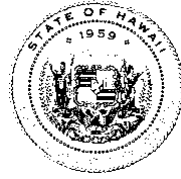


DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR  
STATE OF HAWAII



JOSH GREEN  
LT. GOVERNOR  
STATE OF HAWAII

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS**

P. O. BOX 1879  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96805

**LATE**

TESTIMONY OF WILLIAM J. AILA, JR, CHAIRMAN  
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION  
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
HEARING ON FEBRUARY 28, 2020 AT 11:05AM IN CR 211

**SB 3067, SD1, RELATING TO PRINCE JONAH KUHIO KALANIANAOLE**

February 26, 2020

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

The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) supports this bill requiring certain buildings on Hawaiian home lands to display portraits of Prince Jonah Kuhio Kalanianaole.

Prince Jonah Kuhio Kalanianaole spearheaded the passage of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act. This bill seeks to honor his legacy by requiring his portrait to be displayed in certain buildings.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

Center for Hawaiian Sovereignty Studies  
46-255 Kahuhipa St. Suite 1205  
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Kenneth R. Conklin, Ph.D. Executive Director  
e-mail [Ken\\_Conklin@yahoo.com](mailto:Ken_Conklin@yahoo.com)  
Unity, Equality, Aloha for all



To: SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

For hearing Friday, February 28, 2020

Re: SB 3067, SD1 RELATING TO PRINCE JONAH KUHIO KALANIANAOLE.  
Requires certain public buildings on Hawaiian home lands to display  
portraits of Prince Jonah Kuhio Kalanianaole. (SD1)

#### TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION

Jonah Kuhio Kalaniana'ole is widely regarded as a cultural and political hero among today's ethnic Hawaiians. But there are some important reasons why even Hawaiian sovereignty activists would want to re-evaluate their opinion of him, if they were aware of these facts about his life. Below are details about two of those reasons: (1) He abandoned Hawaii at the time when its independence was being lost to annexation, in order to go to South Africa on an adventure as a soldier fighting for Britain in the Boer War; and (2) he waged a personal attack against ex-queen Lili'uokalani during the last years of her life, trying to have her declared mentally incompetent so he could become conservator of her estate and grab her Waikiki properties for himself.

Before providing some details about those character flaws, let's think about the idea of putting up pictures glorifying Kuhio in public buildings on DHHL lands, even if his character had been beyond reproach.

In dictatorships around the world there are photos of the dictator looming large over public squares and inside government buildings. It's ugly. After a while those pictures arouse resentment and feelings of oppression more than they inspire love or respect. Haven't we all seen news reports from China showing the huge photo of long-dead Chairman Mao looming over Tiananmen Square in Beijing? In the old Soviet Union there was a big photo of Joseph Stalin in every classroom in every school, every office in every government building, and every grocery store. Big brother is watching you!

Some ethnic Hawaiians revere Kuhio as a prince for the same reasons the peasantry in any monarchical nation reveres its royalty -- majesty, mystery, pride in the nobility of a great leader, and hope for handouts to help the poor and downtrodden. Wealthy racial separatist Hawaiian government institutions honor Kuhio as their founding father, the man who bowed low enough to the colonizers to bring home the bacon from their far-away seat of power.

But was Kuhio's personal behavior princely? At least two major events in Kuhio's life after the revolution of 1893 should cause Hawaiian sovereignty activists to question his worthiness as their torch-bearer. On these two occasions Kuhio was grossly unpatriotic to his Hawaiian "nation." The first occasion was when he abandoned his nation at its time of greatest peril in order to pursue personal pleasure and foreign adventure. The second occasion was two decades later when he abused his power and prestige to launch a personal attack against Queen Liliuokalani in order to steal her land, for his personal enrichment, from the children she intended to help. Kuhio's behavior on both occasions should be seen as not merely selfish, but treasonous from the viewpoint of today's sovereignty activists.

In January 1895, at age 23, Kuhio participated in the attempted counterrevolution against the Republic of Hawaii led by Robert Wilcox.

He was sentenced to a year in prison, where his fiancée visited him regularly. After his release they got married and went to Europe. It's understandable that the heir to the throne would feel unhappy about imprisonment and about the loss of his future crown. Certainly nobody would begrudge him the right to get married, and perhaps to travel for a while.

