

# HAWAI‘I CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

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

February 2, 2022  
Videoconference , 10:30 a.m.  
Room 329

To: The Honorable Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair  
The Honorable Adrian K. Tam, 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. 1449

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. 1449 would make Juneteenth day a state holiday. By Act 110, L 2021, Hawai‘i designated June 19 of each year 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. However, Act 110 did not establish Juneteenth as a state holiday.

Juneteenth is a federal holiday, marking the day that the news of emancipation reached the last state, Texas, in 1866, over two years after the Emancipation Proclamation was issued. Juneteenth is a historical day for both African Americans and the country as a whole. Celebrating and commemorating Juneteenth as a state holiday will highlight the history of struggle against slavery and racism in the nation, and the continuing challenges we face in striving for racial justice and equality.

The HCRC urges the legislature to make Juneteenth a state holiday **The HCRC supports H.B. No. 1449.**

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI  
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE**  
P.O. BOX 150  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND  
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE  
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND  
MANAGEMENT DIVISION  
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION  
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

**WRITTEN ONLY**  
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI  
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE  
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS  
ON  
HOUSE BILL NO. 1449

**February 2, 2022**  
**10:30 a.m.**  
**Room 329 and Videoconference**

RELATING TO JUNETEENTH DAY

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

House Bill No. 1449 amends: Section 8-1, HRS, to establish the 19th day in June as a State holiday known as "Juneteenth Day"; and Section 8-32, HRS, to eliminate current language that prevents Juneteenth Day from being considered a State holiday.

B&F notes that this bill would add an additional State holiday to the 13 (14 in even-numbered election years) State holidays currently recognized in the HRS and, thus, cause the State to lose an additional day of State labor and operations each year. Furthermore, B&F would like to highlight that both the Department of Human Resources Development and Hawai'i Government Employees Association have testified on similar bills in the past, noting State holidays are a matter that needs to be negotiated and included in the collective bargaining master contract.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



RYKER WADA  
CHIEF NEGOTIATOR

**STATE OF HAWAII  
OFFICE OF COLLECTIVE BARGAINING  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**  
235 S. BERETANIA STREET, SUITE 1201  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-2437

TESTIMONY TO THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

For Hearing on Wednesday, February 2, 2022  
10:30 AM, Conference Room 329 Via Video Conference

By

RYKER WADA  
CHIEF NEGOTIATOR

**House Bill No. 1449  
Relating to Juneteenth Day**

**(WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY)**

CHAIRPERSON GATES, VICE-CHAIR TAM, AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE  
COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS:

The purpose of House Bill 1449 is to make Juneteenth Day a state holiday.

The Office of Collective Bargaining (OCB) offers the following comments  
concerning this measure:

- While the legislature is the governing body to both establish and remove official state holidays, the potential impact that it has on public employees is through collective bargaining as holidays are a matter subject to collective bargaining pursuant to HRS §89-9.

- This was evident when, as early as in the mid-1970s, the exclusive representative and the Employer mutually agreed to remove references of HRS, Section 8-1, from the Holiday provisions of the collective bargaining agreement. The removal showed a mutual understanding of intent in allowing holidays, as it relates to the impact on public employees, to be negotiated, not legislated.
- As such, should this measure pass prompting the exclusive representatives to initiate negotiations for inclusion of Juneteenth Day as yet another observed holiday for public employees, the Employer would have serious concerns on the operational impact and on the financial impact to the State.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure.

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

Wednesday, February 2, 2022

10:30 AM

Videoconference and Conference Room 329

**HB 1449**  
**RELATING TO JUNETEENTH DAY.**

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

Common Cause Hawaii supports HB 1449, which makes Juneteenth Day a state holiday.

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 1449 will make Juneteenth Day a state holiday, recognizing 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.

A federal law was passed in 2021 establishing Juneteenth Day as a federal holiday and also in 2021 Hawaii passed Act 053, SLH 2021, establishing June 19 of each year as Juneteenth in recognition of the history and legacy of slavery in the United States and in honor of the significant roles and contributions of African Americans in the history of the United States.

