



Legislative Testimony

**SB1451**  
**RELATING TO STATE HOLIDAYS**  
Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

February 5, 2019

1:15 p.m.

Room 016

The Administration of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) will recommend that the OHA Board of Trustees **SUPPORT** SB1451, which aspires to establish Lā Kū'oko'a, November 28, as a state holiday in lieu of President's Day, the third Monday in February.

Reestablishing Lā Kū'oko'a as an official holiday restores important connections to Hawai'i's rich cultural and political history, a history that is largely ignored and largely left out of public school curricula and public discourse. As a result, Lā Kū'oko'a passes by each year without formal recognition by the state. Lā Kū'oko'a commemorates the day Great Britain and France, through joint proclamation, formally recognized the Kingdom of Hawai'i as an independent nation. With this recognition, the Hawaiian Kingdom entered treaties and engaged in foreign diplomacy with the major nations of the world. Lā Kū'oko'a was celebrated as a national public holiday under the Kingdom of Hawai'i, the Provisional Government, the Republic of Hawai'i, and the Territory of Hawai'i.

The State of Hawai'i should restore the celebration of Lā Kū'oko'a as a means to accurately remember and honor our collective history. Lā Kū'oko'a is a source of pride for many Native Hawaiians as it demonstrates the political acumen of our kūpuna and the status of the Hawaiian Kingdom as an active and respected member of the international community. Over the years, community celebrations and recognition of Lā Kū'oko'a have grown substantially. As Lā Kū'oko'a has begun to re-gain its prestige, with organizations holding celebrations on November 28 across the islands, it is appropriate and timely for the state itself to formally recognize the unique historic and political significance of this day to all who call Hawai'i home.

Hawai'i's special heritage and the various holidays we currently celebrate distinguish us from other states. Previously, Hawai'i lawmakers adopted official holidays that reflect this distinct past, including Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalaniana'ole Day and King Kamehameha I Day. Lā Kū'oko'a merits joining these unique Hawaiian holidays.

Accordingly, we respectfully urge your Committee to **PASS** this measure. Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII  
Hawaiian Affairs Caucus

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF  
SB1451, Reestablishes La Ku'oko'a, Hawaiian Recognition Day,  
as an official state holiday.

Hearing: Tuesday, Feb 5, 2019, 1:15 p.m., Room 016

COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Kenekoa/Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Luna Ho'omaluku/Chair  
Kenekoa/Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Hope Luna Ho'omaluku/Vice Chair

Aloha, Kenekoa Shimabukuro a me Kenekoa Kahele

The Democratic Party of Hawaii, Hawaiian Affairs Caucus, submits testimony in strong support of SB1451 that would reestablish La Ku'oko'a, Hawaiian Recognition Day as an official state holiday.

During the Hawaiian monarchy, La Ku'oko'a was a public holiday celebrated on November 28. SB1451 traces the history of La Ku'oko'a well, and for all of the reasons stated in the bill, we believe that it is just that La Ku'oko'a be reestablished as a state holiday. It should never have lost its recognition as a national holiday for the state of Hawai'i. Doing so may have been an effort to bury the fact that Hawai'i was once an independent nation; or perhaps, it was simply because President Lincoln declared Nov 28 as a national day of "Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens."

Whatever the reason, Native Hawaiians and all who have supported Native Hawaiians, have remained resilient in celebrating this day through the years, and most recently it has taken on new meaning and energy in its celebration. Recognizing La Ku'oko'a is to acknowledge Hawaii's history as a Hawaiian Nation and to elevate the education of all of Hawaii's citizens on Hawaii's rich past.

Strongly urge the passage of SB1451.

Respectfully,

LEIMOMI KHAN, Chair

**SB-1451**

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 2:28:34 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/5/2019 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Raytan K. Vares	Testifying for Democratic Party of Hawaii-Hawaiian Affairs Caucus Executive Committee	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Kahele, and members of the Hawaiian Affairs Committee:

The Hawaiian Affairs Caucus Executive Committee submits this testimony in support of this measure. In the spirit of continued reconciliation between the State of Hawai'i and the Native Hawaiian community, this measure seeks to establish a state holiday recognizing the independence of the former Kingdom of Hawai'i, LĀ• KĀ«'oko'a. It was once a national holiday for the Kingdom of Hawai'i, initially declared in 1843, and later reaffirmed by the Republic of Hawaii in 1896.

LĀ• KĀ«'oko'a represents a significant period in Hawaii's history by celebrating the recognition of the Kingdom's independence from the world's political and economic super powers of the time, Great Britain, France, and the United States. As it inspired and lended to a greater sense of pride for Kingdom subjects, Hawaiian independence day has done the same for Native Hawaiians and the like today. Efforts to educate the greater community about this significant part of history are ongoing. An annual celebration is held in the month of November at Thomas Square Park with educational panels, speeches, food and music, as well as the City and County of Honolulu's recent dedication of the Kamehameha III statue, Hawaiian flag and pole, and state motto memorials, all at the Thomas Square Park. This legislation builds on that momentum with the restoration of this important holiday.

