

JOSH GREEN, M. D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR



WILBERT S. HOLCK
CHIEF NEGOTIATOR

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 1780, Relating to World Peace Day

(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 1780, which designates the twenty-first day in September as World Peace Day and establishes World Peace Day as a state holiday in substitution of the existing Good Friday 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 World Peace Day, as an official state holiday and the repealing of Good Friday would have no effect on public workers unless it is negotiated and mutually agreed to.

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**

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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, Hawai'i 96813

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

SUBJECT: House Bill No. 1780 Relating to World Peace Day

The Department of Human Resources, City and County of Honolulu understands and appreciates the international significance and importance of recognizing world peace. Our concern is if this day becomes a paid State holiday, which would replace Good Friday, the matter will require negotiations with the various public unions through the collective bargaining process.

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

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/28/2024 10:33:11 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacob Wiencek	Hawaii Young Republicans	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Representatives,

On behalf of Hawaii Young Republicans, we support this legislation. While many in Hawaii remain part of the Christian faith, not all of our people are Christian. Therefore, state holidays should be as neutral as possible in terms of faith. This legislation should not be seen as an insult to Christians or rebuke of their deeply held convictions.

World Peace Day is a worthy replacement. In a time of growing global instability, it is useful even in a symbolic fashion to promote peace. We urge the committee to support this bill!



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 HB1780 – RELATING TO WORLD PEACE DAY

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 provides comments on HB1780, which designates World Peace Day as a state holiday in place of Good Friday. Good Friday has been a recognized holiday since before statehood. Whether it is celebrated for religious or secular reasons, many of our members utilize this holiday to prepare for family gatherings on Easter Sunday.

Additionally, Good Friday is the only State holiday that can occur in the month of April. By replacing Good Friday with World Peace Day and shifting the legal holiday to September, this leaves a period of approximately 30 days, between Prince Jonah Kuhio Kalanianaʻole Day and Memorial Day, without a holiday for public employees.

Should this committee choose to recognize World Peace Day as a State holiday dedicated to observing 24 hours of non-violence and cease-fire, we would prefer that it be added to the schedule of designated holidays rather than replacing Good Friday.

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide comments on 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

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Toll Free - Molokai/Lanai only

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 1:21:32 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anne Hung	MARY STAR OF THE SEA CHURCH	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please preserve this holy and solemn day for the Hawaii Catholic community.



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. 1780 — RELATING TO WORLD PEACE DAY

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO strongly opposes the purpose and intent of H.B.1780, which designates World Peace Day as a state holiday in place of Good Friday.

Although we appreciate and understand the intent of this measure given the heightened tensions both domestically and around the world, we must object due to the repeal of Good Friday. Besides October, our members appreciate the ability to have a holiday each month – **they will not appreciate the repeal of Good Friday because there will be no holiday during the month of April (for most years)**. If this committee would like to include 'World Peace Day' as a state holiday, then we would request that you do not repeal another state holiday in its place. 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 opposition of H.B. 1780.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira
Executive Director

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 11:08:07 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laura Kahiapo	Pono Records	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I humbly ask that you not erase Good Friday. I realize this seems like a whole new world, but is it a good thing? In some ways, yes, and in many ways, no. I see our young people suffering with no moral compass as this world tries to erase the greatest person that ever walked this earth, whose birth affected our calendar: BC and AD. I am all for world peace, but let's not replace such a sacred, meaningful holiday as Good Friday. I want the generations to follow to know and remember true history. The day we start forgetting such holidays, is the day I think multitudes will regret. We much remember that our country was founded on Biblical principals, which are obiously eroding. Please, help us never forget our nation's strong foundations lest we crumble. Mahalo for listening!

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 10:38:12 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Teresa Fredericks	Pro-life leader for St Jude Catholic Church.	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Good Friday is good. Why? Jesus died for you and for me. Please do not change this holy day. Christians unite at the foot of HIS cross! God bless you. HE is our peace.

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/26/2024 4:46:45 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elizabeth Kent	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on t his bill. I enthusiastically support this idea!

Elizabeth Kent

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/26/2024 7:27:04 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alan Urasaki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the redesignation of this holiday and urge your committee to find that this change will benefit all citizens for our state. Thank you for your consideration on this matter. Aloha.

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/27/2024 9:33:31 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrew Crossland	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I **oppose** this Bill.

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 12:00:08 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kelly morgan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. This is a united nation's holiday and shouldn't replace Good Friday.

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 12:09:01 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alexander Meimer	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is absolutely ludicrous, Good Friday is already a holiday celebrated around the world for hundreds of years. Obviously people are not very good when it comes to keeping peace by themselves, and a symbolic holliday like the proposed UN peace Day will do nothing. Without the Price of Peace, there is no real peace.

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 12:16:52 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kamakani de dely	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. Good Friday stays

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 12:18:22 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mallory De Dely	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. Good Friday stays

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 12:19:56 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sharron VanDeusen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY APPOSE THIS BILL.

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 12:28:09 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaiulani Bowers	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this Bill. This Nation was founded under one God and Good Friday reminds us of the love of our God. I will not worship one world government.

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 12:35:09 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kori Oros	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tam and Committee Members,

I support the conversion of Good Friday (A christian holiday and I, nor anyone in my family are christian) to World Peace Day. As someone who has never experienced War, I pray I never will.

"More than an end to war, we want an end to the beginnings of all wars."

Prepared for April 13, 1945, Franklin Roosevelt

Mahalo,

Kori Ann Harvey Oros

O'ahu Resident

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 12:37:18 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
noela von	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

As a Devout Catholic, I strongly Oppose this Bill!

It is a giant slap in the face to all religious freedoms guaranteed by our Constitution. I'm not understanding why you folks want to erase a very important traditional holiday that has been around for generations. The United Nations want everyone everywhere to think like them and facilitate the erasure of long-standing History. I would suggest that you establish September 21 as World Peace Day and leave the State of Hawaii Good Friday holiday alone! Hawaii has many diverse cultures which we all honor and celebrate, this Bill will be the beginning of removing all customs and cultures We the people celebrate. Thank you very much.

Noela von Wiegandt

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 12:42:38 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
KELVIN AWAYA	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello,

This is my submission to oppose HB1780. There is no need for it to be changed, leave it as it currently stands.

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 12:42:50 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sierra Palpallatoc	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments: I OPPOSE THIS BILL

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 12:43:21 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elethia	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 12:51:32 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
TERI SAVAIINAEA	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB 1780.

Thank you,

Teri Savaiinaea

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 1:04:02 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James R Cabodol Jr	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Christian we the people should not be infringed on by our government who wants too nullify "GOOD FRIDAY" for world peace day, if you want too, use another day LIKE Halloween where the DEVIL is worshipped, I take notice that Hawaii being a democratic state that our government is trying a lot to get rid of GOD in our nation wen we should be HONORING HIM AND THE MOST HIGH FOR THE SACRAFICE THAT HE MADE may GOD BLESS YOU ALL WHO WANT TO CHANGE THIS!!!

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 1:36:30 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jadine L Brown	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this because I believe this idea is absurd and not worth tax payers' time and money.

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 1:45:24 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lora Santiago	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this abomination of a Bill!

We The People will stand with Good Friday as our choice of holiday! We The People will not conform to worshipping the one world order. We The People will focus on removing all local corrupt government leaders that fail to work and represent The People.

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 1:45:54 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Corinne Solomon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tam and CIA Committee Members,

I oppose HB1780.