HB 1449 will align state and federal law to recognize Juneteenth Day as an official holiday.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 1449. If you have questions of me, please contact me at [sma@commoncause.org](mailto:sma@commoncause.org).

Very respectfully yours,

Sandy Ma  
Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii

**HB-1449**

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 2:11:04 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/2/2022 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Laurie Field	Planned Parenthood Alliance Advocates	Support	No

Comments:

Planned Parenthood Alliance Advocates supports HB 1449.

Center for Hawaiian Sovereignty Studies  
46-255 Kahuhipa St. Suite 1205  
Kane'ohe, HI 96744  
(808) 247-7942  
Kenneth R. Conklin, Ph.D. Executive Director  
e-mail [Ken\\_Conklin@yahoo.com](mailto:Ken_Conklin@yahoo.com)  
Unity, Equality, Aloha for all



To: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

For hearing Wednesday, February 2, 2022

Re: HB 1449 RELATING TO JUNETEENTH DAY.

Makes Juneteenth Day a state holiday.

And

Re: HB 2475 RELATING TO STATE HOLIDAYS.

Removes election days as designated state holidays. Establishes July 31 as La Hoihoi Ea.

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION Regarding both HB1449 and HB2475

Together these two bills propose to take away one state holiday (election day) while creating two new ones (Juneteenth, and Ka La Ho'iho'i Ea). Presumably these holidays would give time off with pay to all state and county government employees. But the bureaucracy is already slow and inefficient, while governments do not normally have the budget surplus we apparently have this year.

It's generally a bad idea to turn ethnic holidays into official government holidays. Columbus Day [ethnic Italian] was converted to non-ethnic Presidents Day many years ago, but is now threatened to be converted to Indigenous Peoples Day [ethnic]

We already have the holiday for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.; comes now the proposed Juneteenth holiday. Choose one, not both. It can be argued that Dr. King's achievements in working for racial desegregation and harmony make him a hero for all Americans regardless of race, so his holiday is not merely an ethnic one. Juneteenth, however, emerged into prominence during the last couple of years because recognizing it officially was regarded on the mainland as a way to calm the racial violence ignited by the highly publicized murders of several Black men. Most people in Hawaii never heard of Juneteenth; and even today, after some publicity about it, very few can tell what was the historic event which it commemorates.

Hawaii already has two ethnic Hawaiian holidays, and HB2475 proposes to create a third. If Presidents Day gets converted to ethnic Indigenous Peoples Day, that would be ethnic Hawaiian #4. Choose one and abandon the others. Between Kamehameha and Kuhio, it's clear that Kamehameha was the GOAT (Greatest [native Hawaiian] Of All Time). Kuhio had very few accomplishments except for successfully pushing the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1920, which is what makes him a hero to OHA and DHHL. People also forget that Kuhio abandoned his homeland during the period leading up to annexation, in order to fight on behalf of one colonial power (Britain) against another colonial power (the Boers: Dutch, German and French Huguenot settlers) to determine which one would dominate the indigenous people of South Africa; and he also tried to have Lili'uokalani declared mentally incompetent so he could steal her Waikiki house which she had willed to her Childrens Trust.

HB2475 Correctly describes the history of the Kingdom of Hawaii holiday Ka La Ho'iho'i Ea. Very few people today know why it was a Kingdom holiday. The people who want to make it a state holiday believe that there is no State of Hawaii. They believe the overthrow of the monarchy was illegal, Annexation was illegal, and the Statehood Act was illegal. They believe Hawaii is under a belligerent military invasion and occupation by the USA, and are working at the United Nations to solicit help from America's enemies to pass resolutions to undo the removal of Hawaii from the U.N. list of non-self-governing territories and to demand the withdrawal of USA from Hawaii. They love the concept of "Sovereignty Restoration Day" which is the meaning of the holiday's name and the goal they seek to achieve. Any legislators who favor secession should favor establishing this holiday and resign from the legislature of the "Fake State."



