a political visionary; he truly led his people, using multiple avenues.

During the years leading up to the overthrow, throughout the revolution, and even after the failed counterrevolution and eventual annexation of Hawai'i, Mr. Wilcox developed multiple political strategies to address the injustices occurring in his homeland, and ensure that Native Hawaiians maintained a voice in the ruling government, rather than be excluded from it. Notably, after Hawai'i's annexation, Mr. Wilcox helped to organize the Hawaiian Independent Party, later known as the Home Rule Party, and mobilized Native Hawaiians to participate in territorial politics. He was remarkably successful in this effort. Early in the territorial period, Native Hawaiians registered to vote at nearly the same rates as they did during the kingdom period, resulting in Hawaiians controlling roughly 68 percent of the electorate. The strong Native Hawaiian turnout at the polls led to Native Hawaiians representing about 70 percent of the territorial legislature in the early 20th

century and to the election of Mr. Wilcox to serve as Hawai'i's first U.S. Congressional representative, where he sought to represent Native Hawaiian interests. Thus, even in this most tumultuous period of great loss in Hawaiian history, Mr. Wilcox inspired Native Hawaiians to empower themselves, and he continues to remain an inspiring symbol of our resilient mana today.

OHA appreciates this astutely drafted tribute to Mr. Wilcox's life, highlighting many of his contributions to Hawaiian history. We respectfully offer the following for the Committee to consider as additional clauses, where appropriate, to acknowledge his accomplishments even more thoroughly:

"WHEREAS, Mr. Wilcox zealously and successfully lobbied Congress to grant universal voting rights for men in the legislation that would become the 1900 Organic Act, to ensure that Native Hawaiian interests were adequately represented in the Territory of Hawaii government; and"

"WHEREAS, realizing that as a United States territory, Hawaii would send only non-voting representatives to Congress and that Hawaii's territorial governors would be appointed by the United States President and not elected by territorial residents, Mr. Wilcox and other prominent Native Hawaiians supported Hawaii becoming a State of the Union to ensure greater local control of Hawaii's government; and"

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body acknowledges Robert William Kalanihiapo Wilcox may serve as an inspiration in contemporary times in advocacy efforts for Native Hawaiian self-governance in various and multiple forums; and"

Mr. Wilcox is a cherished figure in the Hawaiian community for his contributions to our kūpuna, our history, and our heritage. He dedicated his life, and at times even risked it, to preserve Native Hawaiian rights and self-determination. OHA urges all Native Hawaiians to honor his memory, by continuing to empower our voices in government and pursue self-determination via all available avenues.

For these reasons, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** SCR163/SR124. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HWNTestimony](#)
Cc: blawaiianlvr@icloud.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SR124 on Mar 28, 2016 13:16PM
Date: Monday, March 28, 2016 3:12:01 AM

SR124

Submitted on: 3/28/2016

Testimony for HWN on Mar 28, 2016 13:16PM in Conference Room 016

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|-------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| De MONT R. D. CONNER | Ho'omana Pono, LLC. | Support | Yes |

Comments: We STRONGLY SUPPORT this resolution. Robert Wilcox, was, is & forever will be a true Aloha `Aina & we are glad that he will be duly recognized.

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Unity, Equality, Aloha for all



To: SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
For hearing Monday, March 28, 2016

Re: SR124/SCR163

COMMEMORATING AND HONORING THE LIFE OF ROBERT WILLIAM KALANIHIAPO WILCOX, AN ENDURING PATRIOT AND ADVOCATE FOR THE RIGHTS OF NATIVE HAWAIIANS, WHO SERVED AS HAWAII'S FIRST ELECTED REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS.

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION

It's weird to see a resolution in the legislature commemorating and honoring Robert Wilcox, who died 113 years ago. Why is this resolution being proposed at this particular time? No reason is given. There must be a hidden agenda.

A resolution in the state legislature to commemorate and honor Wilcox at this time is as peculiar as it would be to introduce a resolution in

Congress today to commemorate and honor other men who were zealous patriots on the wrong side, such as Jefferson Davis (President of the Confederate states of America), Joseph Stalin, or Mao Tse-tung.

More importantly, aside from weirdness -- Robert Wilcox also does not deserve to be commemorated, let alone honored.

What sort of message would the legislature be sending to today's hot-headed Hawaiian sovereignty activists by passing a resolution to commemorate and honor such a racist man of violence who had no hesitation about killing in order to further his political goals?

I recommend a biography by Ernest Andrade Jr., educated at UH Manoa, Professor Emeritus of History at University of Colorado at Boulder, buried at Punchbowl cemetery on account of his military service to our nation. The book is "Unconquerable Rebel: Robert W. Wilcox and Hawaiian Politics, 1880-1903" (University Press of Colorado, 1996). 299 pages including extensive footnotes. ISBN: 0-87081-417-6. My comments about Robert Wilcox are based on facts reported in Professor Andrade's fair, balanced, and heavily footnoted book, and my comments accurately represent Professor Andrade's conclusions about Wilcox.

Andrade uses the word "demagogue" to describe Wilcox's flamboyant style. Andrade describes Wilcox as an arrogant, unprincipled zealot who frequently changed sides in the political struggles and whose only long-term allegiance was to his own quest for political power.

Wilcox, who was half white and half Hawaiian, deliberately stirred up racial antagonism by native Hawaiians against whites in order to build political support for himself.

Wilcox collaborated with Lili'uokalani in a plot against Kalakaua; opposed Lili'uokalani while she was Queen; urged that the monarchy be overthrown in favor of a Republic; and supported annexation to the

United States. But after the revolution of 1893 he worked to restore the monarchy and opposed annexation.

Wilcox led armed rebellions, as mentioned in this proposed resolution SR124/SCR163, which resulted in several deaths. Do you legislators approve of that?

One of Wilcox's occasions of violence resulting in death was an attempted Palace coup in 1889 intended to oust Kalakaua at the behest of Lili'uokalani so she could take power. Lili'uokalani despised and opposed Kalakaua because he had signed the Bayonet Constitution of 1887 while she was in London visiting Queen Victoria. The attempted Palace coup was planned in 1888 while Wilcox was living in one of Lili'uokalani's homes, in Palama.

Another time when Wilcox used violence resulting in death, with Lili'uokalani as co-conspirator, was the attempted Wilcox-led counter-revolution in 1895, where guns, ammunition, and hand grenades were found in a buried cache hidden in a flower-bed at Lili'uokalani's private home very near the Palace (Washington Place).

When annexation was achieved, Wilcox maneuvered to become leader of the race-focused Home Rule Party and won election as Hawaii's first Territorial Delegate to Congress. But his performance in Congress was so poor, and the Home Rule's performance as majority party in the Territorial legislature was so bad, that the party split into factions and soon ceased to exist. Prince Kuhio walked out of the Home Rule Party convention in 1902 in disgust, joined the Republican Party, and defeated Wilcox's Home Rule Party in the 1902 election for Territorial Delegate where Kuhio served for 20 years.

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Unity, Equality, Aloha for all



To: SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
For hearing Monday, March 28, 2016

Re: SR124/SCR163

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HWNTestimony](#)
Cc: hoku3@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SR124 on Mar 28, 2016 13:16PM
Date: Saturday, March 26, 2016 9:10:06 PM

SR124

Submitted on: 3/26/2016

Testimony for HWN on Mar 28, 2016 13:16PM in Conference Room 016

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Heather W. Botelho | Individual | Support | No |

Comments: Dear Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs; My name is Heather W. Botelho and I am in support of Commemorating and Honoring the Life of My Tutuman Robert William Kalanihiapo Wilcox. He was a Loyal Patriot and an Advocate of the Rights of Native Hawaiians and who served as Hawaii's First Elected Delegate to the United States Congress. Robert Wilcox was a Legend in his Life Time and Respected and Loved by his People. He should be Honored and Remembered as an Important Patriot and Hero in the History of Hawaii. I Appreciate and am very Grateful to the Legislative Body for this Recognition of My Tutuman Robert William Kalanihiapo Wilcox. Mahalo Nui Heather W. Botelho