Mahalo for your consideration.

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Unity, Equality, Aloha for all



To: SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS  
For hearing Tuesday, February 5, 2019

Re: SB 1451 RELATING TO STATE HOLIDAYS.  
Reestablishes La Ku'oko'a, Hawaiian Recognition Day, as an official  
state holiday.

#### TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION

It is both funny and sad to see that so many legislators have signed their names in support of this bill, which is deceptively named and would be bad policy. Pandering to anti-American secessionists is a very bad idea. This bill is not about memorializing a success of diplomacy from 1843, it's about supporting a highly divisive cult of activists who want to enlist you as a partisan in an ideological civil war which threatens to rip the 50th star off our flag.

Maybe you'll step away from this bill when you see how your predecessors in the 2007 legislature were lied to and fooled by the same gang now pushing this bill, and then those legislators were justly ridiculed for their pandering.

The following points are proved in detail later in this testimony. Please take the time to read the details.

1. The word "ku'oko'a" does NOT mean "recognition" -- it means "independence". Look it up in the dictionary. Also apply, to two other bills, this lesson on how easy it is to fool you legislators about the meaning of Hawaiian words -- I refer to SB195 and SB642, which would make it law that if a bill "was originally drafted in Hawaiian and the English version was translated based on the Hawaiian version, the Hawaiian version shall be held binding."

2. Look at the reasons openly stated for why Hawaiian independence activists have pushed to revive this holiday. They want the "fake-state" legislature to go on record that Hawaii has always been AND REMAINS an independent nation, or should be re-established as such. If you agree with that agenda then you should resign from the legislature of the STATE of Hawaii, which you have sworn an oath to support and defend.

3. The legislature was badly burned in 2007 when every Democrat voted in favor of officially creating a new permanent holiday every April 30, to be called "Hawaiian Restoration Day." Please note that the perennial April 30 holiday solemnly enacted by the 2007 legislature is not included in the list of holidays in Section 2 of today's bill. Why not? When you read item #4, you'll discover that what you should do is to add the now-official holiday of April 30 to the list in Section 2 WITH A LINE THROUGH THE NAME AND DATE TO INDICATE THAT THIS BILL IS REPEALING IT just as this bill proposes to do with Presidents' Day.

4. Some of the same people who push today's bill were also pushers of the 2007 bill, knowingly telling falsehoods that President Grover Cleveland had proclaimed April 30 to be a U.S. holiday of fasting and repentance for the overthrow of the Hawaiian monarchy. You can see for yourselves a 4-page flyer that makes a laughing stock of the legislature for falling for that absurdity, especially after being presented with proof that President Cleveland's alleged proclamation was actually an April Fools [not April 30] satire against Cleveland published as an editorial in an anti-Cleveland newspaper and that the resolution's authors were aware of that fact. Maybe they couldn't imagine that a "reverend" would knowingly and cunningly tell a lie for a political purpose. A webpage provides further details about the actual newspaper editorial, and about the fact that the pushers of the resolution knew their testimony was false.

-----DETAILS PROVING THOSE POINTS-----

1. The meaning of "Ku'oko'a" or "La Ku'oko'a"

I rely upon the large Pukui/Elbert Hawaiian dictionary, (c)1986 version. The entire entry at the top of page 184 says:

"Ku'oko'a. nvs. Independence, liberty, freedom; independent, free. La Ku'oko'a. Independence Day. Ho'ike no ke Ku'oko'a. Declaration of Independence. Ka Nupepa Ku'oko'a. The Independent Newspaper [name of a Hawaiian-language newspaper published in Honolulu 1861-1927]. ho'oku'oko'a. To establish independence. Make independent."

As you can easily see, the word "Recognition" is never mentioned anywhere in the definition of "ku'oko'a." This bill is extremely deceptive when it says (page 1, lines 9-10) La Ku'oko'a was known as Hawaiian Recognition Day, and when the description of the bill in the hearing notice says the bill "Reestablishes La Ku'oko'a, Hawaiian Recognition Day, as an official state holiday."

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2. Hawaiian independence activists seek to revive "La Ku'oko'a" as an assertion that Hawaii is now, or should be, a sovereign independent nation. This bill also falsely states that "La Ku'oko'a" was actively celebrated throughout the Kingdom, Provisional Government, Republic, and several years into the Territorial period.

Leon Siu styles himself as Foreign Minister of "Ke Aupuni o Hawai'i, the Hawaiian Kingdom." For many years he has actively traveled to United Nations meetings in New York and Geneva (Switzerland) asking delegates of other nations to publicly challenge U.S. sovereignty over Hawaii. In 2018 his buddies in the independence "movement" staged a publicity stunt nominating him for the Nobel Peace Prize. On November 20, 2018 he authored another in a series of "Ke Aupuni Update"s in the Free Hawaii blog, entitled "Celebrating La Ku'oko'a - Independence Day". His excellency "Foreign Minister Siu" has never referred to the Kingdom holiday as "Hawaiian Recognition Day."