Please hold or vote down both HB1449 and HB2475. Or you could amend HB2475 to delete everything regarding Ka La Ho'ihō'i Ea and retain only the portion that abolishes the election day holiday. After all, now that we are doing voting by mail, or by drive-by dropoff, the politicians no longer need a holiday so that government employees can bang on doors and wave signs and give rides to the polls on election day while being paid with tax dollars.

Hawai'i State Association of Counties (HSAC)  
Counties of Kaua'i, Maui, Hawai'i, and City & County of Honolulu  
Website: [hawaiicounties.org](http://hawaiicounties.org) | Email: [hsac@hawaiicounties.org](mailto:hsac@hawaiicounties.org)



Testimony of the  
**Hawai'i State Association of Counties**  
on  
**H.B. No. 1449**  
**Relating to Juneteenth Day**



Committee on Culture, Arts, & International Affairs

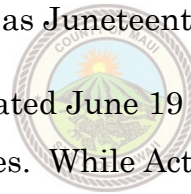
Wednesday, February 2, 2022, 10:30 a.m.

Conference Room 329



The Hawai'i State Association of Counties (HSAC) strongly supports H.B. 1449, which establishes the nineteenth day in June as Juneteenth Day.

Act 53, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2021, designated June 19 as Juneteenth to commemorate the end of slavery in the United States. While Act 53 recognized the significance of Juneteenth in recognizing the historical contributions and achievements of African Americans it did not, however, establish it as a state holiday. H.B. 1449 designates as a state holiday the nineteenth day in June as Juneteenth Day.



For these reasons the Hawai'i State Association of Counties strongly supports H.B. 1449, and requests your favorable consideration of this measure.

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**  
650 SOUTH KING STREET, 10<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR - HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
TELEPHONE: (808) 768-8500 • FAX: (808) 768-5563 • INTERNET: www.honolulu.gov/hr

RICK BLANGIARDI  
MAYOR



FLORENCIO C. BAGUIO, JR.  
ACTING DIRECTOR

LISSA M. LAU  
ACTING ASSISTANT  
DIRECTOR

February 2, 2022

The Honorable Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair  
and Members of the House Committee on Culture, Arts, &  
International Affairs  
House of Representatives, Room 329  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Gates and Members of the Committee:

Subject: Testimony on H.B. 1449 Relating to Juneteenth Day

The Department of Human Resources, City and County of Honolulu understands and appreciates the historical significance of Juneteenth Day which signifies the abolishment of slavery in the United States. Since the matter will require negotiations with the various public unions through the collective bargaining process, our concern is the estimated additional cost of \$1.7 million to the City and County of Honolulu alone should this become an established State paid holiday.

We thank you for giving us the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "F. Baguio Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

Florencio C. Baguio Jr.  
Acting Director



**HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION**

AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

RANDY PERREIRA, Executive Director • Tel: 808.543.0011 • Fax: 808.528.0922

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

Testimony by  
Hawaii Government Employees Association

February 2, 2022

H.B. 1449 – RELATING TO JUNETEENTH DAY

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO supports the intent of H.B. 1449 which establishes June 19 of each year as a state holiday, in recognition of the history and legacy of slavery in the United States. The Legislature is empowered to designate state holidays and we reserve our right to bargain the recognition of all holidays.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of H.B. 1449.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira  
Executive Director

**Hawaii**  
*Holding Power Accountable*

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

Wednesday, February 2, 2022

10:30 AM

Videoconference and Conference Room 329

**HB 1449**  
**RELATING TO JUNETEENTH DAY.**

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

Common Cause Hawaii supports HB 1449, which makes Juneteenth Day a state holiday.

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 1449 will make Juneteenth Day a state holiday, recognizing 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.

A federal law was passed in 2021 establishing Juneteenth Day as a federal holiday and also in 2021 Hawaii passed Act 053, SLH 2021, establishing June 19 of each year as Juneteenth in recognition of the history and legacy of slavery in the United States and in honor of the significant roles and contributions of African Americans in the history of the United States.

HB 1449 will align state and federal law to recognize Juneteenth Day as an official holiday.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 1449. If you have questions of me, please contact me at [sma@commoncause.org](mailto:sma@commoncause.org).

Very respectfully yours,

Sandy Ma  
Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii