



JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

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

LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR

SABRINA NASIR
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
Ka 'Oihana Mālama Mo'ohelu a Kālā
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

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

WRITTEN ONLY

TESTIMONY BY LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 1555

January 31, 2024
10:00 a.m.
Room 309 and Videoconference

RELATING TO STATE HOLIDAYS

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

House Bill No. 1555 amends Section 8-1, HRS, to establish Lunar New Year, the day of the second new moon after the winter solstice, as 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. This additional holiday would cause the State to lose a day of State labor and productivity valued at approximately \$16,900,000 in payroll expenses, including social security, Medicare, and pension accumulation.

Furthermore, B&F would like to highlight that the Department of Human Resources Development and the Hawai'i Government Employees Association have testified on similar bills in the past, noting State holidays are a matter than needs to be negotiated and included in the collective bargaining master contract.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

JOSH GREEN, M. D.
GOVERNOR



WILBERT S. HOLCK
CHIEF NEGOTIATOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR

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

Statement of
WILBERT S. HOLCK
Chief Negotiator, Office of Collective Bargaining

Before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
Wednesday, January 31, 2024
10:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

In consideration of
HB 1555, Relating to State Holidays

(WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY)

Chair Tam, Vice-Chair Martinez and the members of the committee:

The Office of Collective Bargaining (OCB) appreciates the intent of HB 1555, which designates the second new moon after the winter solstice of every year as the Lunar New Year and establishes the Lunar New Year as a state holiday. However, OCB offers the following comments on this measure:

1. While the Legislature is the governing body to both establish and remove official state holidays, the potential impact on public employees is a negotiable matter, subject to collective bargaining pursuant to Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS), §89-9.
2. This was evident when, as early as the mid-1970s, the exclusive representatives and the employers mutually agreed to remove references to HRS, §8-1 from the holiday provisions of the respective collective bargaining agreements. This action reflected the parties' agreement that holidays are a negotiable matter and cannot be solely legislated.
3. Also, the establishment of Lunar New Year, as an official state holiday would have no effect on public workers unless it is negotiated and mutually agreed to.
4. Should this measure pass prompting the exclusive representatives to initiate negotiations for inclusion of Lunar New Year as another observed holiday for public employees, the employer would have serious concerns regarding the operational and financial impact to the State.

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

**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA HO'OMOHALA LIMAHANA
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

650 SOUTH KING STREET, 10TH FLOOR • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
PHONE: (808) 768-8500 • FAX: (808) 768-5563 • WEBSITE: honolulu.gov/hr

RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR
MEIA



NOLA N. MIYASAKI
DIRECTOR
PO'O

FLORENCIO C. BAGUIO, JR.
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
KOKUA PO'O

January 30, 2024

The Honorable Adrian K. Tam, Chair
The Honorable Rose Martinez, Vice Chair
and Members of the Committee on Culture, Arts, and International Affairs
The House of Representatives, Room 309
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Tam, Vice Chair Martinez, and Members of the Committee:

SUBJECT: House Bill No. 1555 Relating to State Holidays

The Department of Human Resources, City and County of Honolulu, understands and appreciates the cultural significance and importance of recognizing the Lunar New Year. Since the matter will require negotiations with the various public unions through the collective bargaining process, our concern is the added cost to the Public Employer should this become an established State paid holiday. We note that the cost to the City and County of Honolulu alone would be close to \$2 million annually.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nola N. Miyasaki".

Nola N. Miyasaki
Director



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

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

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

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association

January 31, 2024

H.B. 1555 — RELATING TO STATE HOLIDAYS

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO supports the purpose and intent of H.B.1555, which designates the day of the second new moon after the winter solstice of every year as the Lunar New Year and establishes the Lunar New Year as a state holiday.

We appreciate the legislatures intent of establishing a new state holiday – by establishing a new state holiday it can help with the recruitment and retention of state and county employees by providing an additional day off. **Please note: We respectfully request this committee to not repeal/replace any existing state holiday in lieu of Lunar New Year.** 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 provide testimony in support of H.B. 1555.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira
Executive Director



UNITED PUBLIC WORKERS

AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2024**

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Chair
Rep. Rose Martinez, Vice Chair

Wednesday, January 31, 2024, 10:00 AM
Conference Room 309 & Videoconference

Re: Testimony on HB1555 – RELATING TO STATE HOLIDAYS

Chair Tam, Vice Chair Martinez, and Members of the Committee:

The United Public Workers, AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO (“UPW”) is the exclusive bargaining representative for approximately 14,000 public employees, which includes blue collar, non-supervisory employees in Bargaining Unit 1 and institutional, health, and correctional employees in Bargaining Unit 10, in the State of Hawaii and various counties.

