

HAWAI‘I CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 411 HONOLULU, HI 96813 · PHONE: 586-8636 FAX: 586-8655 TDD: 568-8692

March 17, 2021

Videoconference, Room 329 , 10:00 a.m.

To: The Honorable Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair
The Honorable Matthew S. LoPresti, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Culture, Arts and International Affairs

From: Liann Ebesugawa, Chair
and Commissioners of the Hawai‘i Civil Rights Commission

Re: S.B. No. 939

The Hawai‘i Civil Rights Commission (HCRC) has enforcement jurisdiction over Hawai‘i’s laws prohibiting discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, and access to state and state funded services. The HCRC carries out the Hawai‘i constitutional mandate that no person shall be discriminated against in the exercise of their civil rights. Art. I, Sec. 5.

S.B. No. 939 would designate June 19 of each year as Juneteenth Day to commemorate the end of slavery in the United States. Juneteenth is the day that the news of emancipation reached the last state, Texas, in 1866, over two years after the Emancipation Proclamation was issued. The measure does not make Juneteenth a state holiday.

HCRC supports this measure. Juneteenth is a historical day for both African Americans and the country as a whole. It also shows how justice has been delayed for Black people. Considerable barriers remain for racial equality, and commemoration of Juneteenth is a step towards recognizing that.

The HCRC supports S.B. No. 939.

Statement Before The
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Wednesday, March 17, 2021

10:00 AM

Videoconference and Conference Room 329

SB 939
RELATING TO JUNETEENTH DAY.

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

Common Cause Hawaii supports SB 939, which establishes June 19 of each year as Juneteenth Day.

Common Cause Hawaii is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, grassroots organization dedicated to upholding the core values of American democracy. We work to promote equal rights, opportunity, and representation for all.

SB 939 will recognize the importance of Juneteenth in American history. Even with the Emancipation Proclamation, which declared that as of January 1, 1863, all enslaved people in the states currently engaged in rebellion against the Union “shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free”, and the Civil War’s end in May 1865, confederate states still kept people enslaved. Union troops did not reach the westernmost confederate state of Texas, until June 19, 1865, which became known as Juneteenth, to end slavery. Juneteenth commemorates the freedom, equality, and dignity for all people that this nation is still striving to achieve.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 939. If you have further questions of me, please contact me at sma@commoncause.org.

Very respectfully yours,

Sandy Ma
Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii

SB-939

Submitted on: 3/13/2021 12:36:18 PM

Testimony for CAI on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Golojuch Jr	LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Representatives,

The LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, Hawaii's oldest and largest policy and political LGBTQIA+ focused organization, fully supports SB 939.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration,

Michael Golojuch, Jr.

Chair

LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i

SB-939

Submitted on: 3/13/2021 12:49:09 PM

Testimony for CAI on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laurie Field	Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii supports SB 939. Thank you!



Young Progressives Demanding Action
P.O. Box 11105
Honolulu, HI 96828

March 13, 2021

TO: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
RE: Testimony in Support of SB939

Dear Representatives,

Young Progressives Demanding Action **strongly supports SB939**. It is way past time for Hawai'i to join the 47 other states that honor this important day. Juneteenth, also known as "Freedom Day," commemorates the ending of slavery in the United States on June 19, 1865. North Dakota, South Dakota and Hawai'i are the only states that do not celebrate Juneteenth. "The Aloha State" should acknowledge this historic and longstanding holiday.

Hawai'i has a proud history of being on the forefront of racial and social justice. As early as 1852 the Kingdom of Hawai'i wrote into law that "Slavery shall, under no circumstances whatsoever, be tolerated in the Hawaiian Islands; whenever a slave shall enter Hawaiian territory he shall be free, no person who imports a slave or slaves, into the King's dominions shall ever enjoy any civil or political rights."

Rightfully recognizing Juneteenth will not only uphold this legacy, but will also send a message of solidarity to all of Hawai'i's African-American community members.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Will Caron
Board President & Secretary
action@ypdahawaii.org

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

P.O. Box 37158, Honolulu, HI 96837-0158

Phone/E-Mail: (808) 927-1214 / kat.caphi@gmail.com



COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Representative Cedric Gates, Chair

Representative Matt Lo Presti, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 17, 2021

10:00 a.m.

STRONG SUPPORT FOR SB 939 - JUNETEENTH DAY

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair LoPresti and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kat Brady and I am the Coordinator of Community Alliance on Prisons, a community initiative promoting smart justice policies in Hawai`i for more than two decades. This testimony is respectfully offered on behalf of the 4,100 Hawai`i individuals living behind bars or under the "care and custody" of the Department of Public Safety on any given day. We are always mindful that 1,000 of Hawai`i's imprisoned people are serving their sentences abroad thousands of miles away from their loved ones, their homes and, for the disproportionate number of incarcerated Kanaka Maoli, far, far from their ancestral lands.

SB 939 establishes June 19th as Juneteenth Day each year. On this date in 1865 when Union troops reached the westernmost confederate state of Texas, slavery was 'officially' ended, although the Emancipation Proclamation had declared on January 1, 1863 that all enslaved people in the states currently engaged in rebellion against the Union "shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free."

Community Alliance on Prisons supports measures that observe important dates in history. We also assert that slavery has not ended, it has morphed into the prison industrial complex with the same racist structure. Sadly, white supremacy is still ingrained in some as the recent candidacy of a Proud Boy for a seat in the Hawai`i House of Representatives underscores.

We must work together to build a peaceful community where our keiki can run free, our Kupuna are honored for their wisdom, and the spirit of lohahi (unity, harmony) abounds. We urge the committee to pass this measure.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

*The 13th amendment to the constitution of the US which abolished slavery -
did not abolish slavery for those convicted of a crime.*

Angela Davis

Statement Before The
HOUSE/SENATE COMMITTEE ON Committee on Culture, Arts, & International Affairs
Wednesday, March 17, 2021

10a.m.

Via Videoconference, Conference Room 329

in consideration of

HB 1308 / SB 939

RELATING TO JUNETEENTH DAY

Aloha e Chair Gates, Vice Chair LoPresti and Members of the Committee on Culture, Arts, & International Affairs Committee:

The Pōpolo Project writes in **strong** support of HB 1308 HD1 / SB 939, which proclaims the annual date June 19th to be “Juneteenth” in the City and County of Honolulu.

The Pōpolo Project is a Hawai’i-based nonprofit organization that redefines what it means to be Black in Hawai’i and in the world through cultivating radical reconnection to ourselves, our community, our ancestors, and the land, changing what we commonly think of as Local. We envision a just future for Hawai’i, achieved by investing in the intersections of our diverse histories and cultures to build connections across communities. By making the lives of Black folks visible among what we commonly think of as Local, the Pōpolo Project highlights the vivid, complex diversity of Blackness.

Juneteenth is a celebration of resilience and strength; it reminds all people that oppressive structures can radically change and that legal and cultural traditions of dehumanization of Black people, and any people, deserve abolition. Further, the recognition of this important day in Hawai’i uplifts and makes visible our Black community in Hawai’i, which has had sustained contribution to this community even before the Kingdom of Hawai’i was overthrown by the United States. We acknowledge that Hawai’i has a noble history of enshrining into law a clear opposition to slavery in its 1852 constitution, banning the practice and nullifying the right to own any other other human. Our Black community is the current manifestation of our ancestors, continuing to contribute to Hawai’i as leaders, innovators, entrepreneurs, educators, athletes, artists, cultural practitioners, activists, environmentalists, healthcare professionals, scientists, attorneys, and policymakers, and much more.