According to Pew Research, 63% of Hawaii residents are Christian.
Abolishing Good Friday is an affront to the majority of the people in this state.

Please do not pass this bill.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Respectfully,

Corinne Solomon HD20

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 1:48:42 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susie patey	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this. Nobody wants to celebrate United Nations day.

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 1:52:55 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cindy R Ajimine	One Impact Hawaii	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a **CONSTITUENT** of Representative **TAM** and strongly **OPPOSE** this bill. Erasing the origins/names of long standing holidays/traditions erases history and the meaning behind why we are here. Please use your limited time/energy on things important to your constituents like housing, homelessness, and crime.

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 2:00:15 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Adriel Lam	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The celebration and commemoration of Good Friday is a sacred tradition of Hawaii. No other person on earth has demonstrated and advanced peace in the world than the life and teachings of Jesus Christ.

The arbitrary designation of World Peace Day by the United Nations is meaningless and without value. It does nothing to stop violence or advance peace in the world and is an ineffective gesture that has no customs and practices for the State of Hawaii.

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 2:05:48 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marlies Lee	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill!

Every day is World Peace Day.

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 2:20:44 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wendy Nguyen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill! With all the things that need to be addressed, you are wasting your time and our tax dollars on changing a holiday?!

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 2:49:27 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ryan Willis	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose.

This is the least of legislative worries for the betterment of Hawai'i and its people.

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 3:15:45 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laura Cushnie	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

NO, NO, NO. Do Not Remove Good Friday as a State Holiday and do NOT replace it with a One World Government UN or WPD day. NO, keep Good Friday, no changes.

Mahalo

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 3:28:30 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Healy	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments: I oppose this bill.

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 3:52:36 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kanoë Willis	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly OPPOSE.

This is the lease of legislative worries.

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 4:14:06 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paula Russo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

As a Hawaii Resident, I oppose HB1780 to remove the Good Friday and replace it with the United Nations Holiday "World Peace Day" which was made to worship One World Government. Also Good Friday is a Christian holiday, so meaning you are removing a day to celebrate the life of Jesus Christ. Again, I oppose this bill as we don't need the government to dictate whar holidays we should have and celebrate.

Mahalo,

Paula Russo

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 4:15:22 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Arielle Adenew	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am strongly opposed to HB1780. I have no problem or concern with adding World Peace Day as a state holiday. My opposition comes from the removal of Good Friday as a state holiday. I feel the legislation, as it is currently written, distinctly and unnecessarily targets Christians. There is explanation in the text for adding World Peace Day, but there is no reason or explanation behind the removal of Good Friday. As this is proposed legislature is currently written, I do not believe it is to the benefit of the state of Hawaii or the people who call this home.

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 4:24:00 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marcelle Liana	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 4:34:42 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jolene Machado	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE THIS BILL

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 5:46:50 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mi Yung Park	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Erasing the origins/names of long-standing holidays/ erases history and the meaning behind the holiday. Please use your limited time/energy on things important to your constituents, like housing, homelessness, and crime. This is an ridiculous use of our tax dollars to make this change.

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 5:47:27 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Terri Yoshinaga	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. What is its purpose!

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 5:57:05 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jordan Yasutomi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

World Peace is every day. We do not need a special day to remember it. Instead, let's practice peace with our daily speech and actions. I urge our representatives to not get rid of Good Friday. Good Friday is only one day of the year and should be recognized as special and sacred.

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 6:52:32 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deven English	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Why would you substitute a widely known Christian holiday with a day no one in their right mind cares about? Hawaii is getting worse everyday because you so called leaders are about divide and control. I am a Christian man and I strongly oppose this bill.

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 7:11:53 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
JOHN L PANG	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a constituent in Rep.Tam's district. Changing the origins/names of long standing holidays/traditions erases history and the meaning behind the holiday. Please use your limited time/energy on things important to your constituents like housing, homelessness, and crime.

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 7:18:32 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Catherine Collado	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in opposition of HB1780 as it relates to changing Good Friday to World Peace Day. Please keep Good Friday as the title of the holiday as it is longstanding. Why are we taking precious time to deal with creating another issue? Leave well enough alone and direct your time and attention to more concerning issues this state need to deal with.

Please oppose HB1780. Thank you.

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 7:19:18 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alice Abellanida	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill! I can't even believe that this is being proposed. I do not support the New World Order! Auwe!

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 7:23:22 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
tania victorine	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This violates my right to celebrate my religious beliefs.
We are not part of the United Nations. We are our own Hawaiian nation.

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 7:28:31 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Scott Kidd	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a non-christian, I fully support this bill. This is a more inclusive and humanist approach to recognizing being thoughtful, empathetic and kind to each other rather than a holiday solely related to a single religious ideal. This movement to a World Peace Day would be way more encompassing of Hawai'i and its residence.

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 7:50:50 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melissa Lam	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose replacing the Good Friday holiday with World Peace Day because not only America was founded on Christian values, but Hawaii, as well.

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 7:54:58 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Loree Jean Searcy	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am opposed to you doing away with Good Friday in lew of Peace Day! Good Friday has been our holiday for decades and you just can't do away with it like that!

I am opposed!

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 8:09:45 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anna-Marie Musico	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Erasing the origins/names of long standing holidays/traditions erases history and the meaning behind the holiday. Please use your limited time/energy on things important to your constituents like housing, homelessness, and crime.

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 8:13:46 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rita Wong	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I absolutely oppose HB1780! So wrong to suggest removing Good Friday & replace it!!

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 8:20:23 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nathaniel F Gallego	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Erasing the origins/names of long standing holidays/traditions erases history and the meaning behind the holiday. Please use your limited time/energy on things important to your constituents like housing, homelessness, and crime.

Hawaii State

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 8:26:11 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rochelle Tamme	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

- Erasing the origins/names of long standing holidays/traditions erases history and the meaning behind the holiday. Please use your limited time/energy on things important to your constituents like housing, homelessness, and crime.
- God bless America!

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 8:29:12 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anne Kamau	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. Mahalo.

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 9:03:28 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Catherine Thyne	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this Bill, explain to the people why this is important work to get rid of Good Friday. Do we really need to work on these types of Bills?

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 9:13:52 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jamie Irvine	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Madame and Sir,

I adamantly oppose HB 1780 for several reasons! First of all there is a huge attack on ANYTHING CHRISTIAN!

From taking God out of the White House to the Courthouse to local government, public schools etc! And in turn making laws so vile against the belief systems of the Christ follower! From making a whole month to celebrate LGBTQ to allowing minor children to change their gender and if a parent disagrees that parent is criminalized!

This government has already changed Christmas to Winter holiday and other similar things that would take too much time. Instead of cherishing our CHRISTIAN ROOTS people who get offended target everything our Nation was founded on.

People have free will to believe whatever they choose to but so do WE! If you don't like something then turn your direction somewhere else.

GOOD FRIDAY AND (RESURRECTION) EASTER ARE VERY SACRED HOLY DAYS TO COUNTLESS AMERICANS! Why do we have to succumb to what others are demanding! For example: Why are transgender men allowed to participate in a biological women's events? They should make their own category and go through the blood, sweat, tears and expenses that come with this? All because disheartened "men" couldn't win against other biological men! That's a form of woman abuse.

NOW RELIGIOUS ABUSE! There's no such thing a a World Peace Day! How's that working for the war in Israel that a TERRORIST GROUP started and will not stop until everyone worldwide submits to their belief system!

No one forces someone to be a Christian, that's a personal choice. Just like celebrating other calendars religious days.

Before we completely forget our Nation's history, please DON'T CHANGE GOOD FRIDAY! Thank you. God bless you.

Sincerely,

Jamie Irvine

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 9:29:38 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gina Small	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Hawaii voter, I have read this bill and oppose this bill. Stop wasting time and energy on things that are not broken. Try and do something that atually helps people and makes a difference instead of just upsetting people for no good reason. Everyone is free to observe World peace day if they wish. What would people actually do to observe this day that they would need the day off?

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 10:04:43 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Kirby	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Comittee Team,

I vote against this bill. I vote to Keep Good Friday as a holiday. I don't think we should honor the United Nation's World Peace Day. Good Friday has been a holiday for a very long time. Why do we need to change it? I vote against this change. Anybody who is a Christian should vote against this bill. Thank you!

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 10:18:53 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elle Zhang	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose replacing "Good Friday" with United Nations Holiday "World Peace Day".

Good Friday has been and should be the state holiday. I don't know what the UN has done for the U.S. or has anything to do with our citizens' daily lives.

Let's keep Good Friday forever!

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 10:37:36 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ryan Sharpe	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1780. We should keep Good Friday as the state holiday.

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 12:37:29 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janell Beattie	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly urge you to OPPOSE HB 1780. Good Friday is a very special holy day when we remember Jesus Christ died on the cross for all that we may be saved by His sacrifice for us.

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 12:55:46 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Scott Shedko	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord"

Psalm 33:12

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 1:01:17 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sheila Medeiros	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a constiuent from District 43, Rep Kanani Souza is my district rep. I vehemently oppose changing Good Friday to World Peace Day. It is a sad day to witness another attempt at removing another significant holiday that honors Jesus's life, death and resurrection for sinners. Sadly, these legislators have forgotten that the United States was founded on Christian principles. Again, I oppose this bill and urge the legislature to leave this holiday as Good Friday. I am truly disappointed in Rep Kanani Souza for signing on and being the only Republican to support this nonsense and disrespect and dishonor of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

vr

Sheila Medeiros

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 1:51:38 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patty Takahashi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Renaming or to covering up true history and allowing US history to be abolished? US citizens as well as other countries deserve to know about Good Friday. Traditional values recognize our true heritage. United States of America deserves to keep its foundations to which it stands and fought for.

Right now bills need to be passed so we have resources, clean water, decrease inflated prices, national security to live safe, bills for permanent housing with care for those who are homeless with diagnosed psychological problems and therefore can't make daily decisions to live without living on the streets.

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 5:19:55 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
julie schaus	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose hb1780

what evil is there within the government that they will remove a religious holiday and make a "world order" holiday. Shame on you all.

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 5:22:48 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Greg schaus	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB 1780

we are a nation based on religious freedom.

do not remove Good Friday.

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 5:31:30 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cherie Tsukamoto	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am vehemently opposed to this Bill. Good Friday is an important holiday which **specifically** commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. It is NOT a generic holiday - it is entirely specific to a historical event - an event that has very deep meaning to millions of people around the globe.

If you think a "world peace day" is necessary, by all means, designate another day, but do not attempt to change history or water down one of the most significant events of all time!

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 5:37:30 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sam schaus	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB 1780

this is pure evil

STOP

we do not worship global governments

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 5:42:50 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ashley Thomas	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose. This is an attempt to remove any observance of Jesus and persecute those of faith.

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 6:03:35 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anastasia Yamauchi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill and as part of WE THE PEOPLE keep Good Friday as is and will not support any person that forgets that you work for WE THE PEOPLE!!!!

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 6:08:21 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Monohon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose eliminating Good Friday and replacing it with One World holiday. What allegiance or interest do we as a state have in the UN? Tge world celebrates Good Friday - do not rlkmainate this important holiday for many residents.

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 6:09:40 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bert Hatton	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am oppsed to the passage of HB1780.

The only true peace is the peace that passes all understanding through Jesus Christ who gave his life for all. That event is comemorated on Good Friday. I realize not everyone believes in this but it seems appropriate to acknowledge the concept of sacrifice for the good of many. I also submit that tradition is important.

Thank you for your consideration

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 6:14:26 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chris Prendergast	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

January 21 is the universal acknowledgment of World Peace Day and the State of Hawai'i should be in sync with this.

Good Friday commemorates a specific historical event which is also universally acknowledged and should not be arbitrarily removed from the calendar because of anti religious sentiment.

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 6:34:17 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Arthur Tsukamoto	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Our statewide Ohana want Good Friday to stay Good Friday not World Peace Day. Give us a break , spend your time & money on the homeless, economy,, fire victims, etc ...

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 7:36:43 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sharon Gerald	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha! I, and our family, are opposed to the proposed HOLIDAY NAME CHANGE!

Good Friday is a Christian observance that is important to the Christian faith.

Unlike Christmas and Easter that have already been overrun with secular traditions and commercialism....Let us keep this as it is! N

Please do not take this name away from the people of Hawaii.

We are all for World Peace BUT on another day it can be observed. Bringing this issue before the legislature shows that this could have been the issue....a new day for World Peace not taking away the significance of Good Friday!

MAHALO! AND GOD BLESS YOUR EFFORTS !

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 7:47:24 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melanie Ajolo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha and mahalo for considering my testimony.

Do NOT pass HB1780.

World Peace is already observed around the world annually on September 21, as the International Day of Peace, which was established in 1981. So to have another day to recognize it would be redundant and not in line nor be unified with the UN General Assembly International Day of Peace. The fact that this has been brought up, is wasted time, effort, and money. As a long time Voter, this is disheartening and upsetting. It tells us, the Voters and the People of the State of Hawaii, whom you serve, that your focus is misdirected off of more pressing issues such as education, safety of the People, etc., and is squandered on a topic that is, again, already recognized by the World.

In addition, HB1780 would be eliminating an already established religious holiday. If HB1780 is passed it tells us, the Voters and the People of the State of Hawaii, whom you serve, that you're moving towards taking away religious freedoms, traditions, celebrations, and that you're reducing the importance of honoring religion, when in fact, our nation has been founded on such religious beliefs. We are, after all, "one nation, under God."

Reflect and properly represent us, the Voters and the People of the State of Hawaii, by NOT passing HB1780.

Again, do NOT vote in favor of HB1780.

Vote AGAINST HB1780.

Mahalo for your time.

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 8:02:21 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vernelle Oku	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

I Oppose This Bill.

Please do not replace Good Friday as a holiday for the UN Sanctioned "World Peace" Day.

I do not support any UN Sanctioned Holidays for Hawaii or the United States.

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 8:15:52 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ralph Sherman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Democrats are nothing more than minions to their global masters. This bill will further divide the Hawaiian people, not unite them. Everything you touch makes life harder for everyone.

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 8:21:31 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Phyllis Young	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please, please do not allow a name change to Good Friday in our state of Aloha. Good Friday commemorates the crucifixion and death of Jesus Christ, the Lord of all who believe in Him. There can be no other name for this day. Christians call this day "good" Friday because it is the day that commemorates the passion, death and resurrection of our Lord who by his death paid the price for mankind to redeem all souls from sin and death. Where is the aloha in changing the name of the most sacred day in all of history in the whole world?

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 8:38:00 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charlene Mersburgh	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1780. I do not support removing the Good Friday holiday.

Best regards,

Charlene Mersburgh

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 8:41:35 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anne Horner	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1780. Good Friday is the most important Remembrance Day Holiday the United States has as designated by our founding fathers. It should not be removed. A Peace Day holiday already exists (International Peace day). World peace should be inclusive in this already established Holiday. Our Country needs the remembrance of Good Friday, "One Nation Under God".

Please vote No!!! Let us stand up for our Great Country, One Nation under God.

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 8:42:17 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Margaret U. Lim	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is unconstitutional and goes against the intent of the founding forefathers of our country, whose basic constitution states that we are "one nation, under God..." Many other religions now have their own holidays, and we'd just like to keep ours as this is not just a holiday, but a "holy" day as well.

This is yet another attempt at taking away our religious freedom as Christians.

If you must, make another day a holiday for World Peace, but certainly not one at the expense of our already established religious holiday. Thank you.

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 8:49:03 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
jonathan lim	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am against this bill. There's already an existing World peace day 9/21 and there's no need to replace Good Friday with this. As a Christian nation, we should not be taking away our Christian values and rights.

Pls pass bills for homelessness and drug problems instead.

Thanks,

Jonathan

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 8:50:54 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ryan Lim	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Good Friday is the best message of peace that anyone could receive. On it, we remember the day Jesus Christ made a way for all people to be reconciled with God and have peace with God, through his cruxification. All people should have died for their sins against God, but God chose to forgive everyone of their sins if they look to the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus, who took on every person's penalty, and repent / leave behind their sinful ways.

I oppose this bill. Please do not remove Good Friday as a state holiday. Good Friday is a holiday celebrated all around the world. It is also a part of Hawaii's cultural legacy. Many people in Hawaii celebrate their own traditions on Good Friday. Taking away that holiday would take away the opportunity for many families to celebrate their traditions which have been passed on for generations.

If the legislature would like to celebrate world peace, it should just hold a parade on the day of International Day of Peace, or add it as an additional holiday.

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 8:56:09 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patti Yasuhara	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

September 21 - is already a designated "International Day of Peace"

No need for 2 designated holidays. Thank you, Patti Yasuhara

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 9:05:12 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Yvonne Alvarado	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Yvonne L Alvarado Oppose Bill HB1780

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 9:05:20 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amy Vandall	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am opposed to changing Good Friday into World Peace day.

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 9:12:08 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
J Pualani Vendiola	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose the abomination of this bill.

We the people will stand with Good Friday as our choice of holiday. We will not conform to worshipping the one world order. We the People will focus on removing all local corrupt government leaders who do not support and represent We The People!!!!

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 9:14:22 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christian E Beattie	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am adamantly against this bill. It is creating an offense to a very large part of the population. Please choose another day for world peace.

" Ua Mau Ke Ea O Ka Aina I Ka Pono "

" For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. Jn 3:16

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 9:19:58 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patricia Harlor	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Resounding NO on HB1780. I believe thus Bill is unconstitutional. It goes against intent of the founding forefathers of our country, whose basic constitution states that we are "one nation, under God"! Many other religions now have their own holidays, and we'd just like to keep ours as this is not just a holiday, but a "Holy" day as well! Good Friday must remain!

Thank you & God Bless America Patti Harlor

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 9:28:43 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christina Lai	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We already have a World Peace Day on Sep 21 established. Good Friday is a sacred day for a lot of people here in this State. It has been observed for thousands of years and part of our tradition. Do not remove the observance of Good Friday as State holiday. It is like saying you want to remove Christmas, Easter, and other similar holidays we have been celebrating for generations!

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 9:29:33 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Terry Murakami	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. Many Christian traditions play an important role in influencing and shaping our culture in this state.

Moreover if they want to establish "World Peace Day" there are many other days to do so.

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 9:37:45 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elizabeth Diamond	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly OPPOSE THIS BILL!!! This procedure is horrid at a developmental stage ... irreversible harm!!! Stop this crime against humanity, especially children. You will answer for this at your judgement day.

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 9:46:45 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gary Ngo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

STRONGLY OPPOSE THIS BILL!!!

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 9:49:00 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cora Newman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am opposing this bill for the following reasons: 1) It is redundant- the International Day of Peace, also known as World Peace Day, already exists on September 21; 2) It provokes non-peace by its suggestion - it flies in the face of Christian and Catholic believers who yearly, peacefully celebrate their belief in their source of peace according to the Bible. 3) It violates freedom of religious rights and implies that all other religious days on the calendar could be changed at whim.

Thanks for your consideration on this and thank you for any time well spent on tackling the bigger issues in our state that can bring better economic, social, and judicial peace for all citizens.

Mahalo,

Cora Newman

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 9:49:13 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leslie Guerreiro	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

My husband and I have recently returned to Hawaii, our homeland after 38 years on the mainland

I strongly OPPOSE HB1780

This state is part of a country that was founded on a truth 'in God we trust'. HB1780 will replace recognition of what God has done for us

World Peace Day was introduced by the IN General Assembly in 1981 and has been observed globally and annually on September 21

mahalo

Leslie K Guerreiro

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 9:52:48 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tonisha Scott	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Removing Good Friday and replacing it with that evil hidden agenda of a holiday is 100% against JESUS. All of you who want this bill to pass is clearly showing us what team you're on. I'm team Jesus all day everyday. I love Him and millions of people around the world who are just like me , celebrate Him and honor Him on Good Friday for what He's done for us. It's an important and sacred holiday that should not be replaced. Life is spiritual. So many of you are functioning under the influence of satan out of ignorance. And those that know exactly what you're doing shame on you. You can only do so much because Jesus is coming back soon. WAKE UP. Don't be the ones that go against God. Where you spend eternity is up to you.

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 9:53:38 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vick Penn	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Good morning,

I am writing to **OPPOSE bill HB1780.**

This is another dangerous proposal to our democracy. This is a blatant action by a few with *an agenda* to dictate to the many! If you don't believe in the reason for Good Friday, then so be it. In your own personal way turn it into an Awesome Friday and spend your day on the beach! Why take it away from the people of Hawaii that do?

Is 365 days in the year are not enough to add another holiday to our state? Why is this necessary to ELIMINATE Good Friday as a holiday? Is it so hard to add another holiday to the calendar. Why can't both days be celebrated.

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 10:04:17 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ron Gochenouer	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Really, With all the problems we are facing in the world, how is this even an issue. Homeless, crime on the rise, inflation, can you people please focus on making our State a better place to live. This is just a distraction to get you folks through to the next session thinking you are doing good.

please for the love of our State and families, vote no on this and move on to bigger and better things.

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 10:05:30 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jayne Kealoha-Dacuycuy	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose Bill 1780. Good Friday a holiday that marked the life of Jesus. Government should stay out of religious affairs. Very disappointing to see how the government wants control over the lives of the people. Stay out!!

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 10:10:33 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kiory Andersen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not support bill HB1780. This bill goes directly against my religious freedoms. As a Christian, Good Friday is a day I get to celebrate what my Lord and Savior Jesus did for me on a cross on Calvary. The day Jesus, the Son of God and God himself paid for my sins and the sins of the world. Taking it away and replacing it something else does not honor the religious freedoms this country was founded on.

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 10:13:04 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaleo Andersen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not support this bill. This bill is a slap in the face to Jesus himself. Good Friday is a day of celebration and remembrance of the sacrifices and atonement he made on OUR behalf. This event actually happened and its historical and worldly impacts will go on until he returns. To replace it with a lie like "World Peace Day" when majority of your nations leaders are pushing for war in Ukraine and numerous places around the world is not only an insult to Jesus himself but also to over 60% of the population you serve here in Hawaii who not just believe in Jesus but Love him. I pray you will make the right decision 🙏

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 10:16:52 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Shorba	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is unconstitutional and goes against the intent of the founding fathers of our country, which states that we are "one nation, under God..." Many other religions now have their own holidays, and it is important to keep Good Friday as it is, it's not just a holiday, but a "holy" day as well. It marks the most significant day in human history where God's own Son died on a cross for our Salvation. This has given those who believe access to God's Kingdom and "eternal peace" (even more than just world peace)... and that gives us all hope! There is so much meaning in remembering and honoring Good Friday! Also, the majority of Hawaii voters are Christians.

This is yet another attempt at taking away our religious freedom as Christians.

If you must, make another day a holiday for World Peace, but certainly not one at the expense of our already established religious holiday.

Thank you.

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 10:20:35 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Cabjuan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose this bill

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 10:29:14 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Matthew Tamme	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Hawaii Representatives,

I am you constituent and strongly appose this Bill. I have no problem with your introducing this world peace day holiday. I ABSOLUTELY have a problem with you wanting to remove GOOD FRIDAY in its place. To be as direct and frank as possible, there will never be world peace without the awknowldgment and understanding of Good Friday. Your suggestion of removing Good Friday tells me you have no real interest in world peace, for GOOD FRIDAY honors the Prince of Peace that endures forever.

Sincerely, Matthew Tamme

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 10:32:09 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amanda Scardilli	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

OPPOSING DUE TO : GOOD FRIDAY BEING A CHERRISH HOLIDAY AND SOMETHING THAT NEEDS TO BE REMEMBERED AND CELEBRATED THAT JESUS WHO DIED FOR EVERYONE'S SIN ON THE CROSS ON GOOD FRIDAY. HE OVERCAME SIN, HIS BURDEN WAS LIGHT EVEN THOUGH HE WENT THROUGH IMMENSE PAIN FOR YOU, FOR ME, FOR EVERYONE IN THIS WORLD FOR THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN HIM AND EVEN THE THOSE WHO DO NOT. JESUS IS LOVE AND GOOD FRIDAY MARKS THE DAY HE GAVE HIS LIFE FOR US ALL. JESUS LIFE AND EXPERIENCE ARE NOT ONLY SUBJECT TO THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN HIM. HE IS IN THE HISTORY BOOKS OF THE GREEKS AND ROMANS AND JEWS AND OTHERS. HIS REMARKABLE LIFE AND DEATH SHOULD ALWAYS BE HELD IN THE HIGHEST ESTEEM AND SHOULD THEREFORE REMAIN A HOLIDAY.

OPPOSING DUE TO THE UNITED NATIONS ACTIONS AGAINST MANKIND AND CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY ARE NOT THOSE THAT STRIVE FOR PEACE LET ALONE WORLD PEACE. IT IS OBVIOUS TO THOSE WHO LOOK BEYOND THE MONEY TRAILS THAT THE UNITED NATIONS WANTS GLOBAL CONTROL. THE UNITED NATIONS HAS STARTED MORE WARS AND DO NOT WANT PEACE UNLESS IT COMES FROM THE DESTRUCTION OF THOSE WHO OPPOSE OR LACK THE FUNDS TO BUY INTO THEIR PROPAGANDA.

NO WORLD PEACE DAY UNTIL WE ESTABLISH WORLD PEACE ACTUAL! KEEP THE UNITED NATIONS OUT OF HAWAII AND OUT OF FEDERAL AND STATE LAWS!

GOOD FRIDAY AND ALL HOLIDAYS PERTAINING TO JESUS REMAIN IN PLACE AS FEDERAL HOLIDAY'S FOR THE STATE TO RECOGNIZE THE GREAT WORKS OF JESUS. GOOD FRIDAY WAS THE DAY JESUS LAID DOWN HIS LIFE FOR YOURS. HE TOOK YOUR SIN UPON HIMSELF, BUT IT YOU WHO MUST HONOR THAT COMMITMENT FOR YOUR ETERNAL SOUL TO ENTER THE GATES OF HEAVEN.

OPPOSING DUE TO THE UNITED NATIONS PUSH FOR CONTROL AND ONE WORLD GOVERNMENT AND THEIR ATTEMPT TO REMOVE JESUS.

JESUS IS KING!

Thank you,

Amanda Scardilli

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 10:37:04 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Caiazzo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Jessica "Priya" Caiazzo, and I strongly oppose this bill. The fact your wanting to take away a holiday that deeply effects many and in fact hurts our religious freedom. When coming across this bill I'm beyond disheartened by every representative would support such a bill. I'm curious would all you support voting be an official holiday and day off? Where are the priorities of these representatives? Good Friday is a legal holiday in the State of Hawaii pursuant to [Haw. Rev. Stat. § 8-1](#). The day of the crucifixion was originally made a holiday in 1941 by the Territorial Legislature. The statute was recodified upon statehood in 1959. Stop trying to fix things that aren't broken. Mahalo.

Jessica "Priya" Caiazzo

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 10:47:03 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
shalom lagon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. As a Christ believer, this shows offense from the government who "welcomes" all religions. It's a PERSONAL attack and nothing more. We give this day to give thanks, honor, and praise to the one who gives us ALL salvation. Though others might not believe, we,who do, take this day as a core foundation of our beliefs. Thank you! And may the Lord show mercy on you.

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 10:48:22 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Simon Oelschlager	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a devout believer and member of the community, I feel compelled to express my perspective on the proposal to replace Good Friday with World Peace Day. While the intention behind World Peace Day is undoubtedly noble, I firmly believe that it should not supersede the significance of Good Friday in our cultural and religious calendar. Good Friday holds profound religious and cultural significance for millions around the world, particularly for Christians like myself. It commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus Christ and serves as a day of reflection, repentance, and spiritual renewal. The solemnity of Good Friday is integral to our faith, reminding us of the sacrifice and redemption central to Christian belief. Furthermore, Good Friday provides a sense of continuity and tradition that strengthens the fabric of our society. It is a day when families and communities come together to observe sacred rituals, attend religious services, and engage in acts of charity and compassion. The observance of Good Friday fosters a sense of solidarity and shared values among believers, transcending differences and promoting unity.

In contrast, while World Peace Day carries a laudable message of global harmony and cooperation, its observance lacks the deep-rooted historical and religious significance of Good Friday. While promoting peace is undoubtedly important, it should not come at the expense of disregarding or diminishing the religious observance of millions of individuals worldwide. Moreover, relegating Good Friday to a lesser status in favor of World Peace Day could undermine religious freedom and tolerance. It is essential to respect the diverse beliefs and practices of all individuals within our society, rather than imposing secular values at the expense of religious traditions. In conclusion, while I wholeheartedly support initiatives aimed at promoting peace and goodwill, I firmly believe that Good Friday should retain its rightful place in our cultural and religious calendar. Its significance transcends individual faiths, serving as a beacon of hope and redemption for people of all backgrounds. Let us continue to uphold and cherish the traditions that unite us while striving for a world of lasting peace and understanding.

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 10:58:46 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
JESSICA DAGUIO	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose to remove Good Friday and replace it with World Peace Day, due to the fact that 1) this is an important day for all Christians. It's a day to remember the foundation of our faith - the crucifixion of our Jesus Christ. It's part of history. 2) there is already a designated day for World Peace Day in September... why the need to move it?