UPW **supports** HB1555, which designates the day of the second new moon after the winter solstice of every year as the Lunar New Year. This measure also establishes the Lunar New Year as a state holiday.

For many of UPW’s members, the celebration of the Lunar New Year has been a culturally significant occasion, for many generations, irrespective of their ethnic background. We agree that by recognizing the Lunar New Year as a state holiday, the State has the opportunity to honor its rich cultural history and recognize the rare occasion when people of diverse backgrounds have historically come together to celebrate peace and prosperity.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in support of this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kalani Werner", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Kalani Werner
State Director

HEADQUARTERS

1426 North School Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817-1914
Phone 808.847.2631

HAWAII

362 East Lanikaula Street
Hilo, Hawaii 96720-4336
Phone 808.961.3424

KAUAI

2970 Kele Street, Suite 213
Lihue, Hawaii 96766-1803
Phone 808.245.2412

MAUI

841 Kolu Street
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793-1436
Phone 808.244.0815

1.866.454.4166

Toll Free - *Molokai/Lanai only*

HB-1555

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 5:58:17 AM

Testimony for CAI on 1/31/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Angela Melody Young	CARES	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

CARES testifies in strong support.

1288 Kapiolani Blvd, Apt 1905
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814
January 31, 2024

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Chair
Rep. Rose Martinez, Vice Chair

Rep. Andrew Takuya Garrett Rep. Jackson D. Sayama
Rep. Jeanne Kapela Rep. David Alcos III
Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi

Aloha, Rep Tam, Chair
Rep Martinez, Vice Chair
and members of the Committee on Culture, Arts & International Affairs

Subject: HB 1555 and HB1780 – Testimony in Opposition

There are two bills being heard at the legislature that I am aware of that proposes new state holidays. They are:

HB 1555 RELATING TO STATE HOLIDAYS.

Designates the day of the second new moon after the winter solstice of every year as the Lunar New Year. Establishes the Lunar New Year as a state holiday.

HB1780 RELATING TO WORLD PEACE DAY.

Designates World Peace Day as a state holiday in place of Good Friday.

While I support the intention of the events, I do not support them as holidays since, if any state holiday is approved, it should begin with the elevation of La Ku‘oko‘a as a state holiday. Originally bills (HB 1119, SB1451, SB3096) were introduced in 2019, for this event to be a state holiday. It took four years to result in a simple recognition of the event, rather than a holiday. I would also note that the majority of testifiers voted in support, and those who opposed did so on the basis of retaining Good Friday as a holiday.

SB731, now Act 011, 4/19/23, Designated November 28 of each year as La Kuokoa, Hawaiian Independence Day, to celebrate the historical recognition of the independence of the Kingdom of Hawai‘i. Yet, this was a national holiday under the Provisional Government of Hawaii, the Republic of Hawaii, and the initial years of the Territory of Hawaii. La Kuokoa was included in the codified list of national holidays enacted by the Republic of Hawaii in 1896.

The legislature further found that during the reign of Kamehameha III, Great Britain and France recognized the independence of the Kingdom of Hawaii by joint proclamation on November 28, 1843. The United States followed on July 6, 1844. These leading world powers recognized Hawaii as an independent nation state due to the diplomatic work of Timoteo Haalilio, the first diplomat of the Kingdom of Hawaii, and his associate William Richards, who were sent as envoys of Kamehameha III to secure formal diplomatic relations with these countries.

In 1847, Kamehameha III required his Minister of Foreign Affairs, Robert Crichton Wyllie, to propose a suitable way to recognize and celebrate the anniversary of Hawaii's welcome into the family of nations. On October 15, 1847, Wyllie delivered his report, by Privy Council, to the King and ministers. That year marked the first official celebration of Hawaiian Independence Day, La Kuokoa.

Throughout the 1850s and 1870s, Hawaii celebrated La Kuokoa with luau, music, and marches. The celebration grew under the reign of King Kalakaua, with formal proclamations sent by official circular to the foreign diplomatic corps in Hawaii and the Kingdom of Hawaii consuls abroad, informing them of the holiday.

As with La Ku‘oko‘a, amend the bills to recognize these events, but not as a holiday.

The legislature may wish to do a resolution calling for the establishment of a committee to review the issue of state holiday, to affirm those that exist or recommend change; and to determine which events should be considered to replace or to add a state holiday, with preference to the indigenous people of Hawai'i and our history.

Mahalo for your consideration of my testimony.

Leimomi Khan