



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

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The Thirty-First Legislature, State of Hawaii
House of Representatives
Committee on Culture, Arts, and International Affairs

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association

February 3, 2021

H.B. 678 – RELATING TO STATE HOLIDAYS

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO supports the intent of H.B. 678 which reestablishes La Ku`oko`a – Hawaiian Recognition Day – as an official state holiday.

The increasing desire to recognize and honor Hawai`i's past and the recent coinciding change to convert to an all-mail election in November 2020 marks an opportune moment to discuss, and potentially adjust, our official state holidays. While the Legislature is empowered to designate state holidays, we reserve the exclusive right to negotiate the terms, conditions, and impact of holidays on included employees with the Employer. We respectfully request that should this measure continue to move through the legislative process, the Employer initiate collective bargaining negotiations with all exclusive representatives.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of H.B. 678.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira
Executive Director

HB-678

Submitted on: 2/1/2021 12:45:55 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
cheryl B.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Strongly support LÄ• KÅ«`ok`a, Hawaiian Independence Day be recognized as a holiday. It was first celebrated in 1843 and continues to be a day of commemoration.

I also strongly support a commission or committee be established to review all Hawai`i State holidays or those accepted from the Federal Government.

HB-678

Submitted on: 2/1/2021 1:48:47 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kawena Lauriano	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support the recognition of LĀ• KĀ«'oko'a as a state holiday. LĀ• KĀ«'oko'a began in 1843 as foreign countries began recognizing Hawai'i as an independent nation. Celebrations of the holiday continued, even after the illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian Monarch. This is an important day in Hawaiian history and not acknowledged by many. Creating a state holiday would help to ensure that LĀ• KĀ«'oko'a is never forgotten.

Statement Before The
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
Wednesday, February 3, 2021
10:00 AM
Via Videoconference, Conference Room 3259
in consideration of
HB 678
RELATING TO STATE HOLIDAYS.

Chair GATES, Vice Chair LoPRESTI, and Members of the Culture, Arts, & International Affairs Committee

Common Cause Hawaii provides commitments on HB 678, which (1) recognizes La Ku'oko'a, Hawaiian Recognition Day, as an official state holiday and (2) removes election day as an official state holiday.

Common Cause Hawaii is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, grassroots organization dedicated to reforming government and strengthening democracy through voting modernization efforts.

Common Cause Hawaii notes that Hawaii is a vote-by-mail state with voter service centers that currently open 10 days prior to primary and general elections on government facilities. Election workers – both administrators, staff, and volunteers – are the backbone of our democracy and Common Cause Hawaii thanks them for their service. Common Cause Hawaii wants to ensure that there will not be any issue or difficulty with locating voter service centers on government facilities, especially for general election Tuesday, if election day is removed as a state holiday. For the 2020 elections, there were people who confirmed that they still wanted to vote in person on general election day and showed up to the voter service centers, resulting in long lines forming. This could disrupt government operations, if it were not a state holiday.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on HB 678. If you have further questions of me, please contact me at sma@commoncause.org.

Very respectfully yours,

Sandy Ma
Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii

LATE

HB-678

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 11:53:39 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kalaniakea Wilson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

In 2016 Hawaii County Resolution 285-15 voted unanimously requesting the state legislature to make La Kuokoa a paid state holiday. In 2016 Maui county recognized La Kuokoa unanimously and submitted the date to become a paid state holiday in their 2017 legislative package. In 2017, Kauai county passed their resolution for La Kuokoa to become a paid state holiday. 128 years of continuing brain wash policies in education programs in these islands nearly extinguished the Hawaiian language. La Kuokoa celebrations and history are apart of the fabric of Hawaiian culture, politics and government. To vote no for HB 678 will only continue policies of brainwash, genocide, Americanization, war crimes, human rights violations upon the aboriginal Hawaiians of this land. I'll pray that ke akua helps all of you to support HB 678 to become a paid state holiday.

LATE

HB-678

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 5:22:45 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andria DeBina	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill to which recognizes La Ku'oko'a, Hawaiian Recognition Day, as an official state holiday. As well as removing election day as an official state holiday.

LATE

HB-678

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 5:51:55 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
PEKELO RICHMOND	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LÄ• KÄ«‘oko‘a was established in 1843, as proof the Hawaiian Nation and it’s people deserve respect and dignity from other nations and cultures. Making LÄ• KÄ«‘oko‘a a paid state holiday would serve as a tiny reparation to the thousands of Hawaiians that have lost their land, language, and culture at the behest of the Americanization machine. If America and the state of Hawai‘i wants to represent all people fairly and equally it should do Hawaiians this small favor. As a kumu at a Hawaiian Immersion school it pains me everyday to look back at the historical trauma and indoctrination Hawaiians have had to endure. In order to reverse these injustices small attempts like making LÄ• KÄ«‘oko‘a a paid holiday would be a great way to start.

Kumu Pekelo Richmond