



**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
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Friday, February 9, 2018
9:45 am
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

in consideration of
SB 2896
**RELATING TO THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST ARRIVAL OF JAPANESE
EMIGRANTS TO HAWAII.**

Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Rhoads, and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary.

The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) **strongly supports** SB 2896 relating to the 150th Anniversary of the first arrival of Japanese emigrants to Hawaii and appropriates funds as a grant to the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii.

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.

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 8, 2018

2017-2018

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To: Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

Senator Karl Rhodes, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

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

Committee Date: Friday, February 9, 2018
9:45 a.m.
Room 016

Subject: Support for SB2896, Related to the 150th Anniversary of the First Arrival of Japanese Emigrants to Hawai'i

I am writing to express support for SB2896, Related to the 150th Anniversary of the First Arrival of Japanese Emigrants 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 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 SB2896, Related to the 150th Anniversary of the First Arrival of Japanese Emigrants to Hawai‘i.

Thank you.

HISTORIC HAWAII FOUNDATION

TO: Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair
Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Kiersten Faulkner, Executive Director
Historic Hawai'i Foundation

Committee: Friday, February 9, 2018
9:45 a.m.
Conference Room 016

RE: **SB 2896, Relating to the 150th Anniversary of the Arrival of Japanese Emigrants to Hawai'i**

On behalf of Historic Hawai'i Foundation, I am writing in **support for SB 2896** relating to the 150th anniversary of the arrival of Japanese immigrants to Hawai'i.

The bill would appropriate funds to support the presentation and coordination of events and programs to celebrate and commemorate the 150th anniversary of the first arrival of Japanese emigrants to Hawai'i by providing a grant to the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i.

The heritage of Hawai'i is reflected in both the distinct and intertwined histories of the peoples and cultures who have come to the Islands and made their homes here. The anniversary commemorations for milestones that mark significant dates related to historic events provide opportunities for the residents and visitors of Hawai'i to learn about how history unfolded, the people who contributed to the stories of the Islands, and the importance for contemporary and future generations. The 150th anniversary of the arrival of Japanese emigrants to Hawai'i is one such occasion and should be marked with public educational and commemorative activities.

Since 1974, Historic Hawai'i Foundation (HHF) has been a statewide leader for historic preservation. HHF works to preserve Hawai'i's unique architectural and cultural heritage and believes that historic preservation is an important element in the present and future quality of life, economic viability and environmental sustainability of the state.

HHF supports this bill to provide funding support for the planning and implementation of the anniversary recognition. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.



February 8, 2018

To: Senator Brian Taniguchi
Senate Committee on the Judiciary

Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on the Judiciary

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: **SB2896, Related to the 150th Anniversary of the First Arrival of Japanese Emigrants to Hawai'i**

On behalf of *Kizuna Hawai'i* and the Gannenmono Celebration Committee, we are writing in support of **SB2896, Related to the 150th Anniversary of the First Arrival of Japanese Emigrants to Hawai'i**.

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 kicked off the Gannenmono 150th 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 150th 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 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.

In preparation for the international celebration and symposium, fundraising efforts were launched in 2017 beginning with *Kizuna Hawai'i* organizational members contributing towards

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the Gannenmono Celebration. Support from the State of Hawai‘i will be leverage to raise additional private contributions from local corporations and businesses to support the 150th Anniversary Celebration and production of an English/Japanese bilingual 150th anniversary video.

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 SB2896, Related to the 150th Anniversary of the First Arrival of Japanese Emigrants to Hawai‘i**

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.

SB-2896

Submitted on: 2/8/2018 9:35:54 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/9/2018 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments: