

From: [linda chock](#)
To: [HWNTestimony](#)
Subject: Testimony Senate Bill 601 King Kamehameha Celebration Commission
Date: Wednesday, February 8, 2017 12:23:57 PM
Attachments: [Testimonial 2017 SB601 KKCC.docx](#)

Aloha,

Unable to submit Testimony via on-line web site therefore I am submitting directly to the web-site address.

Please let me know if this reaches the proper parties to whom it is addressed.

Always with aloha...Mahalo, Linda

Linda Chock, CTA/CTC
Commissioner, King Kamehameha Celebration Commission
Lei Draping Chair, KKCC
Hope Pelekikena, Ahahui Kaahumanu
Media Spokesperson, Queen Emma Summer Palace & Hulihee Palace
lindamuchock@gmail.com
(808) 393-6639

Written Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs and
International Affairs and the Arts
Thursday, February 9, 2017 at 3:15pm

SB 601 – Relating to the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission

Aloha Chairs Shimabukuro and Taniguchi, Vice Chairs Galuteria and English and members of the committee!

My name is Elmer Ka'ai and I want to thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 601. I would like to provide additional comments sections 1, 3 and 4, relating to on the creation of the King Kamehameha Celebration Special Funds (special fund) and the FY 2017-2018 appropriations.

Section 1 - King Kamehameha Celebration Commission Special Fund.

Being a former member and chair of the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission (commission), I truly understand the necessity for a funding mechanism. My concern is whether the special fund is a priority. The special fund will be a critical funding mechanism if general appropriation are provided. However, I am curious to know if the commission had any discussion on this matter. Why the special fund is being created? What is this special fund for? Who will be impacted by this special fund? How will this special fund work? What will happen to the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission Trust Fund (trust fund)? What are the difference between the special fund and trust fund? The commission's responses to these questions would probably make me feel comfortable in supporting the special fund.

Section 3 & 4 - FY 2017-2018 Appropriations

In section 3 of the measure, appropriation from the general fund would be deposited into the special fund. I'm assuming that these moneys will be for the operation and administrative support, including staffing for the commission. Unfortunately it is hard to determine from the measure if that is true.

In section 4 of the measure, moneys would be appropriate out of the special fund to pay of expenses arising out of the annual King Kamehameha day celebration events. With the understanding that these money are general fund appropriations, I believe that the moneys should be distributed equally to each island. Any changes to the equal distribution, I hope that the commission has adopted a distribution formula that is fair and equitable.

Potential Option

One of the commission's urgent needs is the operation and administrative support for the commission and its office. Under the current structure, the commission's has the ability to hire a fulltime position and part-time clerk position to be paid out of moneys in the trust fund. Unfortunately, over the years the moneys in trust fund slowly depleted. In 2016, the commission's fulltime staff was not renewed due to lack of funds. As such, I believe that commission hasn't been able to formally convene an official meeting since my departure from the commission.

As an option that this committee might consideration to address the operation and administrative support is to increase State Department of Account and General Services (DAGS) based-operating budget, and convert the fulltime position from the trust fund to general fund under DAGS. I believe the estimated cost (salary) for the fulltime position would range between \$50,000 to \$65,000.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to share my mana'o on this measure.