

Hawaii*Holding Power Accountable*Statement Before The
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Wednesday, March 10, 2021

9:45 AM

Via Video Conference

in consideration of

SCR 49**ACKNOWLEDGING THE FORTHCOMING CENTENNIAL OF THE 1921 TULSA RACE MASSACRE.**

Chairs RHOADS, Vice Chair KEOHOKALOLE, and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee

Common Cause Hawaii provides written comments in support of SCR 49, which acknowledges the forthcoming centennial of the Tulsa Race Massacre.

Common Cause Hawaii is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, grassroots organization dedicated to upholding the core values of American democracy. We work to create open, honest, and accountable government that serves the public interest and promotes equal rights, opportunity, and representation for all.

The Tulsa Race Riot of 1921 saw the destruction of Black Wall Street, an area in Tulsa, Oklahoma in the neighborhood of Greenwood, where nearly 10,000 Black residents lived and built a thriving business community. Black Wall Street was destroyed over an unsubstantiated claim made by a white woman that a Black man had assaulted her. In a span of 18 hours, between 100 and 300 people were killed and more than 8,000 were made homeless. "The event remains one of the worst incidents of racial violence in U.S. history, and one of the least-known." See https://www.history.com/topics/roaring-twenties/tulsa-race-massacre#section_7.

We, as a nation and a people cannot grow, unless we understand our history and learn from our past. We must acknowledge and reckon with both the good and bad of our nation's history.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in support of SCR 49. If you have questions of me, please contact me at sma@commoncause.org.

Very respectfully yours,

Sandy Ma
Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii

SCR-49

Submitted on: 3/8/2021 9:19:45 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/10/2021 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dawn Morais Webster Ph.D.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We cannot move forward unless we acknowledge the wrongs of the past. I am appalled that I was not really aware of the Tulsa massacre and the magnitude of the crime until quite recently. Resolutions like this one are a necessary corrective to how we view the nation's history. Just focusing on assertions of American "exceptionalism" while ignoring major crimes against people of color that have largely been glossed over will not bring about the change of heart and mind that is so desperately needed. That need is evidenced by the receptivity to white grievance and conspiracy theories that paint white Americans as the victims while ignoring the violations of the rights and the violence perpetrated against African Americans and people of color. Please pass this resolution. Thank you.

SCR-49

Submitted on: 3/8/2021 9:41:47 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/10/2021 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

The Tulsa Race Riot of 1921 saw the destruction of Black Wall Street, an area in Tulsa, Oklahoma in the neighborhood of Greenwood, where nearly 10,000 Black residents lived and built a thriving business community. Black Wall Street was destroyed over an unsubstantiated claim made by a white woman that a Black man had assaulted her. In a span of 18 hours, between 100 and 300 people were killed and more than 8,000 were made homeless. "The event remains one of the worst incidents of racial violence in U.S. history, and one of the least-known."

We, as a nation and a people cannot grow, unless we understand our history and learn from our past. We must acknowledge and reckon with both the good and bad of our nation's history.

Thanks for the opportunity for me to offer support for this Concurrent Resolution SCR49!

SCR-49

Submitted on: 3/8/2021 1:05:52 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/10/2021 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support scr49 for the simple reason that we need to dedicate this centennial date to an amazing group of Tulsans who were thriving before the slaughter of hundreds and exodus of thousands who were building a thriving black community and economy.

Mahalo for your attention.

SCR-49

Submitted on: 3/8/2021 2:02:52 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/10/2021 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and Committee on Judiciary,

Please support SCR49.

The Tulsa Race Riot of 1921 saw the destruction of Black Wall Street, an area in Tulsa, Oklahoma in the neighborhood of Greenwood, where nearly 10,000 Black residents lived and built a thriving business community. Black Wall Street was destroyed over an unsubstantiated claim made by a white woman that a Black man had assaulted her. In a span of 18 hours, between 100 and 300 people were killed and more than 8,000 were made homeless. "The event remains one of the worst incidents of racial violence in U.S. history, and one of the least-known." See https://www.history.com/topics/roaring-twenties/tulsa-race-massacre#section_7.

We, as a nation and a people cannot grow, unless we understand our history and learn from our past. We must acknowledge and reckon with both the good and bad of our nation's history.

There are other stories of racial violence that are not clearly shared in history classes and text books. What's ultimately missing from these history lessons are the long term negative impacts to these groups and what can be realistically done to address these injustices. Even before slavery was established as a trade in the US, the Indigenous people were disenfranchised from their native lands and forced to retreat. All of these stories form the fabric of the United States and has the potential to positively shape the American experience for all citizens, immigrants and visitors.

Mahalo,

Caroline Kunitake

SCR-49

Submitted on: 3/8/2021 5:48:48 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/10/2021 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

As a teacher in Hawaii, I support SCR49 because our children need to know about the Tulsa Race Massacre to become citizens who will help end the systemic racism still in our country. We need to prevent repeating our nation's mistakes. Knowledge of these mistakes is the best prevention.

LATE

SCR-49

Submitted on: 3/9/2021 3:45:48 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/10/2021 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Concur with Common Cause Hawaii comments. The past should not be forgotten. Loving America requires understanding our failings as well as our successes. Pass SCR49.