Juneteenth affirms the freedom of all humanity.

We recommend that the language be amended as follows:

“~8- Juneteenth ~~Day~~. June 19 of each year shall be known and designated as Juneteenth ~~Day~~ to commemorate the end of slavery in the United States and in honor and recognition of the

significant roles and contributions of African Americans in the history of the United States. This day is not and shall not be construed to be a state holiday.”

As such, The Pōpolo Project strongly supports the passage of this bill, with the above-mentioned amendment, to establish “Juneteenth.” Thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Akiemi Glenn". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end. To the left of the signature is a short vertical yellow bar.

Dr. Akiemi Glenn, Executive Director
The Pōpolo Project

SB-939

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 7:45:21 PM

Testimony for CAI on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Our Space	Our Space	Support	No

Comments:



Committee on Culture, Arts, & International Affairs

Pō'akolu, Malaki 17, 2021

Via Wikiō

Ke Kapikala Moku'āina

415 South Beretānia Street

Re: SB939 - RELATING TO JUNETEENTH DAY

Aloha Luna Ho'omalu Cedric Gates, Hope Luna Ho'omalu Matthew LoPresti and members of the House Committee on Culture, Arts, & International Affairs:

The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs **SUPPORTS** SB939. This bill for an act establishes June 19 of each year as Juneteenth Day. At the 61th annual convention of the Association, resolution 2020-30 whereby the Association stands in solidarity with the Black Community in their struggle for social change, justice, equity, and equality. The observance of Juneteenth will help us to better celebrate our community members of African heritage, to remember the struggles they have overcome, and to walk with them in the struggles they face today.

Thus, the Association respectfully urges the committee to **PASS** SB939.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hailama Farden', written in a cursive style.

Hailama Farden

Pelekikena

ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS

A RESOLUTION

NO. 2020 - 30

STANDING IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE BLACK COMMUNITY IN THEIR STRUGGLE FOR SOCIAL CHANGE, JUSTICE, EQUITY, AND EQUALITY

WHEREAS, the Association recognizes the dignity of all human life (AHCC Const. 2.1.C) and as such the inviolable human dignity of our Black community members; and

WHEREAS, the Association recognizes that the Black Lives Matter social movement is a contemporary manifestation of the struggle for human dignity in America; and

WHEREAS, the Black Lives Matter social movement has caused the citizens of the United States to confront the tragic twenty-first century deaths of numerous Black men, women, transgender, queer, and minors including George Floyd in Minneapolis, Minnesota, Breonna Taylor in Louisville, Kentucky, Ahmaud Arbery in Satilla Shores, Georgia, Michael Brown in St. Louis, Missouri, Sandra Bland in Waller County, Texas, Tamir Rice and Tanisha Anderson in Cleveland, Ohio, Eric Garner in New York City, New York, Freddie Gray in Baltimore, Maryland, Laquan McDonald in Chicago, Illinois, Trayvon Martin in Sanford, Florida, Mya Hall in Baltimore, Maryland, Walter Scott in North Charleston, South Carolina, and the countless other lives across generations who have been lost; and

WHEREAS, the Association acknowledges that this loss of life is another example of the inequity and inequality faced by our Black community members in the United States that is inextricably linked to structural and institutional racism and white supremacy; and

WHEREAS, the Association recognizes that the Black Lives Matter social movement is a part of the continuing struggle for fair treatment of those of Black heritage and Black mixed-race heritage in America building upon the struggles of those in the civil rights movement, the abolition movement, and those who survived the savagery of slavery; and

WHEREAS, the Association embraces all our Civic Club members who are of Black heritage and Black mixed-race heritage and we honor them for their contributions to further the legacy of our founder Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalanianaʻole and we celebrate them; and

WHEREAS, some Hawaiian Civic Clubs, especially those across the continental United States, have been invited to participate in the Black Lives Matter social movement; and

WHEREAS, these Hawaiian Civic Clubs have taken solidarity actions with the Black community and other peoples of color to affirm our common humanity; and

WHEREAS, the Association recognizes the shared social change and justice histories of Black people and Native Hawaiians in the United States and Hawai'i, including how the first Black people arrived in the Hawaiian Islands in the early 1800s as deckhands on merchant and whaling ships, and came from Cape Verde, Africa, the Caribbean and the United States, and that these early Black residents ended their maritime careers and settled in Hawai'i, with many of them becoming successful musicians, businessmen, and respected government officials; and

WHEREAS, a decade before the United States Civil War and the Emancipation Proclamation, the Kingdom of Hawai'i Constitution of 1852 provided that "Slavery shall, under no circumstances whatsoever, be tolerated in the Hawaiian Islands; whenever a slave shall enter Hawaiian territory he shall be free, no person who imports a slave or slaves, into the King's dominions shall ever enjoy any civil or political rights in this realm"; and

WHEREAS, in 1897, Black citizens of the Kingdom of Hawai'i joined Native Hawaiians in their fight for liberation by signing the Kū'ē Petition, protesting the annexation of the Kingdom of Hawai'i by the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Association recognizes and appreciates the sustained and substantial contributions of Black people to Hawai'i's community, including: Anthony D. Allen, formerly enslaved, was a steward to King Kamehameha I; Oliver and George Washington Hyatt, served as the first two leaders of the Royal Hawaiian Band under King Kamehameha III; Betsey Stockton, formerly enslaved, started the first mission school in Lahaina open to the common people; Buffalo Soldiers built the 18-mile trail to the summit of Mauna Loa; Alice A. Ball, a chemist who was the first woman to earn a master's degree from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and discovered the first treatment for leprosy (the "Ball Method"); Dr. Donniss Thompson, the University of Hawai'i's first women's athletic director who started the Rainbow Wahine athletics program and successful wahine volleyball program; and many more unnamed contributors to Hawai'i's excellence and history; and

WHEREAS, the Black community and the Native Hawaiian community have shared similar, but not equivalent, experiences to systemic oppression and adversity, and have shown historical solidarity for social change and justice with the civil rights movements in the United States, including multiple visits by Dr. Martin Luther King to O'ahu in 1959 and 1964, and with Dr. King and other civil rights leaders' symbolic wearing of lei gifted to them by Reverend Abraham Akaka during the historic 1965 civil rights march from Selma to Montgomery in Alabama; and

WHEREAS, the Association acknowledges that the Black community is the current manifestation of their ancestors, and continue to contribute to the betterment of the United States as leaders, business owners, innovators, entrepreneurs, educators, athletes, artists, cultural

practitioners, activists, environmentalists, civil servants, chefs, police officers, firefighters, healthcare professionals, scientists, attorneys, construction workers, policymakers, and more; and

WHEREAS, the Association celebrates the Black community and affirms our mutual struggle against racism in all forms; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs at its 61st Annual Convention held online, in the malama of Makali'i and the rising of 'Olekūkolu, this 22nd day of November 2020, standing in solidarity with the Black community in their struggle for social change, justice, equity, and equality; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, in the spirit of good citizenship and our interest in promoting the Hawaiian values of lōkahi (unity, harmony) and 'onipa'a (steadfastness, determination), the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs stands in solidarity with the Black community and all peoples of color against racism; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Black Lives Matter founders Alicia Garza, Patrisse Cullors and Opal Tometi, the Pōpolo Project, Ka 'Aha Lāhui o 'Olekona Hawaiian Civic Club, the Governor of the State of Oregon, the Governor of the State of Washington, President Elect Joe Biden, Vice President Elect Kamala Harris, President Barack Obama, First-Lady Michelle Obama, as well as the Governor of the State of Hawai'i, President of the Hawai'i State Senate, Speaker of the Hawai'i State House of Representatives, Chair of the Hawai'i State Senate subject matter committee on Hawaiian Affairs, Chair of the Hawai'i State House subject matter committee on Hawaiian Affairs, Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and all County Mayors.