It's crazy to think that the society/the government will do whatever it takes to remove Jesus from our culture today. What's the reason for removing it on THAT specific day & moving another holiday? Why can't you move King Kamehameha Day? Same stuff.

Just like any other holiday, there's meaning & purpose behind it. Many may not agree with certain holidays, but it's not being touched or removed & people still respect it. If there is meaning & purpose behind something that the majority believes in, why remove it? There's a purpose for World Peace Day that is celebrated in September... leave it at that because there's meaning & purpose behind on why it was chosen to be on that specific day & month. Don't ruin the intended meaning behind it.

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 11:00:23 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniel Pederson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Erasing the origins/names of long standing holidays/traditions erases history and the meaning behind the holiday. Please use your limited time/energy on things important to your constituents like housing, homelessness, and crime. Also, another day can be used for World Peace Day, we shouldn't have to replace Good Friday. There are so many other days that would be great for World Peace day

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 11:02:38 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ilikea	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Legislation, as I have been a resident of Hawaii my whole life it is hurtful that I see a removal of Good Friday. Our state has a majority of those in the Christian faith, that is with the removal of this holiday it would be a discouragement that our government represents our religion. Many of our representatives are also Christians therefore also going against those that we chose to represent us for that reason. As we also respect those that are of other religions and other countries, I do not see a need to follow another countries idea of a holiday when we are not a part of that country. The change of this holiday would also go against the United States that is a country that which the majority practice Christianity. The removal of Good Friday would isolate and remove the beliefs that we believe in as Americans. World Peace Day would have no significance to our state or country, therefore it should not replace Good Friday.

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 11:10:37 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Angela Joy Lucas	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I believe that Good Friday should not be replaced with World Peace Day due to the fact that there is already an established day for World Peace Day. I do understand the importance of this Holiday.

While the UN recognizes this day, it is not a holiday. The original purpose is to designate a day to mark particular events or topics in order to promote, through awareness and action, the objectives of the Organization. To be diplomatic, rather substitution, you can still designate that day to be World Peace Day without the removal of Good Friday.

With the intent of inclusion of all religions in mind, why REMOVE a holiday, when you can simply add on. For example, on April 7, 2024, it is the International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide against Tutsi in Rwanda AND World Health Day. While some celebrate the first, others celebrate the second. Why can't March 29 be recognized as Good Friday and World Peace of Day? But if this is not an option, I would believe it should not be changed.

A.L.

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 11:14:20 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Francis Leo Daguio	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, as a devout Christian and follower of Jesus Christ I humbly ask to not replace the sacred day of Good Friday for World Peace Day. This day is a significant remembrance in our faith to acknowledge the death of our Lord Jesus. This day is rooted deep in our doctrine to remind us that Jesus died and then rose again on the third day. Good Friday lands on our Easter weekend, it is the pillar of our belief. You say you want World Peace Day to replace Good Friday when Jesus himself is the Prince of Peace which is a peace that can't be matched nor found anywhere else but in Him and through Him. I leave you with this brothers and sisters of our Hawaii Legislation and government; from the Book of Isaiah 9: 6 "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 11:15:14 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gitte Gonzalez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We don't need holidays dictated to us ny the UN

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 11:21:48 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Callie Wood	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I urge our representatives, especially Amy Purruso, as a citizen of Wahiawa to oppose this bill! As a Christian family, this is an important holiday for us, as well as for the world.

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 11:31:19 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amy	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm opposing to this bill, because this is very important day to commemorate the death of our Lord Jesus Christ.

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 11:32:09 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katrina Langford	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill as a Hawaii resident of over 23 years. I don't know why you can't choose another day out of 365 a year. Why do you have to take away Good Friday, a religious holiday for so many including myself and my family? Why not National Doughnut Day?? This seems to be a blatant attack on Christianity and another way to remove religion from our society when it is clear that we need MORE of it now than ever before! A lot of people are waking up and choosing God and I know that I do not stand alone on this. If this bill gets passed it would be a disgrace. Don't be deceived. Please do not support this. Mahalo for your time. God bless!

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 11:35:19 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erik Barton	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

World peace does not exist. Nor will a day designated for it do anything. Peace exist in Jesus. He is GOOD! We must keep and honor Good Friday.

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 11:36:04 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chloe S	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose House Bill 1780. We have 365 days in the year to add on another holiday, so why is there a need to eliminate Good Friday? So what's next, taking Easter and Christmas off the State calander? By legalizing you deep rooted hatred of Christianity, you disenfranchise a large population of Hawai'i's citizens. Your agenda is showing.

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 11:41:51 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Caris Abagon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the hardworking lawmakers that serve our State and Country:

I would like to share that I humbly oppose the approval of HB1780. I understand the sentiment of World Peace day. I can see that the thought of this bill is to keep things secular and inclusive. The issue with this though is that through this change, we are losing the cultural, spiritual and historical significance of Good Friday in this State and Country. Ever since 1941, this holiday has been an important observance for many people in Hawaii, and not only removing it but replacing this holiday with another day with a totally different purpose doesn't sit well with me. Don't get me wrong, I think there is room for a World Peace Day since this is a cause that everyone can rally around, but I don't think it can replace a day as sacred as Good Friday, especially knowing how much this day means for people in this State. Please deny this bill, and let us continue to celebrate Good Friday with everyone in Hawaii.

Mahalo,

Michael Caris Abagon

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 11:51:31 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ferdinand Ayalde	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Good Friday holds significant religious importance for many Christians, commemorating the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. While promoting world peace is undoubtedly a noble cause, altering the observance of Good Friday may be seen as disregarding the religious beliefs and traditions of those who celebrate it. It's essential to consider the diverse perspectives and sensitivities involved when proposing such changes.

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 11:52:06 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rebecca M. Quezada	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. You cannot change what happened over 2000 years ago.

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 12:03:15 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeffrey F Mizuno	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 12:27:37 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shania Amodo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am strongly opposed to Good Friday being replaced with any other state holiday. Please keep it as is. It is a significant event for major religious groups in Hawaii. I am opposed to overturning this holiday for this reason.

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 12:48:22 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aldarah Kumura	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The historical basis of this day is point enough to keep the title as is. Changing the title is to remove it's preserved accuracy of historical accounts. This bill is unnecessary.

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 12:49:50 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vlad Sosa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not support HB1780 because it is a divisive bill. Our country was founded based on Judeo-Christian values and they have been the critical component in the fabric of our country and state. But, most importantly, the Government is not above God. Laws and government were given by God for order of society.

I oppose HB1780 because it will alienate an important day of remembrance for Christians, Good Friday. It is a day in which our Lord Jesus Christ died on the cross for our sins. His action was the only worthy payment needed so that we can be redeemed and our relation with God be restored.

You may consider another day and I stand in opposition to this bill.

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 12:50:01 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carly Lima	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill to replace Good Friday with World Peace Day. Our nation was founded upon religious freedom and Christian beliefs. This is the holiest day of the Christian as it was the day that Jesus Christ laid down his life so that all may have the right to be adopted into the family of God. That ALL our sins and wrongs could be covered once and for all by his blood. It is an inclusive holiday actually as it was a free gift to all mankind. To take away this holiest of days to implement an ethereal concept of "world peace" is ridiculous. Please reconsider your decision to vote for this bill.

thank you

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 12:55:03 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ning Li	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Jesus died on the cross to provide a way for anyone who wants forgiveness of sins. He is truly the Prince of Peace. His death was, is and always will be worthy of remembrance. "World peace" sounds good in name Only without true substance. Eliminating the country's Christian roots only accelerate the decay process of this country. I strongly oppose the change of the "Good Friday" to any other name!

