

**HCR-135**

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Testimony for CAI on 3/17/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha & thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of HCR135 to recognize October 15th as Royal Hawaiian Troubadours Day.

While October 15th is Mekia Albert Kealakai's birthday, and he is richly deserving of this long-delayed recognition, the bill also, by extension, acknowledges and honors all of Hawaii's beloved musicians and dancers, who, since the 19th Century to the present, have done so much to promote Hawai'i in the most positive light possible around the world.

I have never been in a country where the eyes of people did not light up at the mention of Hawai'i. Most likely, you have had the same experience.

A major reason for this is the effort of Mekia and his generation of intrepid performers, who won the hearts and minds of audiences all over the globe with their culture, their charisma, and their aloha. Mekia's generation has been followed ever since by local artists of the highest caliber. This legacy has many economic implications. However, even more important, it has bequeathed to Hawai'i a reputation for love, beauty, mutual respect, and goodwill that no amount of money, including advertising dollars, can ever buy.

Let us also remember and acknowledge with this bill that Hawaiian musicians and dancers play a vital role in maintaining the continuity and well-being of Hawaiian culture, history and identity at home.

Me ka mahalo piha.