But Kuhio's extended absence is inexcusable in view of the major political events taking place in Hawaii. He played no part in fighting against annexation, even while his fellow "patriots" were making speeches, writing articles in the newspapers, and gathering 21,000 signatures on a petition in 1897 opposing annexation. Today's sovereignty activists excuse his non-participation by claiming he was "in exile." But nobody forced him to leave. Others who had been imprisoned with him stayed in Hawaii after their release.

Kuhio extended his European adventure by going to Africa where he spent three years fighting on the side of England in the second Boer War.

Let's put that in different terms so that today's sovereignty activists will get the point. Kuhio, designated heir to the throne, abandoned his native land during a time of great political upheaval and went to war halfway around the world, fighting on the side of one white colonial power against another white colonial power in a war to see which one would win control over the land of a poor, downtrodden dark-skinned native population.

Kuhio returned to Hawaii in time to join the Republican Party and defeat the incumbent Robert Wilcox in the 1902 election for Territorial Delegate to Congress, whereupon he took the oath of office swearing to support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies foreign and domestic (Traitor to the Hawaiian nation!). He introduced the first bill in Congress for statehood for Hawaii (Traitor to the Hawaiian nation!). He finally "brought home the bacon" after 19 years in Congress with passage of his Hawaiian Homes Commission Act (Sellout!).

The case of Kuhio vs. Liliuokalani in 1915-1916 is perhaps even more troubling. The "prince," now Hawaii's Territorial Delegate to Congress for 13 years, abused his power and prestige to launch a personal attack against Queen Liliuokalani in order to steal her Waikiki land from the children she intended to help. Kuhio publicly accused her of mental incompetence in order to nullify her creation of the Queen Liliuokalani Childrens' Trust, and to establish himself as conservator of her estate, so that after her death her Waikiki properties would go to him instead of to the benefit of the Hawaiian children. Luckily for the children, his lawsuit failed. Full text of the Hawaii Supreme Court decision, including details about what Kuhio was trying to do, is on a webpage: JONAH KUHIO KALANIANAOLE v. LILIUOKALANI, Supreme Court of Hawaii, 23 Haw. 457; 1916. Syllabus and full text of the Court's decision: <http://tinyurl.com/ce7avc>

Evelyn Cook's book "100 years of Healing" includes extensive description of the lawsuit, and especially the role of attorney W.O. Smith in defending Liliuokalani. Knowledgeable readers might be surprised, because W.O. Smith was one of the leaders of the revolution of 1893 that overthrew Liliuokalani. But as time went by the ex-queen realized that Smith was completely trustworthy whereas Kuhio was arrogant, selfish, greedy, and profoundly disrespectful to the woman most ethnic Hawaiians still regarded as their Queen. Instead of native Hawaiian "Prince" Kuhio, Lili'uokalani appointed white man W.O. Smith as trustee of her Queen Lili'uokalani Childrens Trust.

Kuhio was also a womanizer, both in Hawaii and in Washington D.C., -- in today's parlance we might call his scandalous behavior Trumpian. He earned the nickname "Prince Cupid" (Google it if you want some titillation).

Kuhio does not deserve to be ensconced as head of a cult of personality. Defer this resolution to avoid the embarrassment of voting against it or the even larger embarrassment of voting for it.