The undersigned hereby certifies that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted in the malama of Makali'i and the rising of 'Olekūkolu on the 22nd day of November 2020, at the 61st Annual Convention of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs held online.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hailama V.K.K. Farden". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Hailama V.K.K. Farden, President

SB-939

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 10:06:44 PM

Testimony for CAI on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mike Golojuch, Sr.	Rainbow Family 808	Support	No

Comments:

Rainbow Family 808 strongly supports SB939 to recognized Juneteenth Day. Please pass this bill.

Mike Golojuch, Sr., Secretary, Rainbow Family 808

SB-939

Submitted on: 3/13/2021 12:28:42 PM

Testimony for CAI on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please support this important bill.

SB-939

Submitted on: 3/13/2021 3:41:58 PM

Testimony for CAI on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carla Allison	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Carla Allison and I strongly support SB939 designating June 19 of each year as Juneteenth Day to commemorate the end of slavery in the United States. It is important not only to remember important historical dates but also to highlight history that has been overlooked, ignored or hidden. It is long overdue for Hawai'i to stand with the 47 states and the District of Columbia that have already chosen to make Juneteenth an annual day of remembrance and celebration. Please support SB939. Thank you.

SB-939

Submitted on: 3/13/2021 5:53:30 PM

Testimony for CAI on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Linda Morgan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Juneteenth is an important event in U.S. History. The lack of knowledge about this event is part of the racist history most of us have learned. Honoring Juneteenth is a step at ending systemic racism.

SB-939

Submitted on: 3/14/2021 8:25:52 AM

Testimony for CAI on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Anderson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB 939 will recognize the importance of Juneteenth in American history.

Even with the Emancipation Proclamation, which declared that as of January 1, 1863, all enslaved people in the states currently engaged in rebellion against the Union “shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free”, and the Civil War’s end in April 1865, confederate states still kept people enslaved. Union troops did not reach the westernmost confederate state of Texas, until June 19, 1865, which became known as Juneteenth, to end slavery.

Juneteenth commemorates the freedom, equality, and dignity for all people that this nation is still striving to achieve.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of this bill.

SB-939

Submitted on: 3/14/2021 12:43:43 PM

Testimony for CAI on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Eileen McKee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support the establishment of June 19 of each year to be named Juneteenth Day.

Mahalo for considering my testimony in support of SB939.

Eileen McKee

Kihei

SB-939

Submitted on: 3/14/2021 1:26:41 PM

Testimony for CAI on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Caroline Kunitake	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Gates, Vice Chair LoPresti, and Committee on Culture, Arts and International Affairs,

Please support SB939.

SB 939 will recognize the importance of Juneteenth in American history.

Even with the Emancipation Proclamation, which declared that as of January 1, 1863, all enslaved people in the states currently engaged in rebellion against the Union “shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free”, and the Civil War’s end in May 1865, confederate states still kept people enslaved. Union troops did not reach the westernmost confederate state of Texas, until June 19, 1865, which became known as Juneteenth, to end slavery.

Thank you for taking the time to review this issue. I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 939.

Mahalo,

Caroline Kunitake

SB-939

Submitted on: 3/14/2021 2:32:31 PM

Testimony for CAI on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
tlaloc tokuda	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Committee members,

- SB 939 will recognize the importance of Juneteenth in American history.
- Even with the Emancipation Proclamation, which declared that as of January 1, 1863, all enslaved people in the states currently engaged in rebellion against the Union “shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free”, and the Civil War’s end in May 1865, confederate states still kept people enslaved. Union troops did not reach the westernmost confederate state of Texas, until June 19, 1865, which became known as Juneteenth, to end slavery.
- Juneteenth commemorates the freedom, equality, and dignity for all people that this nation is still striving to achieve.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Tlaloc Tokuda

Kailua Kona, HI 96740

SB-939

Submitted on: 3/14/2021 3:28:17 PM

Testimony for CAI on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chiemi Bryant	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

I am writing to express my strong support of SB 939, which would establish June 19 of each year as Juneteenth Day in Hawai'i. Juneteenth is a celebration of emancipation from slavery. It honors the contributions and significant roles African Americans have played in the history of the United States, yet Hawai'i is one of only three states in the nation that does not recognize Juneteenth as a special day of remembrance. For the foregoing reasons, Juneteenth should be recognized in Hawai'i. Please pass this bill. It's the right thing to do.

Sincerely,

Chiemi Bryant

SB-939

Submitted on: 3/14/2021 3:30:06 PM

Testimony for CAI on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Raelyn Reyno Yeomans	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Strong support.

SB-939

Submitted on: 3/14/2021 4:50:31 PM

Testimony for CAI on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Courtney Mrowczynski	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly **SUPPORT** the passage of SB939 to formally recognize Juneteenth Day.

SB-939

Submitted on: 3/14/2021 11:53:55 PM

Testimony for CAI on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Edward B Hanel Jr	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Concur with Common Cause Hawaii comments and support passage of SB939

SB-939

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 11:48:48 AM

Testimony for CAI on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Midori Marcia Sue Trent	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support

SB-939

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 6:00:03 PM

Testimony for CAI on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

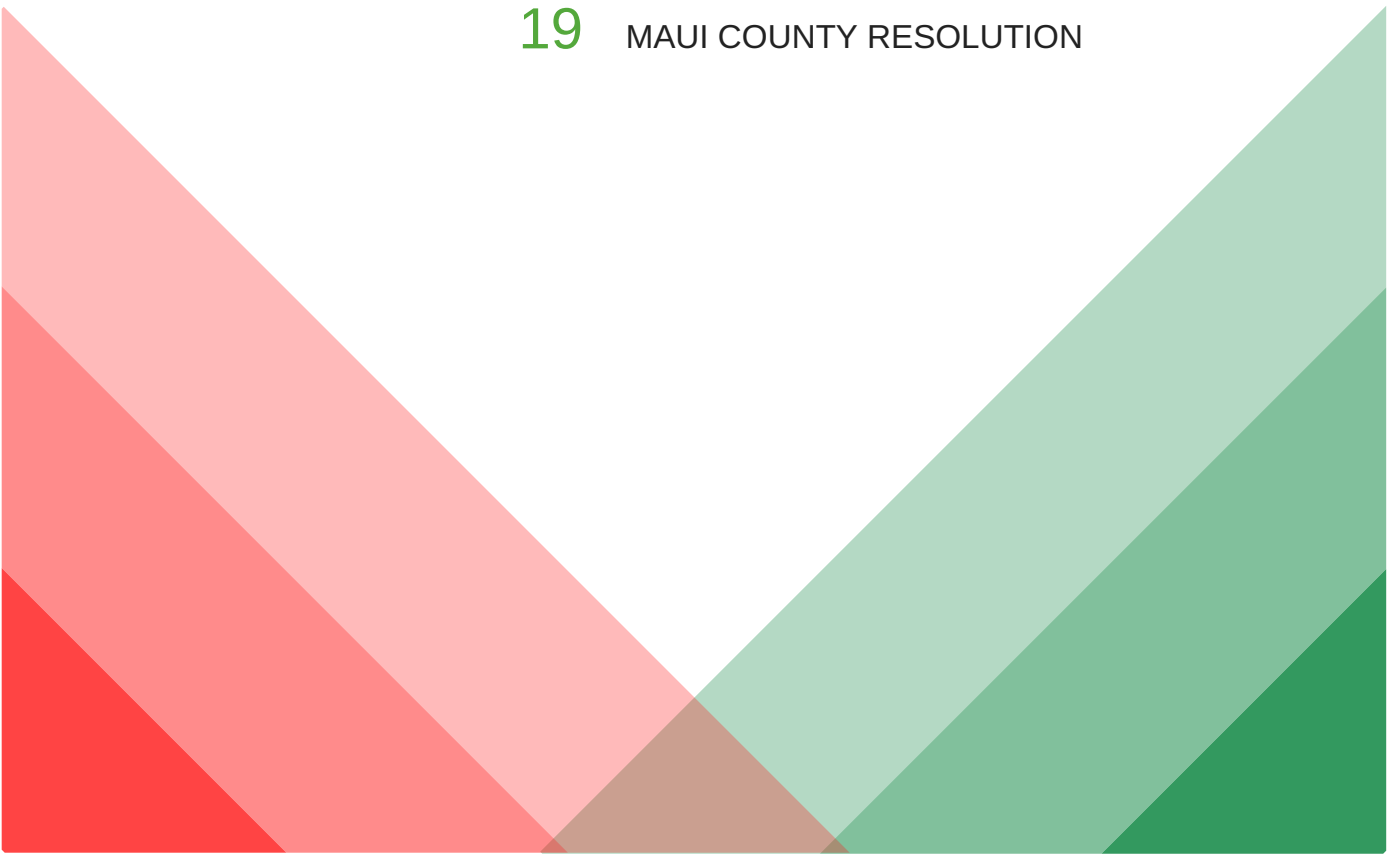
Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
laurie boyle	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support sb939 for the simple reason that the end of slavery in our country should be commemorated.

