

Testimony from: Mr. Kainoa Daines
Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
February 8, 2018 – 1:30 p.m.

SB2580: Relating to the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission
Appropriates funds to the department of accounting and general services to establish one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) position for the executive director of the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission. Appropriates funds to fund the costs incurred by the annual King Kamehameha day celebration events.

Aloha Chairs Shimabukuro and Taniguchi and distinguished members of the Hawaiian Affairs and Judiciary Committees,

My name is Kainoa Daines and I am submitting testimony in *strong support* of Senate Bills 2580 and 2581, relating to the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission. I am the Chair of the Commission, representing the Royal Order of Kamehameha I, Honolulu's King Kamehameha Celebration Floral Parade Chairman since 2011 and former Arts Program Specialist (April – June 2011).

King Kamehameha V declared a national holiday to honor his grandfather. It has been a national holiday since 1872. The holiday continued through the Republic of Hawai'i, the Territory of Hawai'i and today, the happy responsibility lies with the State of Hawai'i.

Support of SB2580

In 1939, the Territorial Legislature of Hawai'i created the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission to formally develop and execute events focused on celebrating the great statesman of Hawai'i. With the creation of this commission, two positions were created as well. The primary position today is the Arts Program Specialist. We are seeking to change the APS position to an Executive Director title to better attract more qualified applicants to manage Commission business and events.

This position is vital in running the daily operations and aiding the volunteer commission in the planning and executing of celebration events and festivities statewide. In the late 1990s, the funding for celebration activities was eliminated. Wages were meant to have been cut as well, but weren't actually cut until 2009, when I became Chair. The celebration of our state's unifier and symbol of collective pride should not have been viewed as a mere line item. I am asking this committee to reinstate general funds to the staff salary.

The Commission is in place to celebrate the life and legacy of Kamehameha I, centralized around a *state holiday*. We are asking the state to continue this kuleana into perpetuity.

Mahalo for your time.

Aloha,

Kainoa Daines, Chair
King Kamehameha Celebration Commission
Ph: (808) 780-8411
E: kainoadaines@gmail.com

Testimony from: Ms. Melissa Mae Sugai
Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs/Judiciary
February 8, 2018 – 1:30 p.m.

SB2580: Relating to the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission

Appropriates funds to the department of accounting and general services to establish one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) position for the executive director of the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission. Appropriates funds to fund the costs incurred by the annual King Kamehameha day celebration events.

Aloha Chairs Shimabukuro and Taniguchi and distinguished members of the Hawaiian Affairs and Judiciary Committees,

My name is Melissa Mae Sugai and I am submitting testimony in *strong support* of Senate Bills 2580 and 2581, relating to the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission. I am the Commissioner for the Island of Kaua'i representing the King Kamehameha Celebration Floral Parade since 2013.

King Kamehameha V declared a national holiday to honor his grandfather. It has been a national holiday since 1872. The holiday continued through the Republic of Hawai'i, the Territory of Hawai'i and today, the happy responsibility lies with the State of Hawai'i.

Support of SB2580

In 1939, the Territorial Legislature of Hawai'i created the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission to formally develop and execute events focused around celebrating the great statesman of Hawai'i. With the creation of this commission, two positions were created as well. The primary position today is the Arts Program Specialist. We are seeking to change the APS position to an Executive Director title to better attract more qualified applicants to manage Commission business and events.

This position is vital in running the daily operations and aiding the volunteer commission in the planning and executing of celebration events and festivities statewide. In the late 90s, the funding for celebration activities was eliminated. Wages were meant to have been cut as well, but weren't actually cut until 2009, when I became Chair. The celebration of our state's unifier and symbol of collective pride should not have been viewed as a mere line item. I am asking this committee to reinstate general funds to the staff salary.

The commission is in place to celebrate the life and legacy of Kamehameha I, centralized around a *state holiday*. We are asking the state to continue this kuleana into perpetuity.

Mahalo for your time.

Aloha,

Melissia Mae Sugai , Kaua'i
King Kamehameha Celebration Commission

Ph: (808) 635-7205

E: melissia_sugai@hotmail.com

Testimony from: Manuel Aila
Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs/Judiciary
February 8, 2018 – 1:30 p.m.

SB2580: Relating to the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission

Appropriates funds to the department of accounting and general services to establish one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) position for the executive director of the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission. Appropriates funds to fund the costs incurred by the annual King Kamehameha day celebration events.

Aloha Chairs Shimabukuro and Taniguchi and distinguished members of the Hawaiian Affairs and Judiciary Committees,

Aloha, I am submitting testimony in *strong support* of Senate Bills 2580 and 2581, relating to the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission. I am the Chair of the Commission, representing the Royal Order of Kamehameha I, Honolulu's King Kamehameha Celebration Floral Parade Chairman since 2011 and former Arts Program Specialist (April – June 2011).

King Kamehameha V declared a national holiday to honor his grandfather. It has been a national holiday since 1872. The holiday continued through the Republic of Hawai'i, the Territory of Hawai'i and today, the happy responsibility lies with the State of Hawai'i.

Support of SB2580

In 1939, the Territorial Legislature of Hawai'i created the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission to formally develop and execute events focused around celebrating the great statesman of Hawai'i. With the creation of this commission, two positions were created as well. The primary position today is the Arts Program Specialist. We are seeking to change the APS position to an Executive Director title to better attract more qualified applicants to manage Commission business and events.

This position is vital in running the daily operations and aiding the volunteer commission in the planning and executing of celebration events and festivities statewide. In the late 90s, the funding for celebration activities was eliminated. Wages were meant to have been cut as well, but weren't actually cut until 2009, when I became Chair. The celebration of our state's unifier and symbol of collective pride should not have been viewed as a mere line item. I am asking this committee to reinstate general funds to the staff salary.

The commission is in place to celebrate the life and legacy of Kamehameha I, centralized around a *state holiday*. We are asking the state to continue this kuleana into perpetuity.

Mahalo for your time.

Aloha,

Manuel Aila

Ph: 808-479-9150

February 6, 2018

To: Chair Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
Chair Brian T. Taniguchi, Committee on Judiciary

Subject: Testimony in Support of SB2581 and HB2516
(Relating to the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission)

Aloha mai kākou,

It is my distinct pleasure to submit testimony in support of SB2580 and SB2581 which will increase the number of members on the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission from 13 to 15 and will establish an executive director to be appointed by the commission.

I am proud to be a member of the Daughters of Hawai'i which was Hawai'i's first organization to recognize we need to active measures for historical and for cultural preservation. As this historian for our organization, I know that we have members actively involved in celebrating King Kamehameha Day not only on Honolulu, but also in Kailua-Kona and Kohala on Hawai'i Island.

Please support the Daughters and recognize our tremendous efforts in historical and cultural preservation by reestablishing our seat on the commission. Please also support creating an Executive Director for this commission as it is of historical significance to both the kama`āina and malihini alike.

I will also be present for testimony on behalf of the Daughters of Hawai'i on Thursday, February 8, at 1:30pm in Conference Room 16. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at (808) 782-3410.

Me ke aloha pumehana,



Makalea Young Shibata

Testimony from: Mr. Daryl Fujiwara
Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs/Judiciary
February 8, 2018 – 1:30 p.m.

SB2580: Relating to the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission

Appropriates funds to the department of accounting and general services to establish one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) position for the executive director of the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission. Appropriates funds to fund the costs incurred by the annual King Kamehameha day celebration events.

Aloha Chairs Shimabukuro and Taniguchi and distinguished members of the Hawaiian Affairs and Judiciary Committees,

My name is Daryl Fujiwara and I am submitting testimony in *strong support* of Senate Bills 2580 and 2581, relating to the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission. I hold the Maui seat on the Commission.

King Kamehameha V declared a national holiday to honor his grandfather. It has been a national holiday since 1872. The holiday continued through the Republic of Hawai'i, the Territory of Hawai'i and today, the happy responsibility lies with the State of Hawai'i.

Support of SB2580

Planning today isn't as simple as it was in the past. Chasing permits, funding, and of course promotion is all year round and around the globe – planning is long range. In order to have a truly amazing festival, this initiative is imperative.

This position is vital in running the daily operations and aiding the volunteer commission in the planning and executing of celebration events and festivities statewide. In the late 90s, the funding for celebration activities was eliminated. Wages were meant to have been cut as well, but weren't actually cut until 2009. The celebration of our state's unifier and symbol of collective pride should not have been a viewed as a mere line item. I am urging this committee to reinstate general funds to the staff salary.

The *state* commissions kuleana is to guide the celebration honoring Kamehameha I, centralized around a *state holiday*. We are asking the state help to continue this kuleana in perpetuity.

