



SCR150

REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS TO CONVENE A STUDY GROUP TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE LEGISLATURE ON AN APPROPRIATE MEANS TO HONOR ROBERT WILLIAM KALANIHIAPO WILCOX, HAWAI'I'S FIRST ELECTED DELEGATE TO THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS.

House Committee on Ocean, Marine Resources, & Hawaiian Affairs
House Committee on Veterans, Military, & International Affairs, & and Culture and the Arts

April 13, 2017

10:30 a.m.

Room 312

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** SCR150, which seeks to honor 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. He 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 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, leading his people using multiple avenues.

Throughout his political career, Mr. Wilcox developed multiple 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.

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. **Convening a study group on how to most appropriately honor Mr. Wilcox would be an important first step towards keeping his memory and spirit alive as a seminal figure in Hawai‘i’s history, and reminding current and future generations of Native Hawaiians of the importance of empowering ourselves to pursue self-determination, via all available avenues.**

For these reasons, OHA urges the Committees to **PASS** SCR150. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 9:52 AM
To: omhtestimony
Cc: blawaiianlvr@icloud.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SCR150 on Apr 13, 2017 10:30AM

SCR150

Submitted on: 4/12/2017

Testimony for OMH/VMI on Apr 13, 2017 10:30AM in Conference Room 312

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.

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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To: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON OCEAN, MARINE RESOURCES, & HAWAIIAN
AFFAIRS
and HOUSE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS, MILITARY, & INTERNATIONAL
AFFAIRS, & CULTURE AND THE ARTS

For hearing Thursday April 13, 2017

Re: SCR150 SD1.

REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS TO CONVENE A STUDY
GROUP TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE LEGISLATURE ON AN
APPROPRIATE MEANS TO HONOR ROBERT WILLIAM KALANIHIAPO
WILCOX, HAWAII'S FIRST ELECTED DELEGATE TO THE UNITED STATES
CONGRESS.

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION

It's weird to see a resolution in the legislature proposing to commemorate and honor Robert Wilcox, who died 114 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 proposing to commemorate and honor Robert 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 her brother Kalakaua; Wilcox 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, 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.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
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SCR150

Submitted on: 4/12/2017

Testimony for OMH/VMI on Apr 13, 2017 10:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Benton	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Subject: *Submitted testimony for SCR150 on Apr 13, 2017 10:30AM*

SCR150

Submitted on: 4/12/2017

Testimony for OMH/VMI on Apr 13, 2017 10:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

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Subject: *Submitted testimony for SCR150 on Apr 13, 2017 10:30AM*

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kaulana Dameg	Individual	Support	No

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Subject: *Submitted testimony for SCR150 on Apr 13, 2017 10:30AM*

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Don Aweau	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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