



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

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Statement of
LUIS P. SALAVERIA
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Thursday, February 22, 2018
11:00 am
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

in consideration of
HB 2455, HD1

**RELATING TO MAKING AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION TO THE
DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM FOR
THE 2018 GANNENMONO CELEBRATION.**

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee on Finance.

The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) **strongly supports** HB 2455, HD1, which makes an emergency appropriation to DBEDT for the 2018 Gannenmono Celebration.

The Gannenmono Celebration commemorates the 150th Anniversary of the arrival of the first group of Japanese immigrants to Hawaii. A collective effort of 20 community organizations in Hawaii dedicated to perpetuating the history of Japanese-Americans in Hawaii are together planning events during this auspicious year-long celebration. These events will foster friendships between Hawaii and Japan and honor the legacy of the Gannenmono and the contributions that have been made in Hawaii through the years.

The Japan-Hawaii relationship is important from an economic development standpoint. DBEDT supports building these relationships through cultural, educational and business exchanges that strengthen Hawaii's economic activities.

DBEDT thanks the Committee on Veterans, Military, & International Affairs, & Culture and the Arts for inserting language that this measure is for an emergency appropriation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



JAPANESE CULTURAL CENTER OF HAWAI'I

Honoring our heritage. Embracing our diversity. Sharing our future.

February 21, 2018

2017-2018

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To: Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair
House Committee on Finance

Rep. Ty Cullen, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

From: Carole Hayashino, President and Executive Director
Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i

Committee Date: Thursday, February 22, 2018
11:00 a.m.
Room 308

Subject: Support for HB 2455, HD1, Making an Appropriation to the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism for the 2018 Gannenmono Celebration

I am writing to express support for HB 2455, HD 1, Making an Appropriation to the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism for the 2018 *Gannenmono* Celebration and to ask the Governor to make an emergency appropriation for \$150,000 funding for the 150th Anniversary of the Japanese arrival to Hawai'i .

The Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i (JCCH), in partnership with other organizations across the state, is commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the arrival of the first Japanese immigrants to Hawai'i throughout the 2018 year. The *Gannenmono*, or "first year people," departed from Yokohama and arrived in Honolulu in June 1868. They numbered approximately 150 from diverse backgrounds such as urban dwellers, artists, cooks, and displaced samurai. These immigrants were the first of what would become wave after wave of Issei, the first generation. The year-long celebration of the *Gannenmono* and 150 years of Japanese in Hawai'i honors the spirit of these Issei pioneers, commemorates the friendship between Japan and Hawai'i, and pays tribute to King Kalakaua and the Kingdom of Hawai'i for welcoming the Japanese immigrants with aloha.

The JCCH kicked off the 150th Anniversary with a special blessing at its *New Year's 'Ohana Festival* and educational tours through its historical exhibition, *Okage Sama De: I am what I am because of you*. In the coming months, we are also sponsoring a photo contest to visually capture the theme, "150 years of Japanese in Hawai'i," publishing a book with UH Press that will include historical photos from the Hawai'i Time Press archives, and developing an exhibition to honor the first Japanese immigrants. JCCH is also a participant to

the Association of Nikkei and Japanese Abroad conference scheduled for June 6, 2018 and the Gannenmono 150th Anniversary Commemoration and Symposium on June 7, 2018.

While JCCH and the coalition of Japanese American organizations have secured private funds to support many of its 150th Anniversary activities, support from the State of Hawai‘i will ensure broader participation from the public, increased educational activities for the schools, collection of oral histories and further research on *Gannenmono* and their descendants.

On behalf of the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai‘i, I urge your consideration and invite you to join us as we honor the first Japanese immigrants to Hawai‘i. **Please support HB 2455, HD1, Appropriation to the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism for the 2018 Gannenmono Celebration and request an emergency appropriation from the Governor for the 150th Anniversary of the Gannenmono.**

Thank you.



February 21, 2018

To: Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair
House Committee on Finance

Rep. Ty Cullen, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

From: Christine Kubota, Co-Chair, Gannenmono Celebration Committee and
Chairperson, Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i Board of Directors

Tyler Tokioka, Co-Chair, Gannenmono Celebration Committee
Hawai'i Region Leadership of USJC (Past Chair, 2016-2017; Advisor, 2018)
Japan Hawai'i Economic Summit (Co-Chair, 2017)

Sal Miwa, Co-Chair, Gannenmono Celebration Committee and
Chairperson, Japan America Society of Hawai'i

**Subject: HB 2455, HD1, Making an Appropriation to the Department of Business,
Economic Development and Tourism for the 2018 Gannenmono Celebration**

On behalf of *Kizuna Hawai'i* and the Gannenmono Celebration Committee, we are writing in support of **HB 2455, HD 1, Making an Emergency Appropriation to the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism for the 2018 Gannenmono Celebration.**

Kizuna Hawai'i is a consortium of 20 Japanese American community-based organizations who share a common mission to preserve the history of Japanese in Hawai'i, promote Japanese cultural traditions and foster Hawai'i-Japan relations. Through our statewide network, we have formed the Gannenmono Celebration Committee to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the arrival of the first organized contingent of Japanese immigrants to Hawai'i.

Kizuna Hawai'i organizations throughout the State of Hawai'i will be observing the historic milestone in the 2018 calendar year with special film showings, festivals, cultural performances, exhibitions and activities. The 150th Anniversary will culminate on June 6, 2018 at the international conference of the Association of Nikkei and Japanese Abroad (ANJA) in Honolulu. On June 7, 2018, *Kizuna Hawai'i* will host the Gannenmono 150th Anniversary Commemoration Ceremony and Symposium. We are especially honored to hear that members of Japan's royal family, Prince and Princess Akishino, will visit Hawai'i to join the celebration. Because the 150th Celebration program highlights are scheduled prior to July 1, 2018, we support the request to the Governor for an early appropriation for funding.

Support from the State will be directed to recording the activities of the 150th anniversary celebrations taking place throughout the state in Kaua‘i, Maui County, Hawai‘i Island and O‘ahu. Such visual documentation will provide a historical record on the Gannenmono for future generations. A portion of the funds will also support the June 7, 2018 Ceremony and Symposium—bringing together community leaders of the state, support the participation of Gannenmono descendants with Nikkei leaders of Japan, South America, and the continental U.S.

In preparation for the international celebration and symposium, fundraising efforts were launched in 2017 beginning with *Kizuna Hawai‘i* organizational members contributing towards the Gannenmono Celebration. We are also actively raising private contributions from local corporations and businesses to support the 150th Anniversary Celebration and production of an English/Japanese bilingual 150th anniversary video. The proposed appropriation measure, HB2455, HD1, will support our historic celebration as well as help us leverage the local private fundraising efforts that have been underway since late last year.

We invite the State of Hawai‘i to join us as we honor the first Japanese immigrants from Japan upon the occasion of the 150th Anniversary of the *Gannenmono*, “the first year people.” **We urge your support for HB 2455, HD1, Appropriation to the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism for the 2018 Gannenmono Celebration.**

If you have any questions or need additional information regarding the 150th Anniversary, please contact Carole Hayashino, JCCH President and Executive Director, at hayashino@jcch.com.

Thank you.

HB-2455-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2018 11:20:35 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2018 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
cheryl	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

Interesting allocation of money for this event. Had not heard of it before. Wondering how many events similar to this in one year does the State legislature allocate monies?

LATE

HB-2455-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 11:24:26 PM
Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2018 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marcella Alohalani Boido	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The Gannenmono Celebration sounds like a wonderful event. The arrival of this group to Hawaii one hundred and fifty (150) years ago is of historical importance to our community. Please support the Gannenmono Celebration. I'm sure many people will want to attend these events!