Mahalo for your time.

Aloha,

Daryl Fujiwara, Maui Commissioner
King Kamehameha Celebration Commission
Ph: (808) 2648779

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SB-2580

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 3:16:14 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/8/2018 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.	Hawaiian Civic Club of Honolulu	Support	Yes

Comments:

The Hawaiian Civic Club is in strong support of this legislation.

SB-2580

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 4:49:01 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/8/2018 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rachel L. Kailianu	Ho`omana Pono, LLC	Support	Yes

Comments:

From: meleelena@hawaii.rr.com
To: [HWNTestimony](#)
Subject: Sb2580/sb2581
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 9:28:45 AM

Aloha chairs Shimabukuro, Taniguchi and members of the Hawaiian affairs and judiciary committee.
My name is Mele-Elena C. Cordeiro and I am submitting testimony in strong support of Senate Bill SB2580 and SB2581, relating to the king kamehameha celebration committee. I am a member in high standing with Hale o na alii o Hawaii ahahui poo since 1991, also a proud member of king kamehameha celebration committee .
Thank you for your time. Mahalo nui loa Mele-Elena Cordeiro.
Sent from my LG G Pad 7.0 LTE, an AT&T 4G LTE tablet

Testimony from: Mahiki Lankford

Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs/Judiciary

February 8, 2018 – 1:30 p.m.

SB2580: Relating to the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission

Appropriates funds to the department of accounting and general services to establish one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) position for the executive director of the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission. Appropriates funds to fund the costs incurred by the annual King Kamehameha day celebration events.

Aloha Chairs Shimabukuro and Taniguchi and distinguished members of the Hawaiian Affairs and Judiciary Committees,

Aloha, I am submitting testimony in *strong support* of Senate Bills 2580 and 2581, relating to the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission. I am the Chair of the Commission, representing the Royal Order of Kamehameha I, Honolulu's King Kamehameha Celebration Floral Parade Chairman since 2011 and former Arts Program Specialist (April – June 2011).

King Kamehameha V declared a national holiday to honor his grandfather. It has been a national holiday since 1872. The holiday continued through the Republic of Hawai'i, the Territory of Hawai'i and today, the happy responsibility lies with the State of Hawai'i.

Support of SB2580

In 1939, the Territorial Legislature of Hawai'i created the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission to formally develop and execute events focused around celebrating the great statesman of Hawai'i. With the creation of this commission, two positions were created as well. The primary position today is the Arts Program Specialist. We are seeking to change the APS position to an Executive Director title to better attract more qualified applicants to manage Commission business and events.

This position is vital in running the daily operations and aiding the volunteer commission in the planning and executing of celebration events and festivities statewide. In the late 90s, the funding for celebration activities was eliminated. Wages were meant to have been cut as well, but weren't actually cut until 2009, when I became Chair. The celebration of our state's unifier and symbol of collective pride should not have been viewed as a mere line item. I am asking this committee to reinstate general funds to the staff salary.

The commission is in place to celebrate the life and legacy of Kamehameha I, centralized around a *state holiday*. We are asking the state to continue this kuleana into perpetuity.

Mahalo for your time.

Aloha,

Mahiki Lankford

SB-2580

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 5:14:51 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/8/2018 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Hinaleimoana Wong-Kalu		Support	No

Comments:

Please support the appropriation of funds for a full time position. This event needs not only our grassroots support but also the support of our current lawmakers. It is but a mere remnant of cultural ambassadorship that is accessible to so many in the public. Without your support is to further ensure that our existing limited few resources that bring a Hawaii and Hawaiian face to our islands will surely fade away and die.

Mahalo for your support and consideration. Aloha, KUMU HINA

SB-2580

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 7:30:54 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/8/2018 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Blaine Fergerstrom		Support	No

Comments:

Aloha my honorable friends at the Legislature,

I am Ali'i Blaine Fergerstrom, the KÅ«'auhau, or Secretary, for the Royal Order of Kamehameha I, Hawai'i Chapter 1. I am a resident of Foster Village, 96818. I am also a member of the Hawaiian Affairs Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i.

I write today in strong support for SB2589 and SB2581, relating to the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission.

King Kamehameha V, Lot KapuÄ• iwa, established Kamehameha Day as a national holiday in 1872 in honor of his grandfather, Kamehameha the Great. The holiday has been observed since by the Kingdom of Hawai'i, the Republic of Hawai'i, the Territory of Hawai'i, and the State of Hawai'i, since.

In 1939, the Territorial Legislature created the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission to formally develop and execute events surrounding this most noble holiday honoring the ultimate founder of our unified Kingdom and ultimately, State.

On creation of the commission, two positions were created to staff the organization. Today, there is one position, the Arts Program Specialist. We seek to change the Arts Program Specialist position to an Executive Director position to attract more qualified applicants to manage commission business and events.

The Executive Director position is crucial in running the daily operations of the all-volunteer commission and coordinating all the King Kamehameha Celebration activities, statewide.

In the late 1990s funding for celebration activities was eliminated.

The celebration of our state's ultimate founder and a symbol of our collective pride should not have been viewed as a mere local parade. It is a celebration of the first King of Hawai'i who unified the separate island kingdoms into the one Kingdom of Hawai'i, precursor to today's State of Hawai'i.

We are asking the Legislature to restore general funds and support for the salaried staff position.

The commission was created to celebrate the life and legacy of Kamehameha the Great, the ultimate founder of our state! We are asking the Legislature to continue this legacy and kuleana into perpetuity.

Mahalo for your kind time.

With great aloha,

Blaine Fergerstrom
KĀ«'auhau
Royal Order of Kamehameha I, Hawai'i Chapter 1
kuauhau@kamehameha.org
(808) 497-9463

SB-2580

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 1:06:51 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/8/2018 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	OCC Legislative Priorities	Support	No

Comments:

HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS CAUCUS
Democratic Party of Hawaii
e-mail: leimomikhan@gmail.com

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Kenekoia/Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Luna Ho'omaluku/Chair
Kenekoia/Senator Brickwood Galuteria, Hope Luna Ho'omaluku/Vice Chair

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Kanekoia/Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Luna Ho'omaluku/Chair
Kanekoia/Senator Karl Rhoads, Hope Luna Ho'omaluku/Vice Chair

Pepeluai 8, 2018/Thursday, February 8, 2018

IN SUPPORT OF

SB2580, Relating to the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission
SB 2581, Relating to the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission

Aloha mai kākou

The Hawaiian Affairs Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urges your committee to pass SB2580, Relating to the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission that would appropriate funds to the department of accounting and general services to establish one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) position for the executive director of the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission and funds to fund the costs incurred by the annual King Kamehameha day celebration events; and SB2581, Relating to the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission, that would increase the number of members on the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission from thirteen to fifteen and establish an executive director to be appointed by the commission.

The increase in membership and the qualifications described in SB2581 will bring the much needed expertise to the Commission. Commissioners recognize that to have a vibrant celebration we need more members with a business sense. The Commission also needs funding for an Executive Director as described in SB2580 who would be responsible for all fiscal and administrative matters, including securing public contributions and private foundation grants and donations.

The King Kamehameha Celebration holds promise to be a premier cultural event given the right resources. Please pass SB2580 and SB2581.

Me kealoha pumehana

LEIMOMI KHAN, Chair

Hearing: Thursday February 8, 2018
State Capitol Conference Room 016

**IN SUPPORT OF
SB 2580 & SB2581 RELATING TO
THE KING KAMEHAMEHA CELEBRATION COMMISSION (KKCC)**

COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Kenekoa/Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Luna Ho'omaluku/Chair
Kenekoa/Senator Brickwood Galuteria, Hope Luna Ho'omaluku/Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Kanekoa/Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Luna Ho'omaluku/Chair
Kanekoa/Senator Karl Rhoads, Hope Luna Ho'omaluku/Vice Chair

Members of the Committee on International Affairs and the Arts

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senator J. Kalani English, Vice Chair

Aloha mai kākou

This is in support of authorizing the Commission to make an appropriation to establish one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) position for an executive director of the KKCC for funding costs arising for the annual King Kamehameha day and its celebrations; to increase the number of our members on the KKCC from 13 to 15 allowing KKCC to commemorate the past, the present and its future in honor of our beloved Alii throughout every island, not county, as it should be held accountable to the overall la hui.

Commissioners recognize that to have a vibrant celebration we need members with business sense. There is no doubt that as a Hawaiian, together we are strong on Native Hawaiian culture and protocol, that is critical to the celebration, but, the Commission needs staff and commissioners strong on business, marketing, philanthropy and public relations.

Therefore, please grant the KKCC the ability to persevere the future of our Kanaka Maoli to stand strong and represent our cherished King Kamehameha Ekahi.