# KE ONE O KĀKUHHEWA

O'ahu Council of the  
Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs

## SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2020**

CONFERENCE ROOM 211

STATE CAPITOL

415 South Beretania Street

BENTON KEALII PANG, PH.D.-  
HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUB OF  
HONOLULU  
PELEKIKENA

JACOB KA'ŌMAKAOKALĀ AKI-  
KING KAMEHAMEHA HCC  
HOPE PELEKIKENA

GEORGIANA NAVARRO-  
MĀKAHA HCC  
HOPE PELEKIKENA 'ELUA

ALBERTA LOW-PEARL HARBOR  
HCC  
PU'UKŪ

ROTH PUHALA -KING  
KAMEHAMEHA HCC  
PELEKIKENA IHO NEI

TERI LOO-KO'OLAUPOKO HCC  
KĀKAU 'ŌLELO

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

'AHAHUI SIWILA HAWAII' O  
KĀPOLEI  
LANCE HOLDEN

ALI'I PAUHI HCC  
KEHAULANI LUM

'EWA-PU'ULO'A HCC  
MARLEEN KAU'I SERRAO

HCC OF HONOLULU  
ANITA NAONE

KAILUA HCC  
MAPUANA DE SILVA

KALIHI-PĀLAMA HCC  
JUANITA BROWN  
KAWAMOTO

KING KAMEHAMEHA HCC  
LETANI PELTIER

KO'OLAULO'A HCC  
RANAE "TESSIE"  
FONOIMOANA

KO'OLAUPOKO HCC  
ALICE P. HEWETT

LUALUALEI HCC  
SHIRLINE HO

MĀKAHA HCC  
LUANN LANKFORD-  
FABORITO

MAUNALUA HCC  
ROSE KITTY SIMONDS

NA LANI 'EHA HCC  
R. KELANI RAMOS

NĀNĀIKAPONO HCC  
JAYCINE HICKS

PĀPAKŌLE'A HCC  
KEALII LUM

PEARL HARBOR HCC  
ANTOINETTE LEE

PRINCE KŪHIŌ HCC  
A. MAKANA PARIS

PRINCESS KAI'ULANI HCC  
RUSTY RODENHURST

QUEEN EMMA HCC  
RAWLETTE P. KRAUT

HCC OF WĀHIAWA  
MARIE "MĀLIA" DOO

HCC OF WĀIALUA  
MAKALAPUA CASSON-  
FISHER

WĀI'ANAE HCC  
CYNTHIA ENRIQUEZ

WAIKIKI HCC  
L. PI'IKEA TOMCZYK

HCC OF WAIMĀNALO  
LOUANNA KAIO

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the committee on Ways and Means,

My name is Benton Kealii Pang and I am the president for the O'ahu Council of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs. I am writing in strong **support of SB3067**, requiring certain buildings on Hawaiian Homelands to display portraits of Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalaniana'ōle. The Hawaiian Civic Clubs were founded on December 6, 1918 by Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalaniana'ōle. Our civic club members strive to continue the mission and vision of the Prince by enhancing the lives of Native Hawaiians through participation with, and support of, various social and civic activities such as raising funds for Lunalilo Home, participating at Kawaiaha'o Ali'i Sundays, Mauna 'Ala services recognizing our Ali'i (royalty), and sharing the voices of our kūpuna (elders) within the communities where we reside. It is with Prince Kūhiō's vision that we sponsor forums for community outreach, legislative efforts concerning Native Hawaiian issues, and supports fellow civic clubs and associations.

Thus, Ke One O Kākuhihewa respectfully urges the Committee to **PASS** SB3067.

Ke One O Kākuhihewa is a native Hawaiian council made up of 24 civic clubs on the island of O'ahu. Our oldest member, Hawaiian Civic Club of Honolulu was established by Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalaniana'ōle on December 7, 1918.

Sincerely,

Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.





**SB-3067-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2020 11:09:36 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2020 11:05:00 AM

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

Comments:



Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Friday, February 28, 2020  
11:05 am Conference Room 211  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street



*Aloha* Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the Senate committee on Ways and Means:

I **SUPPORT** the intent of SB 3067 SD1. This bill for an act will require certain public buildings on Hawaiian home lands to display portraits of Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalanianaʻole.

As a 2019 Peabody Essex Museum - Native American Fellow and current Museum Studies Graduate Certificate Program student at the University of Hawaiʻi at Mānoa, I understand the importance for Native Hawaiian iconic art, especially portraits, to be visibly represented in the built environment. Their inherent function is to be educative and symbolically representative of that which we must always remember or aspire to be. Our society's institutional memories, values, and moral obligations are habitually imprinted into our consciousnesses by their ubiquitous presence in our cultural landscapes. Thus, psychologically grounding all who call Hawaiʻi home to their individual and collective *kuleana* to this place and its people.

Ke Aliʻi Makaʻāinana was indeed “The Prince of the People” who served all of Hawaiʻi during his tenure in the U.S. Congress. His legacy is a testament to the enduring human spirit that prevails under *kapu aloha* despite racial, political, and social adversity faced at home and on the U.S. continent—lessons much needed in these divisive times.

The passage of this bill would bring Hawaii’s beloved Citizen Prince ever more *he alo ā he alo*, face to face, with his people. Therefore, I strongly urge the committee to PASS SB 3067 SD1.

Me ke aloha,

Kamuela Werner, MPH  
Hawaiian Home Lands Beneficiary  
Prince Kūhiō Hawaiian Civic Club Member

*“As a Native Hawaiian, a place tells me who I am and who my extended family is. A place gives me my history, the history of my clan, and the history of my people. I am able to look at a place and tie in human events that affect me and my loved ones. A place gives me a feeling of stability and of belonging to my family, those living and dead. A place gives me a sense of well-being and of acceptance of all who have experienced that place...”*

- Edward Kanahele, Ancient Sites of Oʻahu (1991)