This bill says "Throughout the 1850s and 1870s, Hawai'i celebrated La Ku'oko'a with lu'au, music, and marches. The celebration grew under the reign of King Kalakaua, with formal proclamations sent by official circular to the foreign diplomatic corps in Hawai'i and the Hawaiian Kingdom consuls abroad, informing them of the holiday. The day remained a national holiday under the Provisional Government of Hawai'i (1893), the Republic of Hawai'i (1894-1898), and the initial years of the Territory of Hawai'i."

But the Free Hawaii blog of November 27, 2018 says "After a failed armed attempt by Hawaiians to retake their Kingdom in 1895, the usurpers announced that Lā Kū'oko'a would no longer be celebrated, and the American holiday Thanksgiving Day would be the official national holiday instead. Removing a holiday like Hawai'i Independence Day was a way to cover up and try to destroy the history and identity of the Hawaiian Kingdom and its people. ... Tomorrow's celebration of Lā Kū'oko'a asserts that Hawai'i is still an independent nation, even under prolonged illegal occupation."

A writer of Hawaiian history describes how a very similar Kingdom holiday of even greater importance was hugely celebrated for a few years but then fell out of public awareness just like Ka La Ku'oko'a. July 31, 1843 was the day when King Kamehameha III uttered his famous statement from the steps of Kawaiaha'o Church: "Ua mau ke ea o ka 'aina i ka pono." (Sovereignty has been preserved because it is righteous). For several years this date was actively celebrated as a national holiday: Ka La Ho'iho'i Ea (Sovereignty Restoration Day). Today's sovereignty activists like to say it was a national holiday for all the remaining years of the Kingdom. However, a book friendly to the activists' general viewpoint says otherwise. Helena G. Allen, "The Betrayal of Liliuokalani" (Glendale CA, Arthur H. Clark Co., 1982), p. 61, says the following: "In the afternoon [July 31, 1843] Kamehameha III went in a solemn procession with his chiefs to Kawaiaha'o Church ...A ten-day celebration of Restoration Day followed, and was annually observed. The last of the Restoration Day celebrations came in 1847. The missionary element in the government were thereafter to declare the celebrations 'too expensive.' ... A thousand special riders, five abreast ... were followed by 2500 regular horsemen ... arrived at the Nuuanu picnic ground in a pouring rain, with spirits undampened. ... It was to be the last of such Hawaiian festivities ..."

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3 and 4: What happened in 2007 when every Democrat in the legislature foolishly voted to establish a permanent holiday on April 30, called "Hawaiian Restoration Day," despite testimony proving that the alleged historical basis for the holiday was completely false and that the pushers of the legislation knew it was false. Are you legislators today so gullible, and are you prepared to be ridiculed like your colleagues were 12 years ago? See the evidence, and the flyer.



Read the full text of House Concurrent Resolution 82 (2007)  
"PROCLAIMING APRIL 30 OF EVERY YEAR AS HAWAIIAN RESTORATION  
DAY." Some highlights are:

"... in a proclamation dated February 25, 1894, President Cleveland declared that "April 30 [of every year] be set aside as a day of solemn fasting, and prayer for the injustice to me [President Grover Cleveland] and my great good sister [Queen Liliuokalani] for her speedy return to the throne" ... the Legislature hereby proclaims April 30 of each year as a special day of remembrance, education, and prayer, for people of all faiths, for Grover Cleveland, a great American who stood for the true values and principles of the United States Constitution, and for "liberty and justice for all"

[https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2007/bills/HCR82\\_.htm](https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2007/bills/HCR82_.htm)

See the status tracking of HCR82 as it got enacted:

<https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2007/status/HCR82.htm>

Webpage title: "Twisting History -- Reverend Kaleo Patterson knowingly used a fake Grover Cleveland proclamation from 1894, cited it as fact, and used it as the basis for a media blitz in 2006 in Hawaii and on the mainland calling for a national day of prayer for restoration of Native Hawaiians and repentance for the overthrow of the monarchy. He repeated his local and mainland propaganda campaign in 2007 and pushed a resolution through the Hawaii legislature citing the joke proclamation as real. In 2008 the Honolulu Star-Bulletin published a story describing the Cleveland proclamation as a fact and refused to publish a correction. In 2010 Patterson made a trip to Caldwell N.J. in furtherance of his hoax, where the town council gave him a check for \$2920 to defray his expenses." [Caldwell N.J. is the birthplace and tomb of President Grover Cleveland]

Read the gory webpage details at

<http://www.angelfire.com/hi5/bigfiles3/fraudpattersononcleveland.html>

The Goebbels Award For Outstanding Use of Media for Propaganda Disguised As Fact was given to the Honolulu Star-Bulletin for its publication of the false historical information and for its refusal to correct the falsehoods despite proof:

<http://bigfiles90.angelfire.com/GoebbelsAwardHonStarBull042308.html>

See the 4-page flyer poking fun at the 2007 legislature for enacting HCR82, and providing photographic proof that the so-called Presidential Proclamation by Grover Cleveland was actually a sarcastic editorial directed against Cleveland by an anti-Cleveland newspaper.