Respectfully submitted as an individual,

Linda Chock CTA/CTC
lindamuchock@gmail.com
(808) 393-6639

Contextual as it relates to KKCC:

King Kamehameha Celebration Commission 2nd Term Commissioner

*Commissioner, representing Ahahui Kaahumanu

*Sacred Lei Draping Chair, KKCC July 2012 to present

*Hope Pelekikena, (Vice President) Ahahui Kaahumanu

Testimony from: Desiree Moana Cruz
Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs/Judiciary
February 8, 2018 – 1:30 p.m.

SB2580: Relating to the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission

Appropriates funds to the department of accounting and general services to establish one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) position for the executive director of the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission. Appropriates funds to fund the costs incurred by the annual King Kamehameha day celebration events.

Aloha Chairs Shimabukuro and Taniguchi and distinguished members of the Hawaiian Affairs and Judiciary Committees,

My name is Desiree Moana Cruz and I am submitting testimony in *strong support* of Senate Bills 2580 and 2581, relating to the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission. In 2017, after being a long-time supporter and volunteer, I was appointed by Governor Ige to serve as Hawai'i Island commissioner.

King Kamehameha V declared a national holiday to honor his grandfather. It has been a national holiday since 1872. The holiday continued through the Republic of Hawai'i, the Territory of Hawai'i and today, the happy responsibility lies with the State of Hawai'i.

Support of SB2580

In 1939, the Territorial Legislature of Hawai'i created the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission to formally develop and execute events focused around celebrating the great statesman of Hawai'i. With the creation of this commission, two positions were created as well. The primary position today is the Arts Program Specialist. We are seeking to change the APS position to an Executive Director title to better attract more qualified applicants to manage Commission business and events.

This position is vital in running the daily operations and aiding the volunteer commission in the planning and executing of celebration events and festivities statewide. In the late 90s, the funding for celebration activities was eliminated. Wages were meant to have been cut as well, but weren't actually cut until 2009. The celebration of our state's unifier and symbol of collective pride should not have been viewed as a mere line item. On behalf of the people of Hawai'i Island, I am humbly asking this committee to reinstate general funds to the staff salary.

The commission is in place to celebrate the life and legacy of Kamehameha I, centralized around a *state holiday*. We are asking the state to continue this important kuleana into perpetuity.

Mahalo for your time.

Aloha,

Desiree Moana Cruz, Hawai'i
King Kamehameha Celebration Commission
Ph: (808) 987-7288
E: desireemoanacruz@gmail.com

SB-2580

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 10:35:47 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/8/2018 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Billie Jean Allen	State Council on Hawaiian Heritage	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am submitting testimony in opposition to SB2580.

I am the former Arts Program Specialist for the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission employed from 2003 to 2008 as well as being the former Clerk Typist from 2002 to 2003.

Prior to becoming a paid employee, I volunteered since 1980 until being hired in 2002. Working after school, during school breaks and often times on the weekends, I saw how demanding and detail oriented one must be. I learned every level of the job from the first Arts Program Specialist, Keahi Allen, who also happens to be my Mother, who served from 1971 until her retirement in 2002.

Volunteering during summer and other school breaks since 1980, I learned how the office ran, the responsibilities of both positions and how important it was to have both positions, one full time and one half time. There are layers upon layers of information administratively to learn, know and follow to maintain operations. It is extremely difficult to manage for one person, especially if they are not familiar with the state system.

Section 2: The term "day" was eliminated from the title of the commission via legislation in 1974. It is known as the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission. The celebration is not always held on the actual holiday day.

This bill is also requesting funding to cover costs arising out of the celebration events. It does not specify for which islands, four major islands hold celebrations. How will funding for each celebration be determined?

How does an annual celebration expect to draw participants and be a major world wide attraction honoring the life and times of our first ali'i when funding are not consistent?

I humbly ask you to reconsider the establishment of an executive director but rather establish and fund one full time and one part time position. From my experience

volunteering and being a paid employee is it paramount to have some form of consistency to maintain direction for such a significant event.

Should you have any questions or require further information, I would be more than happy to provide that for you.

Mahalo piha for your consideration.

Billie Jean Homelani Nameleinoauahakuia Allen (BJ)

Executive Director

State Council on Hawaiian Heritage

Former Clerk Typist-King Kamehameha Celebration Commission

Former Arts Program Specialist-King Kamehameha Celebration Commission