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DAVID Y. IGE  
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LUIS P. SALAVERIA  
DIRECTOR

MARY ALICE EVANS  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

## DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 South Hotel Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804  
Web site: [www.hawaii.gov/dbedt](http://www.hawaii.gov/dbedt)

Telephone: (808) 586-2355  
Fax: (808) 586-2377

Statement of  
**LUIS P. SALAVERIA**  
**Director**  
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism  
before the  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS, MILITARY & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS &  
CULTURE AND THE ARTS**

Thursday, February 8, 2018  
10:00 am  
State Capitol, Conference Room 429

in consideration of  
**HB 2455**  
**RELATING TO MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF  
BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM FOR THE 2018  
GANNENMONO CELEBRATION.**

Chair LoPresti, Vice Chair Fukumoto, and Members of the Committee on Veterans, Military & International Affairs & Culture and the Arts.

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

The Gannenmono Celebration commemorates the 150<sup>th</sup> 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



**GANNENMONO**  
CELEBRATING 150 YEARS

**RECEIVED**  
**Date & Time**  
Feb 06, 2018, 9:28 am

February 5, 2018

**To:** Rep. Matthew LoPresti, Chair  
House Committee on Veterans, Military & International Affairs and  
Culture and the Arts

Rep. Beth Fukumoto, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Veterans, Military & International Affairs and  
Culture and the Arts

**From:** 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)

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

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

**Subject: HB2455, 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 **HB2455 Making an Appropriation to the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism for the 2018 Gannenmono Celebration**. We also support a request to the Governor to make an emergency appropriation for \$150,000 funding for the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

*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 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the arrival of the first organized contingent of Japanese immigrants to Hawai'i.

*Kizuna Hawai'i* kicked off the Gannenmono 150<sup>th</sup> Celebration at the JCCH *New Year's 'Ohana Festival* held on January 14, 2018. Each *Kizuna Hawai'i* organization is observing the historic milestone throughout the calendar year with special film showings, festivals, cultural performances, exhibitions and activities. The 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary will culminate on June 6, 2018 at the international conference of the Association of Nikkei and Japanese Abroad in Honolulu. Immediately following the conference, *Kizuna Hawai'i* will host the Gannenmono 150<sup>th</sup> 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 150<sup>th</sup> Celebration program highlights are scheduled prior to July 1, 2018, we support the request to the Governor for an emergency appropriation for funding.

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 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration and production of an English/Japanese bilingual 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary video. The proposed appropriation measure, HB2455, 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 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Gannenmono, "the first year people." **We urge your support for HB 2455, Appropriation to the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism for the 2018 Gannenmono Celebration and respectfully request an emergency appropriation from the Governor for the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Gannenmono.**

If you have any questions or need additional information regarding the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, please contact Carole Hayashino, JCCH President and Executive Director, at [hayashino@jcch.com](mailto:hayashino@jcch.com).

Thank you.



**RECEIVED**  
**Date & Time**  
Feb 06, 2018, 9:31 am

## JAPANESE CULTURAL CENTER OF HAWAI'I

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

February 6, 2018

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**To:** Rep. Matthew LoPresti, Chair  
House Committee on Veterans, Military & International Affairs and  
Culture and the Arts

Rep. Beth Fukumoto, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Veterans, Military & International Affairs and  
Culture and the Arts

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

**Committee Date:** Thursday, February 8, 2018  
10:00 a.m.  
Room 429

**Subject: Support for HB2455, Making an Appropriation to the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism for the 2018 Gannenmono Celebration**

I am writing to express support for HB2455 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 150<sup>th</sup> 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 150<sup>th</sup> 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 150<sup>th</sup> 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 June 6, 2018 and the Gannenmono 150<sup>th</sup> 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 150<sup>th</sup> 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, 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 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Gannenmono.**

Thank you.