

HAWAI‘I CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

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

February 17, 2021

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

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

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

Re: H.B. No. 1308

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.

H.B. No. 1308 would add a new measure designating 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 H.B. No. 1308.



CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
530 SOUTH KING STREET, ROOM 202
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-3065
TELEPHONE: (808) 768-5010 • FAX: (808) 768-5011

BRANDON ELEFANTE

Councilmember District 8
'Aiea, Pearl City, Waipahū
Chair, Committee on Zoning and Planning
Telephone: (808) 768-5008
Email: belefante@honolulu.gov

February 16, 2021

The Honorable Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair
The Honorable Matthew S. LoPresti, Vice Chair
And Members of the Committee on Culture, Arts, & International Affairs
415 South Beretania Street, Conference Room 329 Via Videoconference
Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: HB 1308 Relating to Juneteenth Day
Hearing: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

This testimony is in support of HB 1308, which would establish June 19 of each year as Juneteenth Day in the State of Hawai'i. Juneteenth, also known as "Juneteenth Independence Day," "Black Independence Day," "Emancipation Day," "Emancipation Celebration," and "Freedom Day," is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States. Juneteenth is a day to honor and reflect on the significant roles and contributions that African Americans have played in the history of the United States and in Hawai'i, celebrating resilience and strength and promoting unity, equality, and respect for all cultures.

On July 8, 2020, the Honolulu City Council unanimously adopted Resolution 20-154, FD1, proclaiming the annual date of June 19 to be "Juneteenth" in the City and County of Honolulu.

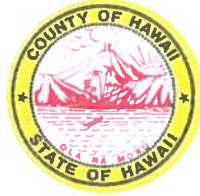
Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to submit testimony. For the foregoing reasons, I respectfully request your passage of HB 1308 and urge the State of Hawai'i to join 47 other states, along with the City and County of Honolulu, in recognizing and celebrating Juneteenth in our Aloha State.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brandon Elefante".

Brandon Elefante
Councilmember, District 8

Maile Medeiros David
Council Chair
Council District 6
(Portion N. S. Kona/Ka'ū/Volcano)



Phone: (808) 323-4277
Fax: (808) 329-4786
Email: maile.david@hawaiicounty.gov

HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

County of Hawai'i
West Hawai'i Civic Center, Bldg. A
74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy.
Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740

February 16, 2021

Honorable Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair
Honorable Matthew S. LoPresti, Vice Chair
Committee on Culture, Arts & International Affairs
Hawai'i State Capitol, Conference Room 329
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: H.B. No. 1308 – Relating to Juneteenth Day

Honorable Chair Gates and Vice Chair LoPresti:

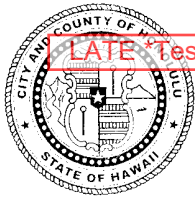
Aloha and mahalo a nui loa for this opportunity to support H.B. No. 1308. My name is Maile David, Councilmember representing Council District 6 (rural districts of South Kona, Ka'ū, and Volcano Village). I express my strong support of Juneteenth, also known as Emancipation Day, Freedom Day, and Black Independence Day, which commemorates the end of slavery in the United States.

Juneteenth is a day not only to acknowledge freedom, but also embraces respect for all cultures.

Mahalo a nui loa for your favorable consideration.

Very truly yours,

Maile David, Council Member
Council District 6, S. Kona, Ka'ū, and Volcano Village



TOMMY WATERS

HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL, DISTRICT 4
PHONE: 768-5004 FAX: 768-1171
EMAIL: tommy.waters@honolulu.gov

February 16, 2021

House Committee on Culture, Arts and International Affairs
Representative Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair
Representative Matthew S. LoPresti
Members of the Committee

RE: Testimony in Support of HB 1308 – Relating to Juneteenth Day

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair LoPresti, and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support for HB 1308, Relating to Juneteenth Day. Last year I had the honor of introducing Resolution 20-154, FD1, which proclaimed June 19th as Juneteenth Day in the City and County of Honolulu. The measure was approved unanimously by the Honolulu City Council.

Juneteenth is an important date because it represents June 19, 1865, the date when Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston and announced the emancipation of enslaved people in Texas through General Order No. 3, almost two and one-half years after United States President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation.

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.

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."

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. The sustained and substantial contributions of Black people to Hawaii's community throughout its history include:

- Anthony D. Allen, formerly enslaved, who was a steward to King Kamehameha I.

- Oliver and George Washington Hyatt, both 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.
- The Buffalo Soldiers, who 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.

There are also many, many more unnamed contributors to Hawaii's excellence and history.

The history of the African American 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.

Observing Juneteenth Day is about embracing cultural diversity and respect, thus it is fitting to elevate June 19th as a remembrance and celebration for the entire state. For these reasons, I wholeheartedly support HB 1308.

Mahalo,



Councilmember Tommy Waters
 District 4 (*Hawaii Kai, Kuliouou, Niu Valley, Aina Haina, Wailupe, Waialae-Iki, Kalani Valley, Kahala, Wilhemina Rise, Kaimuki, portions of Kapahulu, Diamond Head, Black Point, Waikiki, and Ala Moana Beach Park*)

Attachment: Resolution 20-154, FD1



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

HB-1308

Submitted on: 2/12/2021 12:33:38 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/17/2021 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 House Bill 1308.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration,

Michael Golojuch, Jr.

Chair

LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i

Statement Before The
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
Wednesday, February 17, 2021
10:00 AM
Via Videoconference, Conference Room 329
in consideration of
HB 1308
RELATING TO JUNETEENTH DAY.

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

Common Cause Hawaii supports HB 1308, 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.

HB 1308 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 that this nation is still striving to achieve.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 1308. If you have further questions of me, please contact me at sma@commoncause.org.

Very respectfully yours,

Sandy Ma
Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii

Hawai'i Arts Alliance

February 14, 2021



*Affiliated with the
Wolf Trap Institute for Early
Childhood Arts Integration*

*State Captain –
Americans for the Arts*

*Member of State Arts
Advocacy Network*

Rep. Gates, Chair
House Committee on Culture, Art, and International Affairs

Re: SUPPORT of HB1308/SB939 RELATING TO JUNETEENTH DAY

Dear Chair Gates and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB777. The Hawaii Arts Alliance supports HB1308/SB939 for several reasons. Juneteenth (June 19, 1865) marks the day of Emancipation from slavery in the continental USA.

Black sailors were in Hawaii at the turn of the 19th century. There were four who were musicians and founded the Royal Hawaiian Band for Kamehameha III. Anthony Allen, a Black sailor from New York established several businesses in Hawai'i. In the 1830s, established the African Relief Society to assist the community of Black sailors in Honolulu.

At the turn of the 20th century, the sugar plantations attempted to import Black workers from the South to work on Maui plantations. The conditions that they were put in were abhorant. The workers organized work stoppages and supported unions on plantations. Many of the workers intermarried in Hawaii and their descendents still live in Hawai'i.

In 1910, Alice Ball was the first woman to earn a Masters degree from Hawai'i College and she became the first chemistry instructor. She was an African American researcher who developed the first successful treatment for Hansen's disease (leprosy) that benefitted residents in Kalaupapa. Ball was posthumously honored along with Marie Curie by the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine in 2019.

Nolle Smith was the first Black engineer in Hawai'i (1919) and he was elected to the Territorial Legislator for Makiki in 1932. He held numerous government position until he immigrated to the Virgin Islands in 1946.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Had a Hawai'i connection. He wore a lei in the Selma March presented by Reverend Abraham Akaka, U.S. Senator Daniel Akaka's older brother. The Hawai'i contingent at the March on Selma (March 21, 1965) carried a banner that read, "Hawai'i knows integration works." Dr. King had visited Hawai'i in 1959 and in 1964 when he spoke at the Hawaii State Human Rights Commission.

With so many historical examples of contributions to Hawai'i from the Black community, it is only right that Juneteenth be recognized as a Day of Emancipation for Hawaii too.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony,

Teri Skillman
Executive Director

P.O. Box 3948
Honolulu, Hawai'i
96812-3948
Phone: (808) 533-2787
Fax: (808) 526-9040
arts@hawaiiartsalliance.org
www.hawaiiartsalliance.org

HB-1308

Submitted on: 2/15/2021 12:34:04 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/17/2021 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 HB 1308.

HB-1308

Submitted on: 2/15/2021 12:36:56 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Monico Castillo	BKKM Enterprises Corp	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB 1308.

Lets get this Bill passed!!!

HB-1308

Submitted on: 2/15/2021 7:43:57 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Katheryn	YPDA - Young progressives demanding action	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha chair, vice-chair, and members of the committee.

My name is Katheryn Frederick and I am in strong support of this bill because Juneteenth is not just a day to celebrate the abolishment of slavery, it is a day to acknowledge the history of the black community, as well as the dream we see looking forward. It is a day to measure progress against freedom and to teach rising generations the importance of self-improvement.

Though there is not a large black community here, I do think it is imperative we show that no matter what color your skin is, it's possible to educate yourself.

During June of last year, I was moved to ask organizations when they would publicize their stance on the Black Lives Matter Movement. Time was passing, nothing was being said...so I pushed for an answer. Observation showed me that it wasn't hard to say "We Stand With Black Lives" and I decided that in my eyes there was no excuse for the weeks of silence that had passed.

There is a time and place to take the time to form the right words but the best thing we can do as racial injustice comes to the forefront of conversation is to do just that...have a conversation. Ask the questions, take action.

When we look to the future we MUST see absolute equality.

We MUST see the progress of our fight for liberation and we MUST take the steps that will move us forward. If we cannot address a day in which celebrates all of this, then how can we expect to make our dream a reality?

I am in support of marking Juneteenth as an official holiday, not only for my generation but for the ones following behind me.

Thank you for your time.

February 17, 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 proposing and passing legislation that will finally recognize this monumental day as an official state holiday.

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.

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)



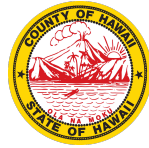
Council Chair, Alice Lee,
County of Maui



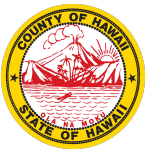
Councilmember King,
County of Maui (South
District)



Councilmember
Hokama, County of
Maui



Councilmember
Poindexter (D-1),
County of Hawaii



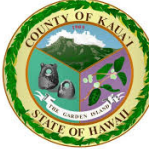
Councilmember
Lehualani Kierkiewicz
(D-4), County of Hawaii



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 American
Lawyers Association
of Hawaii (AALA)



Alpha Kappa Alpha - Lambda
Chi Omega Chapter



Local Businesses



ALA MOANA HOTEL
by mantra-
Ala Moana Hotel



Loco Boutique



Miss Hawaii USA Pageant
Organization



Political Support



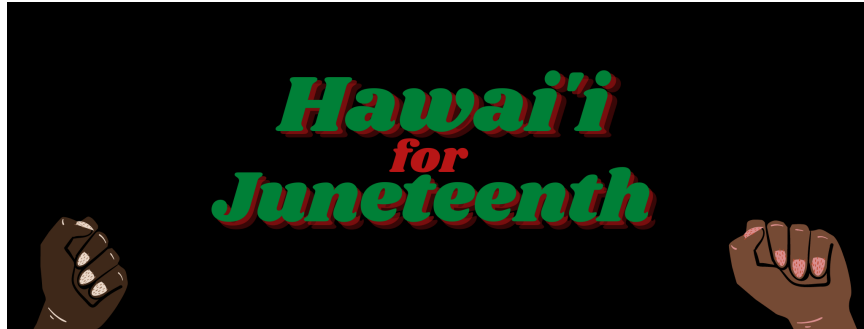
Democratic Party of
Hawaii



Democratic Party of Hawaii
Hawaii County Committee

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

HB-1308

Submitted on: 2/16/2021 12:45:03 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kat Brady	Community Alliance on Prisons	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Asuega, Vice Chair LoPresti and Members of the Committee,

Community Alliance on Prisons is in support of this bill that would establish June 19th every year as JUNETEENTH DAY!

June 19, 1865 is when Union troops reached the western part of Texas to end slavery.

Sadly, slavery has not ended as the carceral system in the US has become the new slave trade. Hawai`i is part of this as the state sells its incarcerated people to the lowest corporate bidder so they can profit from misery.

Let's celebrate JUNETEENTH and work to end slavery.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

Kat Brady for Community Alliance on Prisons

HB-1308

Submitted on: 2/12/2021 1:34:53 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Katheryn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We must acknowledge Juneteenth as an official holiday in the state of Hawaii. Not only to take ourselves off that list of states who have not, but to support the Black community with aloha! This is a day to be celebrated, let's do that by passing HB108.

Testimony of Dr. Daniel P. de Gracia, Th.D., D.Min.
in support of the measure
H.B. No. 1308, Relating to Juneteenth day
being heard before the House Committee on Culture, Arts, &
International Affairs
Wednesday, Feb. 17, 2021
10:00 a.m., Conference Room 329

Chair Gates, Vice Chair LoPresti, Honorable Members of the Committee:

As a Texan who has lived in the State of Hawaii for almost two decades now, it brings me surpassing joy to see the Legislature hearing a bill which commemorates the most important historical occasion of Juneteenth.

As you may be aware, when Maj. Gen. Gordon Granger of the Union Army landed in Galveston, Texas on June 19, 1865, he issued General Order No. 3, which stated "The people of Texas are informed that in accordance with a Proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free." In doing so, Gen. Granger enforced the military and political defeat of the Confederate States and brought liberty to slaves that had not yet known of the Emancipation Proclamation.

Over time, this day has come to be memorialized nationwide as a symbol of not just the end of slavery in the U.S., but also as a rallying occasion for the righting of wrongs and establishment of social justice for the descendants of former slaves. It is an affirmation that America, in her history, is great not because we have always been right, but rather, because we refuse to stay wrong. Juneteenth is a day for everyone, not just African Americans, because as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. so eloquently reminded us, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly."

What we must understand, even in 2021, is that there is much that we can learn, particularly in the public education system, about the injustices of the past and the opportunities of the future to create a better, freer, more united America. Juneteenth in Hawaii would provide the

opportunity for locals to learn about the history of slavery, the Civil War, and the continuing struggle that persons of color experienced even centuries after. It would also encourage our keiki to treat one another with mutual respect, compassion, and love for humanity in a way that would help to build a future where nothing holds back a United States of America.

As a Filipino, I myself know all too well how along with African Americans, for centuries we have been looked down upon in some circles as being unworthy of respect, relegated to roles where our people are kept in economic dependencia to a system that works structural violence against minorities. While celebrating Juneteenth in Hawaii would be a small step forward in changing the system, it would still be a great stride toward recognizing that this country can and does change for good when people acknowledge the wrongs of the past.

I urge the members of this committee to pass this measure without delay, without amendment, and to enthusiastically support this measure on the Floor for passage.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support.

HB-1308

Submitted on: 2/12/2021 8:13:24 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mike Golojuch, Sr.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

It is definitely time to recognized Juneteenth Day. Please pass HB1308.

HB-1308

Submitted on: 2/13/2021 11:59:03 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
briana kawata	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Establish Juneteenth as an official holiday in Hawaii.

HB-1308

Submitted on: 2/13/2021 9:32:52 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/17/2021 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,

I am writing in support of HB 1308.

Hawai'i has the opportunity to acknowledge the American history of slavery in the US. Ignorance could be lifted when more people understanding how slavery ended in the US.

HB 1308 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 that this nation is still striving to achieve.

Thank you for scheduling this bill for a hearing. I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this bill.

Mahalo,

Caroline Kunitake

HB-1308

Submitted on: 2/14/2021 5:05:06 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Diversity should always be supported in the Rainbow State. Creation of "Juneteenth Day" is an easy and inexpensive means to promote Diversity. Concur wirth Common Cause Haiwii comments in support of this bill.

HB-1308

Submitted on: 2/14/2021 1:26:50 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hello,

My name is Nanea Lo and I'm writing in full support of HB1308. We should establish Juneteenth as an official holiday in Hawai'i. Justice should be celebrated here.

Please support HB1308.

me ke aloha 'Ā• ina,

Nanea Lo.

HB-1308

Submitted on: 2/15/2021 6:40:35 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

As a public school teacher, I strongly support educating our students about Juneteenth as part of an accurate history of our country.

HB 1308 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 that this nation is still striving to achieve.

HB-1308

Submitted on: 2/15/2021 8:50:53 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am in support of hb1308 to commemorate June 19th as Juneteenth Day for the compelling reason that our great country finally abolished slavery and set us on the correct path to freedom, justice for ALL.

Mahalo for your attention.

HB-1308

Submitted on: 2/15/2021 12:00:00 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Zara Nicholson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha e Chair, Vice-Chair, Members of the Committee,

My name is Zara Nicholson and I am testifying in support of House Bill 1308.

I believe this bill will create a great positive impact in our community. Hawaii holds a unique diversity of residents and thus should be on the forefront of progress and inclusivity. However, Hawaii is currently one of the four states that has not yet recognized Juneteenth as an official holiday. This is unacceptable. Recognizing Juneteenth as a holiday is an important way to support our black community members. Please push and approve this Bill HB1308.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity,

Zara Nicholson, CPA

HB-1308

Submitted on: 2/16/2021 9:22:45 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Samantha Neyland, Miss Hawaii USA 2020, will be speaking on behalf of herself and the Hawaii for Juneteenth Coalition