<http://bigfiles90.angelfire.com/AprilFoolsGroverClevelandHawResoFlyer.pdf>

**SB-1451**

Submitted on: 2/1/2019 11:56:21 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/5/2019 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Joseph Kohn MD	Testifying for We Are One, Inc. - www.WeAreOne.cc - WAO	Support	No

Comments:

Respect the culture.

[www.WeAreOne.cc](http://www.WeAreOne.cc)



BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS  
February 5, 2019

Senate Bill 1451  
Relating to State Holidays

Aloha Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Kahele, and Members of the Committee,

Ka Lāhui Hawai'i Political Action Committee (KPAC) submits the following testimony in SUPPORT of Senate Bill 1451 “reestablishing” Lā Kū‘oko‘a, Hawaiian Recognition Day, as a State Holiday.

Ka Lāhui Hawai'i Political Action Committee (KPAC) sees this as a step in the right direction by the State of Hawai'i toward Kanaka Maoli self-determination and sovereignty. The creation of Lā Kū‘oko‘a as a “State Holiday” would help raise awareness in Hawai'i and abroad regarding the true history of Hawai'i. It is a history about a proud and friendly Hawaiian Nation that was wrongfully overthrown, and a history that for many generations have not been taught in Hawai'i schools.

We ask for the following amendment of the bill that Lā Kū‘oko‘a be called “Hawaiian **Independence** Day” instead of Hawaiian Recognition Day in keeping with the true spirit of the original Holiday which was the recognition of the independence of the Hawaiian Kingdom.

Respectfully submitted,

M. Healani Sonoda-Pale  
Chair, KPAC



Luna O Na Papa Alakai

Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

Pelekikena  
A. Makana Paris

February 5, 2019  
Room 016  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

Hope Pekekikena  
Ekahi  
Randi Fernandez

Hope Pelekikena  
Elua  
Matthew Gumapac

Re: SB1451 - RELATING TO STATE HOLIDAYS

Puuku  
Denise Kekuna

*Aloha* Chair Maile Shimabukuro, Vice-Chair Kaiali'i Kahele and members of the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs:

Kakauolelo Hoopaa  
Sai Furukawa

The Prince Kūhiō Hawaiian Civic Club (PKHCC) **SUPPORTS** SB1451. This bill will re-establish Lā Kū'oko'a, Hawaiian Recognition Day, as an official state holiday. At the 57th annual convention of the Association, resolution 2016-36 was passed which calls for the celebration and respectful remembrance of Lā Kū'oko'a on November 28th of each year.

Kakauolelo Hooholo  
Palapala  
Kamuela Werner

Founded in 1964, PKHCC was organized to promote the education and social welfare of people of Hawaiian ancestry and objectives include supporting high ethical standards in business, industry and the professional fields of enterprise.

Pelekikena Hala  
Koke  
Yvonne 'PeeWee'  
Ryan

PKHCC urges the committee to **PASS** SB1451.

Luna Alakai  
Kuni Agard  
Puamana Crabbe  
Kanani Pali  
Marlene Sai  
Jennifer Smythe  
Bruce Wong

*Mailing Address:*  
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96812

*Me ke aloha,*

A. Makana Paris  
Pelekikena  
president@pkhcc.org

www.pkhcc.org

Founded in 1964  
by Liliuokalani  
Kawananakoa Morris



## THE ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS

Committee on Hawaiian Affairs  
*Pō‘alua, Peipeluali 5, 2019*  
*Lumi ‘Aha Kūkā 016*  
*Ke Kapikala Moku ‘āina*  
415 South Beretania Street

Re: SB1451 - RELATING TO STATE HOLIDAYS

*Aloha Luna Ho‘omalua Maile Shimabukuro, Hope Luna Ho‘omalua Kaiali‘i Kahele and members of the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs:*

The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs **SUPPORTS** SB1451. This bill will reestablish Lā Kū‘oko‘a, Hawaiian Recognition Day, as an official holiday. At the 57th annual convention of the Association, resolution 2016-36 was passed which calls for the celebration and respectful remembrance of Lā Kū‘oko‘a on November 28th of each year.

Thus, the Association respectfully urges the Committee to **PASS** SB1451.

The civic club movement was founded in 1918 by Congressional Delegate Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalaniana‘ole with the creation of the Hawaiian Civic Club; the Association was formally organized in 1959 and has grown to a confederation of over sixty (60) Hawaiian Civic Clubs located throughout the State of Hawai‘i and the United States. The Association is the oldest Hawaiian community-based grassroots organization. The Association is governed by a 16-member Board of Directors; advocates for improved welfare of Native Hawaiians in culture, health, economic development, education, social welfare, and nationhood; and perpetuates and preserves language, history, music, dance and other Native Hawaiian cultural traditions. Mahalo for allowing us to share our *mana‘o*.

*Me ka ‘oia‘i‘o,*

Hailama Farden  
*Pelekikena*

# ***ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS***

## ***A RESOLUTION***

16 - 36

### **REMEMBER AND RESPECT LA KUOKOA (HAWAIIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY) AS A HAWAIIAN NATIONAL HOLIDAY TO BE OBSERVED AND CELEBRATED ON NOV. 28 EVERY YEAR**

WHEREAS, La Kuokoa—Hawaii’s Independence Day—was officially celebrated around the same time as Thanksgiving from about 1844 until 1895\*; and

WHEREAS, La Kuokoa is the 28th of November, marking the day in 1843 that the Alii Timoteo Haalilio succeeded in obtaining the signatures of the authorities of Great Britain and France on a treaty recognizing Hawaii as a sovereign and independent nation; and

WHEREAS, Haalilio, with the missionary William Richards along as his secretary, traveled through Mexico on foot and donkey to Washington D.C., where they met President John Tyler; and

WHEREAS, President Tyler agreed to the intent of the proposed treaty; and

WHEREAS, Haalilio and Richards, armed with his agreement, then went on to Europe, to Belgium, Paris, and London, where the treaty was finally signed; and

WHEREAS, they then returned to the United States to cement U.S. agreement; and

WHEREAS, the Treaty of Independence was a substantial achievement under International Law recognized by the Hawaiian Kingdom government through the official celebration of La Kuokoa; and

WHEREAS, after the coup in 1893, the so-called Republic of Hawaii government announced that November 28, 1895—a Thursday—would not be celebrated as La Kuokoa, but would become the American Thanksgiving holiday, instead; and

WHEREAS, the poe aloha aina—the thousands of Hawaiian Kingdom subjects opposed to the illegal government—were incensed; and

WHEREAS, the people ignored the government's orders, and held celebrations of La Kuokoa instead; and

WHEREAS, at those gatherings, the poe aloha aina told the story of Haalilio's journey and significant achievement; and

WHEREAS, James Kaulia of the Hui Aloha Aina stated that the people recalled with gladness the restoration and perpetuation of the independence of Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, the perpetrators of 1895-1896 not only deprived Hawaii of a national holiday, they enacted laws that caused all Hawaiians the loss of our language and the related loss of our own history, a process that caused us to be deprived of even the memory of this Hawaiian national holiday; and

WHEREAS, the council of Hawai'i County recognize La Kuokoa.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs at its 57th annual convention at Las Vegas, Nevada this 19<sup>th</sup> day of November 2016, that it remember and respect La Kuokoa (Hawaiian Independence Day) as a Hawaiian national holiday to be observed and celebrated on Nov. 28 every year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs encourage the State of Hawaii and County governments to consider recognizing La Kuokoa; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs includes, along with its celebration and recognition of American holidays such as July 4th American Independence Day and January 16th Martin Luther King Day, specific remembrance of La Kuokoa as a Hawaiian holiday; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs include La Kuokoa holiday as Hawaiian Independence Day on its calendar of events.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of the State of Hawai'i, President of the State Senate, Speaker of the State House of Representatives, Chair of the State Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs, Chair of the State House Committee on Ocean, Marine Resources, & Hawaiian Affairs, Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and all County Mayors.

Sources:

\*Noenoe Silva, PhD. 1998 <http://www.hawaiiankingdom.info/C1126750129/E501424467/>

\*\_Ke Aloha Aina\_ (Hawaiian language newspaper)

November-December 1895, January 1896.





The undersigned hereby certifies that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of November 2016, at the 57th Annual Convention of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs in Las Vegas, Nevada.

*Annelle C. Amaral*

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Annelle C. Amaral, President



## O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities

### COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Kenekoa/Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Luna Ho`omaluku/Chair  
Kenekoa/Senator Kaiali`i Kahele, Hope Luna Ho`omaluku/Vice Chair

La/DATE: Tuesday, February 5, 2019

Hola/TIME: 1:15 p.m.

Wahi/PLACE: Conference Room 016, State Capitol

RE: SB 1451 Relating to State Holidays

To the Honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair; the Honorable Kaiali`i Kahele, Vice Chair; and Members of the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs:

The O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities (OCCLP) of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i (DPH) hereby submits its testimony in **SUPPORT of SB 1451 relating to State Holidays.**

SB 1451 reestablishes La Ku'oko'a, Hawaiian Recognition Day, as an official state holiday on the 28<sup>th</sup> day in November.

On November 28, 1843, at the Court of London, representatives of the British and French Governments signed an agreement, now call the Anglo-Franco Proclamation, formally recognizing the Kingdom of the Hawaiian Islands as a sovereign independent nation-state.

After the great achievement of gaining formal international recognition, King Kamehameha III, thereafter established November 28<sup>th</sup> as an official national holiday of the Hawaiian Kingdom to be celebrated in perpetuity as La Ku`oko`a, Hawaiian Independence Day.

Native Hawaiians are the indigenous people of Hawai'i and deserve a just relationship with the State and Federal Governments. DPH supports the growth of Native Hawaiian . . . healing practices. It values and wishes to foster the preservation of our host culture. DPH supports the efforts of Native Hawaiians to pursue self-determination. DPH also supports their right to pursue the international rights of Native Hawaiian people.

DPH acknowledges the past injustices and the misguided, harmful Federal and State policies and actions based on outdated and discredited values and beliefs that resulted in the destruction of the Hawaiian Nation's economies, social, and religious systems, the taking of their lands, and the creation of intergenerational trauma that exists to this day. DPH believes that we have a moral and profound duty to honor, respect, and uphold our sacred obligation to the Hawaiian Nation State and the Hawaiian people.

DPH also supports efforts for self-governance and self-determination of Native Hawaiians whose values are the foundation of the Hawaiian Islands. DPH supports proactive actions by the Federal and State governments to enhance Native Hawaiian culture, health, language, and education. We recognize and honor the contributions and sacrifices made in service to our county by Native Hawaiians.

DPH supports the continued engagement and empowerment of the Native Hawaiian community in decisions related to county and state affairs. *Democratic Party of Hawai'i Platform (2018), p. 15, ln. 32-50.*

For the foregoing reasons, i.e. to value and foster the preservation of our host culture and to honor, respect, and uphold our sacred obligation to the Hawaiian Nation State and the Hawaiian people, OCCLP supports SB 1451 and urges its passage out of the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs.

Mahalo nui loa  
Me ka `oia`i`o

/s/ Melodie Aduja

Melodie Aduja

Chair, O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i

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ROTH PUAHALA -KING KAMEHAMEHA HCC  
PELEKIKENA IHO NEI

TERI LOO-KO'OLAUPOKO HCC  
KĀKAU 'ŌLELO

CHRISTINE "CHRISSY" ANJO-PEARL HARBOR HCC  
HOLE KĀKAU 'ŌLELO

'AHAHUI SIWILA HAWAI'I O KAPOLEI  
LANCE HOLDEN

ALI'I PAUAHI HCC  
KEHAULANI LUM

'EWA-PU'ULOLO HCC  
MARLEEN KAU'I SERRAO

HCC OF HONOLULU  
MANU BOYD

KAILUA HCC  
MAPUANA DE SILVA

KALIHĪ-PĀLAMA HCC  
KAIMO MUHLESTEIN

KING KAMEHAMEHA HCC  
LETANI PELTIER

KO'OLAULOLO HCC  
RANĀE "TESSIE" FONOIMOANA

KO'OLAUPOKO HCC  
ALICE P. HEWETT

LUALUALEI HCC  
SHIRLINE HO

MĀKAHA HCC  
LUANN LANKFORD-FABORITO

MĀLAMA MELE O HAWAI'I  
JANET ABRIGO

MAUNALUA HCC  
ROSE KITTY SIMONDS

NA LANI 'EHA HCC  
R. KELANI RAMOS

NĀNĀIKAPONO HCC  
JAYCINE HICKS

PAPAKŌLE'A HCC  
KEALI'I LUM

PEARL HARBOR HCC  
KU'UMEALOHA GOMES

PRINCE KŪHIŌ HCC  
A. MAKANA PARIS

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LEIMANA DAMATE

QUEEN EMMA HCC  
RAWLETTE P. KRAUT

HCC OF WĀHIAWA  
MARIE "MĀLIA" DOO

HCC OF WAIALUA  
MAKALAPUA CASSON-FISHER

WAI'ANĀE HCC  
CYNTHIA ENRIQUEZ

WAIKIKI HCC  
L. PI'IKEA TOMCZYK

HCC OF WAIMĀNALO  
FAITH KA'IAMA

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**SEN. MAILE SHIMABUKURO, SEN. KAIALI'I KAHELE,  
AND THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN  
AFFAIRS**

**SUPPORT FOR SBI 451 – RELATING TO STATE HOLIDAYS**

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Dear OBSen. Maile Shimabukuro, Sen. Kaiali'i Kahele, and the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs,

As President for Ke One O Kākuhihewa, I am writing in SUPPORT of SBI 451. The bill reestablishes Lā Kūoko'a, Hawaiian Recognition Day, as an official state holiday. At the 57th annual convention of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, Resolution 2016-36 was passed which calls for the celebration and respectful remembrance of Lā Kūoko'a on November 28th of each year. Thus, our council and parent organization are in full support of this measure.

Please pass SBI 451.

Ke One O Kākuhihewa is an organization of 25 Hawaiian civic clubs on the island of O'ahu. Noteworthy, is the Hawaiian Civic Club of Honolulu, founded on December 7, 1918, by Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalaniana'ole.

Sincerely,

/S/ Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.



UA MAU KE EA O KA 'ĀINA I KA PONO





Senate Committees on Hawaiian Affairs

Time: 1:15 p.m.

Date: Pepeeuali 5, 2019

Where: Capitol Room 016

TESTIMONY

Submitted by the undersigned organizations

To: Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Kahele, and Members of HWN

RE: **SB 1451, Relating to State Holidays**

E ka Luna Ho‘omalulu Shimabukuro, ka Hope Luna Ho‘omalulu Kahele, a me nā Lālā Kenekoa o kēia Kōmike, aloha! We, the undersigned organizations, submit this joint-testimony in strong **SUPPORT** of SB 1451, which reestablishes Lā Kū‘oko‘a, Hawaiian Recognition Day, as an official State holiday.

The celebration of Lā Kū‘oko‘a will recognize Hawai‘i’s unique history and cultivate Native Hawaiian identity by familiarizing our community with a substantial achievement of our people – the historical recognition of the Kingdom of Hawai‘i as an independent nation from three global powers. This holiday has and continues to be a point of pride in the Native Hawaiian community that will be elevated by its official recognition as a State holiday.

In recent years, Lā Kū‘oko‘a has been celebrated annually with community festivities in a variety of locations, which have included traditional ceremonies, food, music, cultural arts and practices, and education. The reestablishment of Lā Kū‘oko‘a as an official holiday will expand these festivities throughout Hawai‘i, increasing community awareness about Hawai‘i’s history, culture, and ancestral knowledge and providing more opportunities for cultural education for Native Hawaiians and the larger community.

With this testimony, our organizations collectively submit our **SUPPORT** of SB 1451 and ask you to advance this measure. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

INPEACE  
Maile Keliipio-Acoba, Chief Executive Officer

Bishop Museum  
Melanie Ide, Chief Executive Officer

Papa Ola Lōkahi  
Dr. Sheri Ann Daniels, Executive Director

Kamehameha Schools  
Livingston Jack Wong, Chief Executive Officer

**SB-1451**

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 9:03:08 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/5/2019 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ku Kahakalau	Testifying for Ku-A-Kanaka	Support	No

Comments:

Please accept this testimony in strong support of SB 1451 on behalf of KĀ«-A-Kanaka LLC, a Native Hawaiian social enterprise, owned and operated by our 'ohana, the Kahakalau family, which provides quality Hawaiian culture-based products and services to a wide range of customers. Just like it was in the days of our kĀ«puna, LĀ• KĀ«'oko'a (November 28) should continue to be acknowledged as an official holiday, commemorating the recognition of Hawai'i as an independent nation by the world powers in 1843. Our family has personally celebrated this day since the 1980s when there were only a handful of us who understood the political implications of this day. Today, as a result of more and more Native Hawaiians and our supporters understanding the historical events that lead to proclaiming November 28 as a national holiday, LĀ• KĀ«'oko'a celebrations and commemorations are happening on all islands. By making LĀ• KĀ«'oko'a a State holiday we can assure that more children and youth, as well as Hawai'i's multi-ethnic adult population learn about Hawai'i's true history. Mahalo nui for your support of SB 1451.

**LATE**

**SB-1451**

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 9:20:23 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/5/2019 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Noe Noe Wong-Wilson	Testifying for Hawaiian Civic Clu	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha kākou,

Please accept this testimony in support of SB 1451 which recognizes Lā Kū'oko'a as a State holiday. The Hawaiian Civic Club of Hilo is very supportive of this holiday which was celebrated in the Kingdom of Hawai'i. Restoration of this holiday is an important step in helping to heal the historic trauma suffered by Kanaka Maoli since the overthrow of our beloved Queen and monarchy in 1893. It is our hope that similar recognition will be given to other important events including Lā Ho'iho'i Ea and the celebration of Queen Lili'uokalani's birthday.

Me ka 'o'ia 'i'o,

Dr. Noe Noe Wong-Wilson

Pelekikena

Hawaiian Civic Club of Hilo



**SB-1451**

Submitted on: 1/31/2019 5:49:12 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/5/2019 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
cheryl	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

YES! YES! YES! YES! YES!!! Makes so much sense!

**SB-1451**

Submitted on: 1/31/2019 5:59:19 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/5/2019 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Victor K. Ramos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-1451**

Submitted on: 2/1/2019 8:44:27 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/5/2019 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Scott Crawford	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

I think this is a great idea and applaud the Senate for considering it. This holiday represents a very important part of Hawaii's history, and in recent years there has been an increasing recognition of it and celebrations around the islands. To make it an official state holiday would be very educational to the larger population about the importance of this day in Hawaiian history and the events that led to its creation.

**SB-1451**

Submitted on: 2/1/2019 3:39:05 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/5/2019 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Alan Urasaki	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

AMENDMENT: Proposal to remove Good Friday Holiday instead of President's Day. Good Friday is a state holiday which will be replaced by another state holiday. Removing a federal holiday has its issues. Thank you.

**SB-1451**

Submitted on: 2/1/2019 8:59:44 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/5/2019 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Anonymous	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

If this bill were to pass, it be great for the media and OHA to inform everyone of the wonderful news or by some other alternative loud and clear.

**SB-1451**

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 5:27:15 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/5/2019 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Anela Iwane	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

KÄ• ko'o piha au.

**SB-1451**

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 5:41:17 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/5/2019 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Rebecca Soon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-1451**

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 9:58:55 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/5/2019 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
mary drayer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

it is TRULY TIME for the original peoples of this 'aina to be given a voice - i am not Hawaiian - but surely understand the wrongs that have been and are still being done -

and i know for sure that most residents of this place do not even have a clue as to the real history of the indigenous people

so you all now have the opportunity to contribute to educating the uninformed

mahalo piha

mary drayer



**SB-1451**

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 10:03:47 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/5/2019 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
louise drayer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

please please pass this - our world has ignored and suppressed indigeneous people for too long

let's be a leader of recognition and hopefully this is just the beginning of righting some wrongs

**SB-1451**

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 10:37:26 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/5/2019 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hello,

My name is Nanea Lo and I'm a descendant from these islands of Hawai'i and resident of Kaimuki, O'ahu and have lived in Hawai'i all my life. I am also a masters student at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa as well as work at UHM.

I am writing in to state that I **STRONGLY SUPPORT** this bill and believe that this will further enhance the authenticity of Hawai'i. It is important to celebrate holidays that were celebrated from the Hawaiian Kingdom days and holidays that honored my ancestors. This is a great bill that will honor our unique cultural and political history.

I hope you all will support this bill as well. :)

me ke aloha 'aina,

Nanea Lo

**SB-1451**

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 10:59:19 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/5/2019 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Maile Loo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I appreciate the opportunity to share my support of this bill. The history of Hawaii, especially that of the mid-1800s when Hawaii was recognized around the world by countries such as Great Britain, France, and the United States - is something all of us in Hawaii today regardless of ethnic background or place of origin can be proud of. It was an incredible feat!

The biggest obstacle or opposition today probably comes from not knowing this history to even be proud of or celebrate in the first place, and perhaps the perception it may be in "competition" with Thanksgiving, given the time of year. The two are completely separate and can be celebrated as such.

I did not grow up knowing about La Kuokoa in the 1970s & 1980s, and I am Hawaiian and a graduate of the Kamehameha Schools! When I later learned of this major accomplishment and Hawaii's own special holiday that was celebrated by the islands' diverse populations for many many years, it was a turning point in my understanding, insight into, and appreciation of our shared history.

Regardless of background, origin, or length of time here in Hawaii, we who call Hawaii home have a right and obligation to know and share in the storied history of our islands. The introduction of this bill already helps educate us to the illustrious and proud history of Hawaii. Adoption of the holiday would further solidify that knowing. Hawaii is a unique place with its own unique history that is not to be cast-aside, ignored, or forgotten. Mahalo for your time.

**SB-1451**

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 11:02:26 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/5/2019 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ruth Coules	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-1451**

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 11:37:12 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/5/2019 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kamana Seymour	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

E Aloha Mai!

I am writing this in strong support of re-establishing La Ku'oko'a as an official holiday within the jurisdiction of the state of Hawaii. I would like to see this holiday established as its own holiday and not as a replacement for U.S. President's Day (though I am not opposed to the two holiday's being swapped). I seek for La Ku'oko'a to be recognized within its own right and to develop a series of informational programs to note the importance of the day. La Ku'oko'a denotes not only the independence of the Kingdom of Hawaii, but denotes the advent of modern constitutional governance in and over Hawaii. People must understand that the democratic process and constitutional rights were not something that came only with statehood but were in fact in effect in law in the Kingdom from the mid 19th century and are what enabled the rich political history of Hawaii.

La Ku'oko'a is a commitment to acknowledging the intent of the Kingdom of Hawaii to look to the future and seek the best possible methods of governance and in turn today, the premise by which we in Hawaii can seek to enjoy an inclusive and rigorous governmental body.

I urge the committee to adopt La Ku'oko'a as a holiday in any form.

Mahalo.

Kamana Seymour,

Hawaiian and private citizen.

**LATE**

**SB-1451**

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 9:48:36 AM  
Testimony for HWN on 2/5/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kapua Keliikoa-Kamai	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Aloha Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Kahele and Committee Members,

I stand in strong support of SB 1451 RELATING TO STATE HOLIDAYS. Reestablishes LĀ• KĀ«‘oko‘a, Hawaiian Recognition Day, as an official state holiday.

I appreciate the intent and purpose of this bill and suggest a small name change - replace "Recognition" with "Independence" for historical accuracy. Acknowledging the rich history of Hawaii is something that all residents should be aware of, it is part of the fabric that makes Hawaii Hawaii and reflects the fortitude of its people.

Mahalo for this opportunity to SUPPORT SB 1451, please pass this out of your committee.

Me ke aloha,

Kapua Keliikoa-Kamai

Proud Waianae Kanaka