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Cc: hoku3@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SCR163 on Mar 28, 2016 13:16PM
Date: Saturday, March 26, 2016 9:09:05 PM

SCR163

Submitted on: 3/26/2016

Testimony for HWN on Mar 28, 2016 13:16PM in Conference Room 016

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Heather W. Botelho | Individual | Support | No |

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HWNTestimony](#)
Cc: kamakane73@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SCR163 on Mar 28, 2016 13:16PM*
Date: Friday, March 18, 2016 12:12:41 AM

SCR163

Submitted on: 3/18/2016

Testimony for HWN on Mar 28, 2016 13:16PM in Conference Room 016

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

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HWNTestimony](#)
Cc: ritaleimedina@live.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SCR163 on Mar 28, 2016 13:16PM
Date: Saturday, March 26, 2016 3:41:02 PM

SCR163

Submitted on: 3/26/2016

Testimony for HWN on Mar 28, 2016 13:16PM in Conference Room 016

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| rita lei medina | Individual | Support | No |

Comments: Please find the attached on behalf of Michael K. Salazar. Mahalo.

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March 25, 2016

E Aloha la Oukou -

Thank you, for the opportunity to address this honorable body in regards to the Senate resolutions at hand.

Aloha, I am Michael Carl Kauhiokalani Salazar. I am the great grandson of the honorable Robert William Kalanihiapo Wilcox. His marriage to Princess Theresa Owana La'anui bore my grandfather Robert Keoua. His marriage to Helen Kaleipuanani Wilburton bore my mother Helena Kalokuokamaile.

I write in support of SR124 and SCR163, but the voice you hear is not mine. The voice you hear comes from L.K. Kahelemanunu who was a well recognized Hawaiian language literary poet of that tumultuous time as attested to by our late OHA Trustee Moses Keale during a family meeting with him regarding the erection of the Wilcox Statue at Fort Street Mall.

An Appeal to the Heavens

A voice interceding with the Powers of Heaven
To the most high trinity
Look upon our intercession with favor
In your great power, help us
Grant life and victory to Wilcox
And so also provide help, o Hawai'i
Perpetuate the sovereignty of Hawai'i in righteousness
Proudly fly your crowned flag
Let enemies become as nothing
The pale skinned working evil
Who hide within cleverness
Coveting you, o Hawai'i
Awaken, o Hawai'i of innumerable stalks
The four corners of the land
Turn under the disobedient and the lowly
Turn the eyes upward
Those of the trinity, powerful and helpful
Our great victory
These enduring hopes
His heavenly power to fulfill
The day of happiness yours, o Hawai'i
God save your kingdom, o majesty
O Wilcox, warrior, be victorious

In conclusion, this and many other affirmations of his stature of this time in Hawaiian history, attest to the love borne him by the Hawaiian populace. He should be remembered and honored.

With much respect to this August body,

Michael Carl Kauhiokalani Salazar

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HWNTestimony](#)
Cc: bguard0maupin@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SCR163 on Mar 28, 2016 13:16PM
Date: Saturday, March 26, 2016 8:12:46 PM

SCR163

Submitted on: 3/26/2016

Testimony for HWN on Mar 28, 2016 13:16PM in Conference Room 016

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Robet H Guard | Individual | Support | No |

Comments: Please support SCR 163 commemorating Robert Wilcox...truly an unsung native Hawaiian hero, patriot who added so much value to the existence of the Hawaiian people. In my opinion one of the top ten Hawaiians of importance of Hawaiian history. Robert Wilcox was a warrior in the best sense with a powerful heart of Aloha.

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To: [HWNTestimony](#)
Cc: bguard0maupin@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SR124 on Mar 28, 2016 13:16PM
Date: Saturday, March 26, 2016 8:11:21 PM

SR124

Submitted on: 3/26/2016

Testimony for HWN on Mar 28, 2016 13:16PM in Conference Room 016

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Robet H Guard | Individual | Support | No |

Comments: Please support SR 124 commemorating Robert Wilcox...truly an unsung native Hawaiian hero, patriot who added so much value to the existence of the Hawaiian people. In my opinion one of the top ten Hawaiians of importance of Hawaiian history. Robert Wilcox was a warrior in the best sense with a powerful heart of Aloha.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HWNTestimony](#)
Cc: thomas.leejr1@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SCR163 on Mar 28, 2016 13:16PM
Date: Monday, March 28, 2016 7:17:54 AM

SCR163

Submitted on: 3/28/2016

Testimony for HWN on Mar 28, 2016 13:16PM in Conference Room 016

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Thomas Lee | Individual | Support | No |

Comments: Honoring the life and service of Robert Kalanihiapo Wilcox in this way is so long overdue. His dedication to the people of Hawaii was unwavering from his dedication to the Monarchy and people of Hawaii going through imprisonment for that dedication and to not give up but to instead earn his way back into the service of the people of Hawaii as the first elected congressman for Hawaii. His dedication and efforts in representation of Native Hawaiians of his highest concern. This recognition and effort to honor The Honorable Robert Kalanihiapo Wilcox is greatly appreciated by not only decedents of his but all Hawaiians who might ever learn of his life and efforts.

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March 27, 2016

To: The Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair

Senator J. Kalani English, Vice Chair

From: Mme. Kaulana Keli'i Bonnet

Re: Testimony for SR124 and SCR163

Honorable Members of this Committee:

My name is Mme. Kaulana Bonnet (Bonay). I am Ko Hawai'i Pae Aina. I write to thank you for considering the changing of the name of Nimitz Hwy to the name of to that of one of the Hawaiian Kingdom's bravest patriots Robert Kalanihapo.

The first step of the apology of the United States to the Hawaiian people was important. It acknowledged a wrong that has been done to the Hawaiian people. However, there has been no other attempt to take responsibility in terms of reparations for damages, or return of stolen property. In fact, it seems there are more and more frequent, deceptive covert international acts of aggression in the form of attempts at Federal Recognition, which result in the same loss of our territory as the initial invasion on January 17, 1893.

Despite these aggressive actions and refusal to return our rightful government, further expressions of sorrow are essential parts of the effectiveness of the apology. Especially so in this case, because much harm has been done to the Royal family, and the family of Robert Kalanihapo. Changing the name of a major highway from that of a US General, non Kanaka maoli, an oppressor, to that of a patriot, a leader, a hero, a forefather of our Kanaka Maoli nation, **ROBERT KALANIHAPO**, is very

honorable of the legislature to do. It will be an honorable event for our Hawaiian Kingdom subjects and citizens as well, to enjoy and remember our proud heritage.

Making this decision is an act of courage on the part of the legislature and an important step toward reconciliation with the Hawaiian people and the healing of our nation. It expresses and demonstrates regret and remorse to the proper aggrieved party, and opens the door to more sincere dialogue in the future.

In Appreciation,
Madame Kaulana Keli'i Bonnet
Queen Consort No Te Tuamotu, Tahiti

March 27, 2016

To: The Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair
Senator J. Kalani English, Vice Chair

From: Owana Ka`ōhelelani Salazar, Royal Descendant and Great Granddaughter of the Honoree

Re: Testimony for SR124 and SCR163

Honorable Members of this Committee:

Welina me ke aloha kākou. My purpose here today is to remember, to share, and hopefully to inspire our youth and parent generations, our 'opio and mākua, in whose hands our islands' future depends. As a great granddaughter of this Kūpuna of our history, I wish to extend my gratitude to the members of this committee and to this legislative body for honoring and celebrating the life of service given to Hawaii by this patriot who is the "stuff" from which legends are made.

The Honorable Robert William Kalanihiapo Wilcox, affectionately known as "Wilikoki", was well known among all the people. He was a living legend, a freedom fighter, and a loyalist of the Hawaiian Kingdom Government and Monarchy – however, today it appears the memory of his life of heroism and service to Hawaii's people has been obscured and I daresay, damaged, through efforts of his political enemies and opponents.

When I was a child in elementary, I came home from school one day and told my mother we had no school the next day because it was a holiday. My mother asked me, "Oh? What holiday is it?" Of course, I excitedly answered what we were told in school, "It's Kuhio Day! He was the first delegate to congress." This became my first experience in learning the truth. My mother, bless her heart and memory, then brought out a pamphlet to show me the truth, that Robert Wilcox, my great-grandfather, was actually Hawaii's first delegate to Congress. My next experience came the next school day. You see, I had asked my mother if I could "share and tell" about the book and story. So there I stood in front of my class, sharing and telling, that Kuhio was not the first delegate to congress, but it was really my great grandfather, Robert Kalanihiapo. My teacher simply got up and guided me back to my seat. The matter was forgotten with no further discussion. It is time for the forgetting to be over.

This was just the beginning of what became months and years of my family's experiences – bringing forth the facts – to writers and editors of newspapers, magazines, and television... we wrote letters, made phone calls, and wrote more letters. Until now, the truth finally prevails, that the first delegate from Hawaii to the US Congress was Robert Kalanihiapo Wilcox.

There are two Wilcox men in our history. The G.N. Wilcox of Kauai – who was part of the annexationist party, and Robert Wilcox of Maui who was not.

A friend of mine once said to me, "Your great grandfather was the Nathan Hale of our people." You may recall his famous words, "Give me liberty or give me death." Well, the Honorable Robert William Kalanihiapo Wilcox lived his life dedicated to service whether representing East Maui and later Oahu in Hawaii's first legislature, or being schooled at the Military Academy of Turin, Italy – as appointed by His Majesty King Kalākaua – then returning home to lead the good fight against the dreaded Bayonet Constitution in 1889, then in 1895 fighting to restore Her Majesty Queen Liliuokalani to Hawaii's throne. Tragically, by report from reliable sources, his light was snuffed out after filings of glass were added into his drinks during a party held at the old Alexander & Young Hotel in downtown Honolulu.

Thomas Nakanaela wrote a biography of Robert William Kalanihiapo in the Hawaiian language. *Ka Bake Mo`olelo o Hon. Robert William Wilikoki* was originally published in 1890 and recently republished in 1999 by Bishop Museum Press under the direction of Puakea Nogelmeier. We hope to soon publish the English translation. The

book closes with twenty-one mele inoa, name songs of praise from persons of that era. It is their voices that speak until today. Here are only three excerpts from them:

By D. M. Keahi O Kuili

“This is a name-song for Wilcox
Ferocious lion of the Pacific
It was he who braced the paddle
To steer the Kingdom truly...”
It was he who stirred hearts to hope
Love for the land which gave birth...”

By J. M. K. Kuwili Kaa-Ahi

“Wilcox has no equal
Magnet that tugs at the heart
A heart that loves the Hawaiian people
Purpose held fast in the very depths of being
Implicit trust in the King...”

By Miss M. Keaomakani

“Wilcox is famous
Hawaii’s magician
It was he who raised war
Opposing the Government Party
In order to benefit the people
From Hawaii to Kauai...
Wilcox, the candidate healing Hawaii...
May Hawaii live forever
Placed in the shining light of day”

Lastly, regarding the resolution SR124 SCR163, I respectfully submit the following amendments:

- ~~COMMEMORATING AND HONORING...ENDURING PATRIOT AND ADVOCATE FOR THE RIGHTS OF NATIVE HAWAIIANS~~ HAWAIIAN KINGDOM, WHO SERVED...
- WHEREAS, Robert William Kalanihiapo Wilcox was born.... and to Kalua Makoleo-okalani of Maui, who descended from ~~chiefly ancestors from both of her parents on Hawaii and Maui~~ Lonoikahonuakini, ancient ruler of Maui.
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 28th Legislature acknowledge, remember, and celebrate Robert William Kalanihiapo... rights of ~~Native Hawaiian~~ Hawaiian Kingdom citizens to vote and fully participate in their Hawaiian government. ~~regardless of whether it was organized as a Monarch, a Provisional Government, a Republic, or a Territory of the United States.~~
- Throughout the entire document: Strike the words ~~Native Hawaiian~~ and insert citizens of the Hawaiian Kingdom.
- Throughout the entire document: Strike the word ~~royalist (royalist)~~ and insert loyalist in its place. The term loyalist describes those who were loyal to the kingdom government and crown. The ~~royalists~~ describes those aspiring to usurp the royal powers, such as the Reform Party, aka the Committee of Thirteen, aka the Republic of Hawaii.

E ho`opomaika`i kakou apau, mahalo a nui loa,
Owau no me ka `I`o hemolele,

Owana Ka`ōhelelani Salazar

March 27, 2016

To: The Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair
Senator J. Kalani English, Vice Chair

From: Ronald Williams Jr. Ph.D.

Re: Testimony in regards to SR124 and SCR163

Honorable Members of the Hawaiian Affairs Committee,

Aloha mai kākou. I am sitting down at a very busy time in our semester in order to offer you my mana‘o ‘oia‘i‘o in regards to what I believe is a very important legislative matter. I write in strong support of the above mentioned bills and the honoring of Robert William Kalanihiapo Wilcox. As a doctorate in the History of Hawai‘i and a faculty member of the Hawai‘inuiākea School of Hawaiian Knowledge, I daily see the powerful and lingering impact of the elision of intelligent, noble, loyal Hawaiian figures of the past on the young students of Hawai‘i today.

This is not an issue of the past, but of the present. For nearly a century students in Hawai‘i were presented with a tainted, demeaning history of the native peoples of these Islands and the nation which they founded and led. An example is the textbook “A Brief History of the Hawaiian People” by William D. Alexander. This text, published by the Board of Education and used as a primary text in the schools of Hawai‘i for forty years—1899-1940—offers students this history:

Infanticide was fearfully prevalent...It was the opinion of those best informed that two thirds of all children born were destroyed in infancy by their parents. They were generally buried alive. The principal reason given for it was laziness—unwillingness to take the trouble of rearing children.
[p33-34]

This was the children of Hawai‘i’s history textbook. Our own university published a history of the overthrow of the Hawaiian Monarchy, titled “Transition” within their student yearbook in 1931 that claimed: “Queen Liliuokalani was on the throne and had ruled despotically, bringing about changes without consulting the will of her people. Revolution soon followed and her throne was seized from her.” Further, young Hawaiian descendants of a nearly two-millennia presence on lands birthed by their ancestor, Papahānaumoku, now sat in school classrooms where they memorized U.S. state capitols and lists of American presidents. This characterization of past Kanaka Maoli leaders and their nation created a self-identity within these students that was one of underachievement, ineptitude, and quashed dreams.

In honoring Robert William Kalanihiapo Wilcox you will be offering an example to our

students of today of a Kanaka Maoli leader who was intelligent, accomplished, dedicated, and so much more. There are so many incredible stories concerning the love and aloha that the people of Hawai'i had for Wilcox. I recently published an article concerning the events around the election of November 1900, a time about which one newspaper wrote, "Honolulu is on the eve of the most important period in all her history." Robert Wilcox won that election for Territorial Representative to the US Congress—the first ever. Rallies for his election drew thousands and were often cited as the largest political rallies ever in Hawai'i. Kumu Amy Stillman and others have written on the many mele and honorific chants that were written for this man who didn't hesitate to defend his nation, at the risk of his life, when it was most in danger.

As we recover Native histories through Native-language resources we come to understand what a brilliant, progressive, and accomplished people the citizens of the Hawaiian Kingdom were and I see the impact of relaying those stories to students every day. I ask you to support these measures to Honor Wilcox and I thank you very much for your consideration of my plea.

Me ka 'oia'i'o,

Ron Williams Jr. Ph.D.