Mahalo for your attention.

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- 

March 9, 2021

Hawai'i State Capitol Building
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Committee Members:

This past June 47 states across the country celebrated *Juneteenth*, also known as Freedom Day, which commemorates June 19, 1865 - the end of African American enslavement in the United States. Sadly, Hawai'i was not one of them.

While communities across the island chain independently honor this historic day by participating in marches and rallies, Hawai'i remains just 1 of 3 states that does not designate Juneteenth as a state holiday. We implore the Hawai'i State Legislature to join the rest of the country by passing SB 939, legislation that will finally recognize this monumental day as a *Day of Remembrance*.

Municipalities across Hawaii have already passed resolutions that mark *Juneteenth* as a local day of remembrance, including the City of Honolulu whose city council unanimously passed a resolution to make Juneteenth "*an annual day of honor and reflection*". "*I think it's important that we recognize Juneteenth as a time to reflect on the contributions of the black community in Hawai'i, their unique experiences in our nation, and the ways we can engage with our friends, family, and the broader community to dismantle systemic racism,*" said Honolulu Councilmember Tommy Waters. ([KHON2, 6/18/20](#))

Hawai'i has a proud history of being on the forefront of racial and social justice. As early as 1852 the Kingdom of Hawai'i wrote into law that "*Slavery shall, under no circumstances whatsoever, be tolerated in the Hawaiian Islands; whenever a slave shall enter Hawaiian territory he shall be free, no person who imports a slave or slaves, into the King's dominions shall ever enjoy any civil or political rights.*" Today many of our citizens are direct descendants of former slaves. Rightfully recognizing *Juneteenth* will not only uphold their legacy, but will send a message of solidarity to all of Hawai'i's African-American leaders, tourists, businesses and respected community members. Furthermore, a State calendar date will serve to better educate Hawaii's youth on black history and the importance of equality for all.

As a state that prides itself on diversity and inclusivity, it is long overdue for Hawai'i to fully live out the Aloha spirit in this matter by standing with the 47 states that have chosen to make *Juneteenth* an annual day of remembrance and celebration. We urge you to vote "yes" on HB 1308 and SB 939.

Sincerely,

Elected Officials



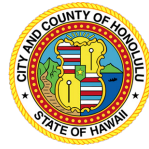
Councilmember Marcos Pine
(D-1), City & County of
Honolulu



Councilmember Waters (D-4),
City & County of Honolulu



Councilmember
Anderson (D-3), City &
County of Honolulu



Councilmember Kobayashi (D-
5), City & County of Honolulu



Councilmember Fukunaga (D-
6), City & County of Honolulu



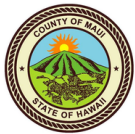
Councilmember Manahan (D-
7), City & County of Honolulu



Councilmember Elefante (D-
8), City & County of Honolulu



Councilmember Paltin,
County of Maui (West
District)



Council Chair, Alice Lee,
County of Maui



Councilmember King,
County of Maui (South
District)



Councilmember
Hokama, County of
Maui



Councilmember
Poindexter (D-1),
County of Hawaii



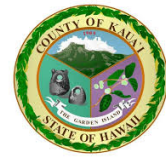
Councilmember
Lehualani Kierkiewicz
(D-4), County of Hawaii



Councilmember David
Maile (D-6), County of
Hawaii



Councilmember Cowden,
County of Kauai



Councilmember Kualii'i,
County of Kauai



Councilmember Evslin,
County of Kauai

Civil Rights Activists & Community Support



Honolulu NAACP



Anti-Defamation League –
Central Pacific Region



Best Buddies Hawaii



Coalition of Black Women
Business Owners on
Hawaii



African Americans
On Maui
Association



Alpha Kappa Alpha - Lambda
Chi Omega Chapter



Hawaii Arts Alliance



African American
Lawyers Association
of Hawaii (AALA)

Educational Support



Local Businesses

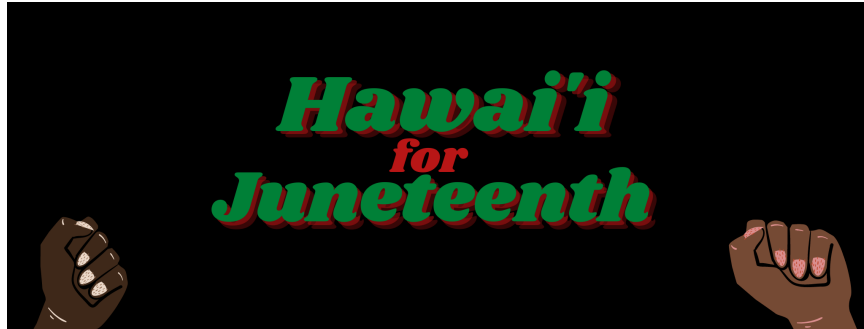


Political Support



HELP MAKE JUNETEENTH A HAWAII STATE HOLIDAY

Hawaii is 1 of only 3 states that does not commemorate Juneteenth as an official State Holiday or Day of Observance (Congressional Research Service)



Only North Dakota, South Dakota and Hawaii do not celebrate Juneteenth. With “*The Aloha State*” being the only Democratic state in the nation yet to acknowledge this historic and longstanding holiday.

WHAT IS JUNETEENTH?

Juneteenth, also known as “Freedom Day”, commemorates the ending of slavery in the United States when on June 19, 1865, Union soldiers arrived to Galveston, TX with news that the war had ended and slaves were now free - two and half years after President Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation in 1863.

Today Juneteenth celebrates African American freedom and achievement, while encouraging continuous self-development and respect for all cultures. Currently, Juneteenth has become a national day of pride with 46 states officially commemorating Juneteenth. Sadly, the State of Hawaii is not one of them. This needs to change.

HAWAII MUST ACT NOW

The Hawaii State Legislature should join the rest of the nation by proposing and passing legislation that will finally recognize this monumental day in our country’s history as an official state calendar holiday.

Solidarity

Hawai’i has a proud history of being on the forefront of racial and social justice. As early as 1852 the Kingdom of Hawai’i wrote into law that “*Slavery shall, under no circumstances whatsoever, be tolerated in the Hawaiian Islands; whenever a slave shall enter Hawaiian territory he shall be free, no person who imports a slave or slaves, into the King’s dominions shall ever enjoy any civil or political rights.*”

Today many of our citizens are direct descendants of former slaves. Rightfully recognizing *Juneteenth* will not only uphold their legacy, but will send a message of solidarity to all of Hawai'i's African-American leaders, tourists, businesses and respected community members.

Honoring the History of African American Influence in Hawaii

The sustained and substantial contributions of Hawaii's African American community throughout its history include:

- **Anthony D. Allen:** formerly enslaved, was a steward to King Kamehameha I
- **Oliver & George Washington Hyatt:** served as the first two leaders of the Royal Hawaiian Band under King Kamehameha III
- **Betsey Stockton:** formerly enslaved, started the first mission school in Lahaina open to the common people
- **Buffalo Soldiers:** built the 18-mile trail to the summit of Mauna Loa
- **Alice A. Ball:** a chemist who was the first woman to earn a master's degree from the University of Hawaii at Manoa and discovered the first treatment for leprosy (the "Ball Method");
- **Dr. Donnis Thompson:** the University of Hawaii's first women's Athletic Director who started the Rainbow Wahine Athletics Program and successful Wahine Volleyball Program
- **Helene Hale:** Hawai's first African-American woman elected to the Hawaii Legislature. She served on the Hawaii County Board of Supervisors. After becoming the first African American Mayor in Hawaii, she was featured on *Ebony Magazine*
- **Carlotta Stewart:** Lawyer who helped Hawaiians regain their kuleana lands. She became the first black principal in Honolulu when she took on the role at Ko'olau Elementary School
- **President Barack Obama:** First African American and first Hawaii born elected President of the United States.

Education

A State calendar date will serve to better educate Hawaii's diverse youth on a monumental event in US history. Battling systemic racism first begins with a fundamental knowledge of our nation's racist history and how it has contributed to the white supremacist framework we see today. Providing today's youth with an accurate telling of history will not only educate them, it will equip them with the necessary information needed to challenge inequality and take steps towards a more inclusive society.

Tourism

Hawaii relies heavily on tourism each year to generate tax revenue. According to the Hawaii Tourism Authority, in 2019, 10,424,995 visitors came to Hawaii. On average, there were 249,021 visitors in the Hawaiian Islands on any given day. Visitors to Hawaii spent \$17.75 billion that generated \$2.07 billion in state tax revenue. ([Hawaiian Tourism Authority, 1/29/20](#))

Large portions of these tourists represent communities of color. If Hawaii expects to continue to attract visitors from around the world, we must live out our promise of celebrating diversity through the celebration of Juneteenth.

WIDESPREAD, GROWING SUPPORT

Honolulu Leads The Way

Communities across Hawaii have already passed resolutions that mark *Juneteenth* as a local day of remembrance and celebration. On 8/18/20, The City of Honolulu unanimously voted to recognize Juneteenth as an official, citywide day of remembrance and observation.

[\(KHON2, 6/18/20\)](#)

"It is important that our City sends a clear signal that we stand in solidarity with the Black community as we all work together for social justice. But it's also important that we celebrate and lift up the contributions and achievements of Black people in Hawaii from the time of the Hawaiian Kingdom to today. Recognizing Juneteenth is a way to do both."

- **Mayor Kirk Caldwell, City & County of Honolulu**

"I think it's important that we recognize Juneteenth as a time to reflect on the contributions of the black community in Hawai'i, their unique experiences in our nation, and the ways we can engage with our friends, family, and the broader community to dismantle systemic racism."

- **Councilmember Tommy Waters (D-4), City & County of Honolulu**

CURRENT SUPPORTERS

A growing coalition of local leaders, nonprofits and advocacy groups are committed to making Juneteenth a State Holiday and are urging the Legislature to act now:

- Honolulu Hawaii NAACP
- Democratic Party of Hawaii– Hawaii County Committee
- ADL - Anti-Defamation League - Central Pacific Region
- Island Black Girlz
- Af3irm - Hawai'i
- African Americans on Maui (AAOMA)
- Dear White Women
- Alpha Kappa Alpha - Lambda Chi Omega Chapter
- Ala Moana Hotel
- African American Lawyers Association

- American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)
- Time to Talk Hawaii
- Best Buddies Hawaii
- Pride at Work Hawaii
- Ala Moana Hotel
- LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i
- County of Maui (West District) Council Member Paltin
- County of Maui (South District), King
- County of Maui Council Chair Alice Lee
- County of Maui Council Member Hokoma
- City & County of Hawaii, Councilmember, Valerie Poindexter, (D-1)
- City & County of Hawaii, Councilmember, David Maile (D-6)
- City & County of Hawaii, Councilmember, Lehualani Kierkiewicz (D-4)
- City & County of Honolulu, Councilmember, Kym Pine (D-1)
- City & County of Honolulu, Councilmember Anderson (D-3)
- City & County of Honolulu, Councilmember Tommy Waters (D-4)
- City & County of Honolulu, Councilmember Kobayashi (D-5)
- City & County of Honolulu, Councilmember Carol Fukunaga (D-6)
- City & County of Honolulu, Councilmember Manahan (D-7)
- City & County of Honolulu, Councilmember Elefante (D-8)
- Loco Boutique
- Guava Press
- Samantha Neyland, Miss Hawaii USA 2020
- Miss Hawaii USA Pageant Organization

JOIN US: SUPPORT JUNETEENTH

We encourage the State Legislature to draw from existing laws that have already been successfully implemented in 47 states across the country.

While there is a growing movement in other states to provide a paid-day off work for all state employees, we are not advocating that Hawaii do the same at this time. We are simply urging Hawaii Stated elected officials to celebrate Juneteenth with the full and proper acknowledgement our African American community deserves.

As a state that prides itself on diversity and inclusivity, it is long overdue for Hawai'i to fully live out the Aloha spirit by standing with the 47 states that have chosen to make *Juneteenth* an annual day of remembrance and celebration.

MISS HAWAII USA URGES LEGISLATURE TO MAKE JUNETEENTH A STATE HOLIDAY

Hawaii's first African American Miss USA Hawaii is launching a coalition to urge the Hawaii State Legislature to make Juneteenth a state holiday.

Hawaii is just one of four states that do not commemorate Juneteenth, also known as Freedom Day. June 19, 1865, was the day that Union soldiers rode into Galveston, Texas, declaring the end of the Civil War and that all slaves were free.

The holiday is a "celebration of African American freedom and achievement, encourages continuous self-development and respect for all cultures," the coalition says in a news release.

"As a state that prides itself on diversity and inclusivity, it is long overdue for the Hawaii Legislature to fully live out the Aloha spirit and stand with the 46 states that have chosen to make Juneteenth an annual day of remembrance and celebration." Miss USA Hawaii Samantha Neyland said in the release.

"Many of our citizens are direct descendants of enslaved African peoples. Rightfully recognizing Juneteenth will send a message of solidarity to all of Hawaii's blacks leaders, tourists, businesses and community members during this very critical moment as we seek to dismantle systematic racism.

Neyland won the 2020 Miss Hawaii USA contest in November and will compete for the Miss USA crown later this year.

The coalition is made up of elected officials, nonprofits and civil-rights activists, including the Anti-Defamation League, LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii, the Honolulu NAACP, the African American Association of Maui as well as the majority of the Maui County Council and



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Amya Watson, 11, prints "Black Power" on a poster celebrating Juneteenth during the "Black Joy as Resistance! Juneteenth Celebration" in the historic Farish Street business district in downtown Jackson, Miss., on June 19.

Honolulu City Council members.

Governor David Ige has signed proclamations in recent years to acknowledge Juneteenth, but advocates would like to see more.

"When the Hawaii State Legislature convenes, it's crucial that they send a clear and resolute message of support in solidarity with the African American community by introducing and passing legislation to make Juneteenth a permanent day of commemoration in Hawaii," said City Councilman Tommy Waters.

The coalition points out Hawaii's proud history of being on the forefront of racial and social justice going back to 1852 when the Kingdom of Hawaii wrote into law that "Slavery shall, under no circumstances whatsoever, be tolerated in the Hawaiian Islands; whenever a slave shall enter Hawaiian territory he shall be free, no person who imports a slave or slaves, into the King's dominions shall ever enjoy any civil or political rights."

On Tuesday, the Maui County Council will vote on a resolution that would make Juneteenth a local holiday.



FILE – In this Friday, June 19, 2020 photo, fireworks explode during Juneteenth celebrations above the Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood in the Brooklyn borough of New York. The Manhattan skyline is seen in the background. They light up the sky in celebration, best known in the U.S. as a way to highlight Independence Day. This year, fireworks aren't being saved for special events. They've become a nightly nuisance from Connecticut to California, angering sleep-deprived citizens and alarming local officials. (AP Photo/John Minchillo, File)

Miss Hawaii USA launches coalition to make Juneteenth a state holiday

HONOLULU (KHON2)

This past June, 46 states across the country celebrated Juneteenth, commemorating the ending of slavery in the United States. While communities across the island chain independently honor this historic day through marches and festivals, Hawaii remains just one of four states that does not designate Juneteenth as a state holiday. Miss Hawaii USA plans to change that.

Hawaii's first African-American Miss Hawaii USA, Samantha Neyland, is leading a coalition of advocates who are urging the State Legislature to recognize Juneteenth as an official state holiday.

Juneteenth, also known as "Freedom Day," commemorates the ending of slavery in the United States on June 19, 1865. Today, it is a celebration of African American freedom and achievement, while encouraging continuous self-development and respect for all cultures.

"As a state that prides itself on diversity and inclusivity, it is long overdue for the Hawaii Legislature to fully live out the Aloha spirit and stand with the 46 states that have chosen to make Juneteenth an annual day of remembrance and celebration."

- SAMANTHA NEYLAND, MISS HAWAII USA 2020

Neyland also adds that a state calendar date will serve to better educate Hawaii's diverse youth on Black history while celebrating the importance of equality.

The growing coalition is comprised of elected officials, nonprofits and civil-rights activists, including: the Anti-Defamation League, LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii, the Honolulu NAACP, the African American Association of Maui as well as the majority of Maui and Honolulu County Council members.

On Tuesday, Aug. 18, the Maui County Council will vote on a resolution that would make Juneteenth a local holiday. Neyland hopes state legislatures will follow suit.

Honolulu to officially recognize Juneteenth

6/18/20

HONOLULU (KHON2)

In a press release, Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell announced that Juneteenth will be officially recognized. The press release is as follows:

“Mayor Kirk Caldwell and the Honolulu City Council worked together today to recognize Juneteenth as an important national day of commemoration and celebration. Mayor Caldwell ordered that Honolulu Hale be illuminated in yellow and black from the evening of Friday, June 19 through Sunday, June 21 in recognition of “Juneteenth” and the Black Lives Matter movement. Earlier today, a key Honolulu City Council committee passed Resolution 20-154, proclaiming June 19 as “Juneteenth” and an annual day of honor and reflection going forward for the City and County of Honolulu.

“It is important that our City sends a clear signal that we stand in solidarity with the Black community as we all work together for social justice,” said Mayor Caldwell. “But it’s also important that we celebrate and lift up the contributions and achievements of Black people in Hawai’i from the time of the Hawaiian Kingdom to today. Recognizing Juneteenth is a way to do both and I’m proud of the way our community has come together and grown stronger in the face of injustice.”

Honolulu City Council Member Tommy Waters, Chair of the Committee on Public Safety and Welfare, helped guide a resolution to unanimous approval by the Committee earlier in the afternoon. The resolution highlighted the fact that the Kingdom of Hawai’i had declared that slavery would not be tolerated in any way a full decade before the US Civil War, and the support provided from Hawai’i for Dr. Martin Luther King during the civil rights struggle.

“I think it’s important that we recognize Juneteenth as a time to reflect on the contributions of the black community in Hawai’i, their unique experiences in our nation, and the ways we can engage with our friends, family, and the broader community to dismantle systemic racism,” said Councilmember Waters.

Juneteenth, also known as “Juneteenth Independence Day”, “Emancipation Day”, and “Freedom Day” is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States. Juneteenth signifies the date June 19, 1865 when Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston and announced the emancipation of enslaved people in Texas almost two and one-half years after United States President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation.

“The City and County recognizing not only the presence, but also the contributions of Black residents of Honolulu via the Juneteenth resolution is a significant step,” said Akiemi Glenn, the Executive Director of the Pōpolo Project. “It is also important to note that the City takes this step as the world is erupting in an unprecedented global call for justice for Black people, connecting this moment to 1852 when Hawai’i enshrined in its constitution an affirmation that Black lives matter on this ‘āina because they matter everywhere.”

Texas was the first state to officially recognize Juneteenth in 1980. Today, 49 of the 50 US states recognize Juneteenth as either a state holiday or ceremonial day of observance. The only state that does not yet recognize Juneteenth is Hawai’i, making the resolution passed by the City and County of Honolulu with approximately 70% of the state’s population an important step to finally bringing this day of recognition to the entire nation.

“Millions of Americans are dealing with the pain and agony of systemic racism and civil unrest,” said Alphonso Braggs, President of the Honolulu Hawai’i NAACP. “In Hawaii, it’s comforting to see our local government leaders recognize the importance of celebrating one of the most significant events in African-American history. This year’s celebration includes a renewed commitment to work together on police reform and community building.”

Juneteenth will be recognized on June 19 this year with a sunset ceremony at Makalei Park near Leahi to honor ancestors and those working for a future where every individual is truly free.

The Pōpolo Project is

a Hawai’i-based nonprofit organization that redefines what it means to be Black in Hawai’i and in the world through cultivating radical reconnection to ourselves, our community, our ancestors, and the land. To learn more about the Pōpolo Project, visit thepopoloproject.org.”

Danny De Gracia: It's Time For Hawaii To Officially Recognize Juneteenth

2/8/2021

Hawaii is one of only three states that don't yet officially commemorate Juneteenth, the day that marks the historic end of slavery in the United States.

When Samantha Neyland was crowned Miss Hawaii USA 2020, she saw a unique opportunity to bring people of diverse backgrounds together and do something special for Hawaii.

Neyland brought attention to the Legislature that Hawaii was one of only three states that didn't yet have an official recognition of Juneteenth – June 19 – the day that commemorates the historic end of slavery in the United States.

"I wanted to do something about it," Neyland said in a telephone interview last week.

Hawaii, which has struggled over the years to overcome its complicated history of annexation and plantations, has many ethnic and economic divisions to this day that draw parallels to the plight of African Americans who have been held back by structural or institutional violence.

As a point in case, a report recently released by the Honolulu Police Department showed that even Honolulu had a noticeable difference in the way police used force against Pacific Islanders, Native Hawaiians, and African Americans.

That these three local vulnerable populations are experiencing more stringent treatment from law enforcement in a place like Hawaii highlights the need to ameliorate race relations and change the way we perceive one another.

Recognizing Juneteenth in Hawaii would be one way to bring attention, particularly in public education, to the historical pattern of racial inequality in America, and might be a way to raise keiki who are aware of systemic issues and willing to fix them.

At the Legislature, there are currently four measures that seek to recognize Juneteenth in Hawaii. Senate Bill 16, Relating to State Holidays, introduced by Sen. Stanley Chang, would give local workers another day off to consider the importance of Juneteenth.



"Senate Bill 316, introduced by Sen. Brian Taniguchi, Senate Bill 939, by Sen. Glenn Wakai, and House Bill 1308, by House Vice Speaker John Mizuno, all recognize and commemorate Juneteenth, but do not designate it as a state holiday.

Neyland believes that giving people a symbolic day to reflect on and to study about the past would be a win for Hawaii, because all people, not just African Americans, can understand that freedom is what empowers everyone to accomplish great things.

Mizuno, who authored and introduced the House version in collaboration with Neyland, said that these types of moral "wins" are all the more important when the country is recovering from such a divisive and agonizing experience in the previous election year.

Mizuno said that domestic unrest and economic frustration are things that the Legislature needs to be sensitive to, and giving people a day that represents release from oppression and historic attention to injustice would be useful, even in Hawaii.



As we celebrate Black History Month, it's important to remember that disparities have significant impacts on an entire society," Mizuno said in a telephone interview.

"Celebrating Juneteenth is as much about Black Lives Matter as it is about bringing attention to the disparities between our vulnerable populations that make them more at-risk during the COVID-19 pandemic," he added.

Mizuno, who represents Kalihi Valley, is also acutely aware of the historical link that Filipinos and African Americans have shared. For much of America's history, both population groups were often relegated to menial positions in government and private sector occupations.

Only in the last 50 years have Filipinos and African Americans been able to start to assume more senior or meaningful positions of influence. "The civil rights movement broke the barriers and paved the way for all the other groups," Mizuno said.

I mentioned to Neyland this pattern, and how some of the country's most exceptional people have fought with all their human might for just the right to be considered human among their peers.

"It's important to remember that disparities have significant impacts on an entire society." — House Vice Speaker John Mizuno

When I think of the struggles for respect in America, I think of individuals like Benjamin O. Davis Jr., a Black officer who was appointed to West Point by the only Black member of Congress at the time, Rep. Oscar De Priest. While at the U.S. Military Academy, Davis was intentionally ignored during his four years and no one spoke a word to him at all.

In spite of this prejudice, Davis later became a WWII fighter pilot and a lieutenant general in the Air Force, and is one of many "all-stars" of African American history for his talent and determination.

What has always bothered me is that the individuals we commemorate are often people who succeeded because they were the absolute best-of-the-best. The people whom we don't hear about are the millions of other hard-working, ordinary individuals who never made it because they faced discrimination and were forced out. These people, if given a fair chance, probably would have become great in their fields.

"That's a good point," Neyland told me in response. "And I have always believed that true freedom is the freedom to fail and still be respected as a person. And that's what all this is about. Freedom to be a person; freedom to know that with all your imperfections and all your achievements, you are still always someone worthy of respect."

Now those are words of wisdom we all need to hear in 2021. Neyland's hope to make Juneteenth a recognition of these fundamental truths would be a great credit to both Hawaii and our aloha traditions, should these measures pass. Contact your representatives and senators and tell them you'd like to have a hearing scheduled for these bills. Together we can learn from the past and build a better future.



RESOLUTION

PROCLAIMING JUNE 19TH AS JUNETEENTH FOR THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU.

WHEREAS, Juneteenth, also known as "Juneteenth Independence Day," "Emancipation Day," "Emancipation Celebration," and "Freedom Day," is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth, a name derived from a portmanteau of the words "June" and "nineteenth," signifies the date June 19, 1865, when Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston and announced the emancipation of enslaved people in Texas, proclaiming General Order No. 3, almost two and one-half years after United States President Abraham Lincoln issued the *Emancipation Proclamation*; and

WHEREAS, the first Black people arrived in the Hawaiian Islands in the early 1800's as deckhands on merchant and whaling ships, and came from Cape Verde, Africa, the Caribbean and the United States. These early Black residents ended their maritime careers and settled in Hawaii, with many of them becoming successful musicians, businessmen, and respected government officials; and

WHEREAS, a decade before the United States Civil War and the *Emancipation Proclamation*, the *Kingdom of Hawaii Constitution of 1852* provided that "Slavery shall, under no circumstances whatsoever, be tolerated in the Hawaiian Islands; whenever a slave shall enter Hawaiian territory he shall be free, no person who imports a slave or slaves, into the King's dominions shall ever enjoy any civil or political rights in this realm"; and

WHEREAS, in 1897, Black citizens of the Kingdom of Hawaii joined Kanaka Maoli in their fight for liberation by signing the Ku'e Petition, protesting the annexation of the Kingdom of Hawaii by the United States; and

WHEREAS, the sustained and substantial contributions of Black people to Hawaii's community throughout its history include: Anthony D. Allen, formerly enslaved, was a steward to King Kamehameha I; Oliver and George Washington Hyatt, served as the first two leaders of the Royal Hawaiian Band under King Kamehameha III; Betsey Stockton, formerly enslaved, started the first mission school in Lahaina open to the common people; Buffalo Soldiers built the 18-mile trail to the summit of Mauna Loa; Alice A. Ball, a chemist who was the first woman to earn a master's degree from the University of Hawaii at Manoa and discovered the first treatment for leprosy (the "Ball Method"); Dr. Donnis Thompson, the University of Hawaii's first women's athletic director who started the Rainbow Wahine athletics program and successful wahine



RESOLUTION

volleyball program; and many, many more unnamed contributors to Hawaii's excellence and history; and

WHEREAS, the history of the African diaspora in Hawaii and indigenous island communities across the Pacific, have endured shared systemic oppression and adversity, and have exhibited historical solidarity with the civil rights movements in the United States, including multiple visits by Dr. Martin Luther King to Oahu in 1959 and 1964, and with Dr. King and other civil rights leaders symbolic wearing of lei gifted to them by Reverend Abraham Akaka during the historic 1965 civil rights march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth commemorates Black African-American liberation, their reconnection to family and community, and collective abundance. It is a day, a week, and in some areas, a month, marked with celebrations, guest speakers, picnics, and family gatherings. It is a time for reflection and rejoicing as well as a time for assessment, self-improvement, and planning for the future; and

WHEREAS, our Black community is the current manifestation of their ancestors, continuing to contribute to the betterment of Hawaii as leaders, innovators, entrepreneurs, educators, athletes, artists, cultural practitioners, activists, environmentalists, healthcare professionals, scientists, attorneys, and policymakers; and

WHEREAS, there has been an outpouring of aloha from the broader Oahu community to support the peaceful protests and liberation efforts of the "Black Lives Matter" movement in the face of structural and systemic racism in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth remains an important day of observance in the Black community that celebrates resilience and strength, and reminds all people that it is possible to have radical change to oppressive structures of society, affirming the freedom of all humanity; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that it proclaims the annual date of June 19th to be "Juneteenth" in the City and County of Honolulu; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Administration is urged to join the Council in recognition of Juneteenth; and



RESOLUTION

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Administration and the people of the City and County of Honolulu are urged to join in celebrating Juneteenth as a day to honor and reflect on the significant role that the Black community has played in the history of the United States and in Hawaii, and how this community has enriched society through its steadfast commitment to promoting unity and equality; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Mayor and the Managing Director.

INTRODUCED BY:

Tommy Waters

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

June 12, 2020
Honolulu, Hawaii

Councilmembers

CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII
CERTIFICATE

RESOLUTION 20-154, FD1

Introduced: 06/12/20 By: TOMMY WATERS

Committee: PUBLIC SAFETY AND WELFARE

Title: RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING JUNE 19TH AS JUNETEENTH FOR THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU.

Voting Legend: * = Aye w/Reservations

06/18/20	PUBLIC SAFETY AND WELFARE	CR-164 – RESOLUTION REPORTED OUT OF COMMITTEE FOR ADOPTION. 4 AYES: FUKUNAGA, MENOR, TSUNEYOSHI, WATERS. 1 EXCUSED: MANAHAN.
07/08/20	COUNCIL	AMENDED TO FD1 (OCS2020-0654/6/30/2020 12:42 PM). 9 AYES: ANDERSON, ELEFANTE, FUKUNAGA, KOBAYASHI, MANAHAN, MENOR, PINE, TSUNEYOSHI, WATERS. CR-164 AND RESOLUTION 20-154, FD1 WERE ADOPTED. 9 AYES: ANDERSON, ELEFANTE, FUKUNAGA, KOBAYASHI, MANAHAN, MENOR, PINE, TSUNEYOSHI, WATERS.

I hereby certify that the above is a true record of action by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu on this RESOLUTION.



GLEN I. TAKAHASHI, CITY CLERK



IKAIKA ANDERSON, CHAIR AND PRESIDING OFFICER

Resolution

No. 20-115

RECOGNIZING JUNE 19TH AS JUNETEENTH IN MAUI COUNTY

WHEREAS, Juneteenth, also known as “Juneteenth Independence Day,” “Emancipation Day,” “Emancipation Celebration,” and “Freedom Day,” is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth, a name derived from a combination of the words “June” and “nineteenth,” signifies the date June 19, 1865, when Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas, and announced the emancipation of enslaved people in the state, proclaiming General Order No. 3 more than two years after United States President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation; and

WHEREAS, many of the first Black people to arrive in the Hawaiian Islands came from Cape Verde, Africa, the Caribbean, and the United States in the early 1800s as deckhands on merchant and whaling ships and, after ending their maritime careers, many became leaders here in business, government, and other endeavors; and

WHEREAS, a decade before the United States Civil War and the Emancipation Proclamation, Article 12 of the Kingdom of Hawai‘i Constitution of 1852 stated:

Slavery shall, under no circumstances whatever, be tolerated in the Hawaiian Islands: whenever a slave shall enter Hawaiian territory he shall be free; no person who imports a slave, or slaves, into the King's dominions shall ever enjoy any civil or political rights in this realm; but involuntary servitude for the punishment of crime is allowable according to law; and

WHEREAS, in 1897, Black citizens of the Kingdom of Hawai‘i joined Kanaka Maoli in their fight for liberation by signing the Kū‘ē Petition, protesting the annexation of the Kingdom of Hawai‘i by the United States; and

Resolution No. 20-115

WHEREAS, among the many Black people who have made sustained and substantial contributions to Hawai'i's community throughout its history include:

- Anthony D. Allen, steward to King Kamehameha I;
- Oliver and George Washington Hyatt, the first two leaders of the Royal Hawaiian Band under King Kamehameha III;
- Betsey Stockton, founder of the first mission school in Lahaina open to all;
- Alice A. Ball, a chemist who was the first woman to earn a master's degree from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and discovered the first treatment for leprosy, known as the "Ball Method"; and
- Dr. Donnis Thompson, the University of Hawai'i's first women's athletic director, who started the Rainbow Wahine sports program, including the nationally successful volleyball team, and also the State school superintendent; and

WHEREAS, a contingent of the celebrated Buffalo Soldiers built the 18-mile trail to the summit of Mauna Loa;

WHEREAS, the African diaspora and indigenous island communities across the Pacific have exhibited historical solidarity with each other and liberation movements in the United States, as seen by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., future Congressman John Lewis, and other civil rights leaders wearing lei gifted to them by Reverend Abraham Akaka of Hawai'i during the historic 1965 march for voting rights from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama; and

WHEREAS, on March 19, 1965, the Maui County Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution 65-31, introduced by Supervisor Goro Hokama, to denounce the violence used by governmental authorities in Alabama against civil rights demonstrators and urge Hawaii's congressional delegation to support the swift passage of voting rights legislation; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth commemorates African-American liberation, their reconnection to family and community, and community abundance and is a time for reflection, rejoicing, assessment, self-improvement, and planning for the future, and has been consistently

Resolution No. 20-115

celebrated in Maui County for more than 20 years under the leadership of the African Americans on Maui Association; and

WHEREAS, there has been an outpouring of aloha from Maui County residents to support the peaceful protests and liberation efforts of the “Black Lives Matter” movement in the face of structural and systemic racism in the United States; and

WHEREAS, “Juneteenth” remains an important day of observance in the Black community that celebrates resilience and strength, and reminds all people that it is possible to have radical change to oppressive structures of society, affirming freedom of all humanity; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the County of Maui:

1. That it recognizes June 19 as “Juneteenth” in Maui County; and
2. That certified copies be transmitted to Samantha Neyland, Miss Hawai‘i USA 2020; Gwyn Gorg, President, the African Americans on Maui Association; Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto, Superintendent, Hawai‘i State Department of Education; the Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi, Senate President, State of Hawai‘i; the Honorable Scott K. Saiki, Speaker of the House, State of Hawai‘i; the Honorable David Y. Ige, Governor, State of Hawai‘i; and the Honorable Michael P. Victorino, Mayor, County of Maui.

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI

WAILUKU, HAWAII 96793

CERTIFICATION OF ADOPTION

It is HEREBY CERTIFIED that RESOLUTION NO. 20-115 was adopted by the Council of the County of Maui, State of Hawaii, on the 18th day of August 2020, by the following vote:

MEMBERS	Alice L. LEE Chair	Keani N. W. RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ Vice-Chair	G. Riki HOKAMA	Natalie A. KAMA	Kelly T. KING	Michael J. MOLINA	Tamara A. N. PALTIN	Shane M. SINENCI	Yuki Lei K. SUGIMURA
ROLL CALL	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye



Kathryn L. Kushner

COUNTY CLERK

SB-939

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 9:09:21 AM

Testimony for CAI on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Samantha Neyland	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Recognizing June 19th will have zero fiscal impact to the state. It is time we honor the Aloha Spirit and honor Hawaii's history of being on the forefront of speaking out against racial injustice.

Recognizing Juneteenth is about ending racial disparity amongst all minority communities.

Aloha,
Samantha Neyland
Miss Hawaii USA 2020

SB-939

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 11:52:47 PM

Testimony for CAI on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christopher Edwards	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha chair and members:

I support SB939. As a member of the African American community, I encourage your support. Few single days in American history are more pivotal to democracy than June 19, 1865, celebrated as Juneteenth or Black Independence Day. It changed the world. It is a time of celebration, reflection, and gathering for all people who believe communities should be free from perpetual imprisonment at the hands of others.

Members of the African American community and the Hawaiian Kingdom fought and died for the union to free people. We celebrate them also on Juneteenth.

Celebrating freedom from oppression at the hands of private interests and disobedient state actors is a democratic lesson for all to know and appreciate. It is on par with other victories against tyrannies in our nation's history. Let us celebrate the arc of history's bend towards the light by commemorating Juneteenth. Please support SB939.

All the best,

Christopher Edwards
Honolulu, HI 96822