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 12:55:26 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alexis Caramonte	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. Removing Good Friday as a recognized holiday is the States way of trying break any ties with God.

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 12:58:01 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bernadette M. Smith	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill as we are a country founded on Christian values and should continue in the way that our Founding Fathers envisioned for our country. I oppose any new holiday to replace what has been our history and part of the foundation of this great nation.

Thank you,

Bernadette M. Smith

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 1:01:05 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leslie Chun	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 1:12:52 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maria Melendez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In the same way we preserve language and history- traditions, too should be preserved. They are a bed rock to our society. They allow us to stop from the busyness and reflect. Good Friday depicts a loving savior willing to sacrifice his life for his brothers. There is a depth of love and compassion that is reflected upon in Good Friday. World peace day has no underpinnings or references to any act in history. It is void of meaning and substance. Please consider keeping Good Friday as a holiday where we can be encouraged to suffer for one another. Knowing that new life begins then.

Testimony on H. B. 1780 relating to World Peace Day

Dear Sir;

I am writing this testimony in favor of House Bill 1780, relating to World Peace Day. World Peace Day, also known as the International Day of Peace, was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1981 and is observed on September 21 of each year by observing 24 hours of nonviolence and cease-fire. This bill proposes that World Peace Day be designated as a state holiday in place of Good Friday.

We witness hatred and open conflict occurring in many parts of the world today. There is real concern that smaller regional conflicts will expand to include other nations. It is clear that one of the greatest gifts that our current generation of leaders can leave for future generations is a more peaceful world. We can move closer to our goal of world peace when leaders in the community and at every level of government actively promote peace-at home, in our schools and in our communities.

As I held my grandson this morning while contemplating this bill, the phrase "Peace begins with me" came to mind. I strongly feel that good things can happen if we recognize Peace Day as a state holiday and follow this designation with real action to promote peace in our schools, communities and the world. Much as Martin Luther King Day has developed into a day for volunteerism and community action, Peace Day could have the same effect. Imagine what might happen if we focused on peace-building in our schools and communities!

Respectfully,

Warren Tamamoto MD
COL, USAR (Ret)

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 1:19:10 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christopher Gouveia	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Good Friday, along with the rest of Easter weekend, is supposed to be a remembrance of Jesus Christ's death on the cross and celebration of His resurrection 3 days later, bringing salvation to those who repent from their sin and turn to Him will be forgiven and saved from death and wrath. Replacing this with a "Peace Day" holiday only further demonstrates our state's and country's desire to turn further away from God. I'll remind you that true peace can only be found in Jesus and He's the only who can truly unite the world. Another thing, getting rid of a holiday that millions of Christians celebrate sends a wrong and distasteful message. It will also cause a lot of concern for other people of different religions who also have holidays that the state recognizes as they will fear that you may end up getting rid of their holidays too.

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 1:21:54 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah Nakamura	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill that would no longer acknowledge Good Friday as a holiday.

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 1:34:29 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melanie Unger Meinken	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is yet another example of the eroding of connection to citizens' lives, desires, and priorities. I oppose this bill as it is yet another attempt to slide our society and community to the most base and immoral level one can go. Holidays are meant to focus on things or people or events worth celebrating and remembering. Christ is by far the most celebrated, remembered, and influential figure in all of human history. One in 3 in the world identify as Christians, while many of the rest admire His influence. Shame on all of you who consider lumping Christ into world peace. By the way, world peace depends on Christ's return. Having lived here 50 years, I KNOW you have more pressing issues to focus on but ignore. Don't botch yet another decision.

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 1:37:00 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Veronica Simao	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

There is already an International Day of Peace, also known as World Peace Day, which was established in 1981 by the United Nations General Assembly. It is observed annually on Sept. 21 and is dedicated to the ideals of peace, non-violence, and ceasing hostilities.

Good Friday has been observed for thousands of years. Let's remember and continue to set this day aside in observance of the selfless act of love that was displayed and done 2,000 years ago, on behalf of everyone of us.

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 1:56:31 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Peggy Regentine	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose changing Good Friday as a holiday. I totally dislike World Peace Day in its place. For peace to exist, we need a religious holiday.

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 2:33:25 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kristal rivera	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e,

Re: Opposing Bill HB1780 Removing Good Friday and replacing it with World Peace Day on September 21st.

Please do not remove Good Friday, it commemorates the sacrifice and death of Jesus Christ. Our country's principles were founded on Christian values and that includes the death of Jesus. You can't just replace it with World Peace day. We have to stop replacing God with our own passions and desires with what we think is right. It may seem right but it doesn't mean it's God. This world is not at peace because we remove God from everything and let the work of the enemy in. Please reconsider. We shouldn't have to pass a bill to commemorate world peace day, the price Jesus paid is the peace we need in this world, the demonstration of true love. Study the truth of the cross and you will know the true meaning of Good Friday, the death of God's own son who willingly suffered, sacrificed, and died to pay the penalty of our sins. Please keep Good Friday, that's what is so good about it celebrating the love he demonstrated on the cross. His resurrection defeated death, he walked this earth, healed the sick and raised the dead to life. There's nothing he can't do. Peace we can find in him when we trust & believe. Because of his death his love is poured unto us. His body tortured, and bruised yet he still loved those who persecuted him. Love is an action and he demonstrated it for all to see. We have to continue to celebrate, it means so much for generations and generations to come. I'm not here to preach, I'm here to share what's on my heart, it's the truth, God's truth.

According to The Bible in Romans 5:8 "But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners."

John 3:16 "For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life."

~Mahalo, Kristal

01/30/2024

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 2:48:12 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cynthia Decenzo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this Bill.

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 3:00:03 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carina Lara	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am opposed to this bill due to its nature to harm the existing and longstanding understanding of the constitutional right in this nation we are afforded the right to: freedom of religion. To pursue this bill any further would diminish and undergoe the true understanding of the religious freedoms that are allowed and make up the United States of America. Please if you are desiring diversity and to uphold the U.S. constitution pursue the right of: freedom of religion and allow for Good Friday- to continue to be what is 'Good Friday'!

Your constituent,

Carina Lara

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 3:21:39 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ramona Oliveira	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not support this bill. You propose to take the one week end., the most holy day in my life, good Friday the day that is the beginning of the greatest supernatural phenomenon in Christianity. The day that signifies the sacrifice that my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ was given for me, for us, for humanity. I do not except taking away Good Friday and replacing it with a day that I will never accept as a holiday. Choose another day to take like Thanksgiving or Presidents' Day or discoverers day do not take my day that is the foundation of Christianity all over the world. We are not one world order. I will never celebrate this day.

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 3:36:12 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kenneth Meinken	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Representatives,

I am testifying against the passage of HB 1780.

1) State doesn't deserve another holiday

2) Taking Good Friday away as a holiday is a mistake. The US was founded on Judeo Christian principles. Nearly 30% of the World are Christians. Good Friday is an important holiday connected to Easter.

3) You would be displacing an April holiday with a September. Why?

4) Following the lead of the United Nations on this issue is a poor idea.

Thank you

Kenneth Meinken

Kailua, Hawaii

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 3:45:45 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Justin Suzuki	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Good Friday has been an international holiday for hundreds of years and there is no need to change it. The United States was founded and built on christian values and I believe it's appropriate to honor these holidays.

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 4:38:43 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Shelton	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Replacing this holiday for Good Friday is absolute non sense. No one ever celebrates this random holiday and Good Friday is celebrated by many. We are one nation under GOD

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 4:54:11 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Martin Choy	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, Those of us who lived in Hawaii all or most of our lives will understand that HB1780 is a bad idea.

It is an attempt to change the culture of our state, which has celebrated Good Friday from the early days. Good Friday has served as a reminder of who we are and what the country stands for - Good.

This bill is just another attempt to indoctrinate people to accept the United Nations Agenda 2030. It conditions us to believe that we have no sovereignty but will accept whatever a global government control agenda pushes on us.

It is trying to destroy remembrance of local traditions and honoring of acknowledgements to accept an external control of how we should think and behave.

Why pick this holiday to replace? Why not pick other holidays? This is the same kind of bias that happened when the stores and institutions tried to replace the greeting of "Merry Christmas" with "Happy Holidays". We all know that the overwhelming objections led to all merchants reversing their decree to manipulate the masses.

Nothing was learned from our legislators about that kind of coercion as we see these bills trying to produce change from a different venue.

I urge you to reject this bill and leave the culture to the will of the people.

TO: SCOTT SAIKI

HB1780 - DISHONORING GOOD FRIDAY

Hearing Date: January 31, 2024

Today's Date: January 30, 2024

Subject: Opposition to HB1780 - Designating World Peace Day as a State Holiday

Dear Mr. Saiki,

My name's Cheyne Rippey, a Honolulu-born, educational leader on Oahu. I am writing to express my *strong opposition to HB1780*, which proposes to designate "World Peace Day" as a state holiday instead of the sacred Good Friday. This measure raises serious ramifications that warrant careful reconsideration.

Firstly, this bill infringes upon the interests of the majority population of our state, nearly two-thirds of which are Christians (aka Good Friday observers)

<https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/religious-landscape-study/state/hawaii/>.

Secondly, replacing it with "World Peace Day" is discouraging to continue Hawaii residency as it disregards the values and traditions of our state and interests of our current population. "World Peace Day" has no state significance in the minds nor hearts of our residents. Instead, the Good Friday weekend yields [record-breaking church attendance](#) across the whole state out of any day in the year. As I hope you've seen, the whole weekend is a moment for mental-spiritual-health as families in Hawaii gather for observance, tradition, and true aloha.

Moreover, the proposed substitution seems to be discriminatory toward Catholics and Christians, as it marginalizes a religious observance with deep cultural and spiritual significance. This marginalization is systemic exclusivity.

While promoting "World Peace Day" is not inherently bad, doing so at the expense of a religious observance sends a message of insensitivity and exclusion.

Please consider alternative approaches that accommodate your goals as well as ours. Perhaps the designation of an additional day as a peace-focused observance, rather than replacing an existing religious holiday, could better serve the goal of promoting peace while respecting the values of our citizens.

Mahalo for your consideration of my, and at least the hundreds of people in my immediate network's, values who are calling out against this type of policy.

Sincerely,

Cheyne Rippey, MA

mauirip@live.com

Honolulu, HI

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 6:15:05 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
duke aiona	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill substitutes a holiday which has been recognized by the people of Hawai'i and this legislature for decades! The substituted holiday is entitled World Peace Day, one question to this committee and its sponsors is: Doesn't Good Friday represent a day of salvation, freedom, forgiveness, mercy, and love? All the virtues and values that your substituted holiday embraces.

What is most troubling by this committee and its sponsors is that you should be transparent and truthful with your constituents and people of Hawai'i as to this bill's true intent: The elimination of any reference, inference, or symbolism by this legislature, which is now represented by you, of God and the Christian Faith by state government! As such you should also be consistent in your values and principles and have the courage to also eliminate the Christmas Holiday and/or change that holiday's name. And when that is done give the reason for its elimination and/or change - that you as representatives of this legislature believe that God and the Christian Faith cannot be recognized by state government. Thus giving the electorate an honest basis for supporting or not supporting you in the next election!

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 7:04:44 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Scott Schultz	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

As a Christian, I have mixed feelings about the Good Friday holiday. I never understood why Good Friday was a sanctioned, secular holiday in the first place. Even as a 34.5 year government employee, I recognized the fact that we had way too many holidays already. I think that the proposed "World Peace Day" is a farce at best, as it can accomplish nothing and is yet another empty "feel good" gesture. Let Christians celebrate Good Friday and Easter in our own way, and don't burden the taxpayers by substituting one holiday with another. I am sure that concept will start a real bandwagon!

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Aloha, Scott Schultz

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 7:11:45 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Roxanne T Jim	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Committee Members:

I am opposed to calling Good Friday something else. Please focus on reducing the cost of living in Hawaii and other more important and urgent matters.

Mahalo for reading this.

Aloha ke Akua, Roxanne Jm

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 8:45:36 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
LouAnn Schutte	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill leave Good Friday alone!!

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 8:54:56 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Cheng	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1780 and the attempt to remove Good Friday as a holiday in place of World Peace Day. This is absolute absurdity given the fact that the word "tolerance" is constantly being used in our vernacular. If you want to designate World Peace Day as a holiday go ahead, but that does not give you the right to remove Good Friday from observance. If you actually think about the implications of Good Friday you would realize it is the ultimate "world peace day".

Thank you for your time,

Jessica Cheng

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 9:02:35 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barilyne Sakamoto	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Erasing the origins/names of long standing holidays/traditions erases history and the meaning behind the holiday. Please use your limited time/energy on things important to your constituents like housing, homelessness, and crime.

This type of bill puts Native Hawaiians at odds with Christian believers by forcing them to explain why their grievances outweigh continuing to observe Good Friday as a state holiday.

It puts Christians, who believe that Jesus — even if you don't believe in God — is a key part of Western legal tradition and culture, in a position of arguing against agitated Native Hawaiians, to defend what they think is an important day.

It also forces the atheists – who think that God, Jesus and holidays of a religious nature shouldn't exist at all – into confrontations with Christians.

We shouldn't pass a bill that will divide our country. There is already so much division, hate, and dispute in America. Why add more to the fuel.

If in fact you really want a Reconciliation Day as a state holiday, then do the public a favor and create it as an additional holiday, and argue the merits of doing that. Everyone loves more holidays, right? That's how legislators are supposed to function, introducing ideas and justifying them and gathering support.

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 10:15:18 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carlene Olguin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am opposed to HB 1780!! HB 1780 is a waste of time and money!! Leave it as it is. There are more important things to fix in our overpriced state. Such as the out of control homelessness!! Increasing crimes and lack of affordable housing. HB 1780 is ridiculous!

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 10:16:31 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lili Ann Silva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please do not remove Good Friday as a holiday. This day represents the foundation of the United States. The death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus is key to the Christian belief. If you devalue this, you devalue the United States of America. The foundation of the United States is IN GOD WE TRUST! Go back to our Constitution. This day acknowledges the sacrifice of Jesus for the freedoms we have. This is not just a story. A big part of the community problems, people believing this is not a historical fact or acknowledging Jesus has created a lack of morality, integrity, honesty because of a lack of belief in Jesus. Check history...the movement away from Christianity!

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 10:30:49 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Glenn Grimes	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE THIS BILL.

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 11:09:51 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Frankie Kia	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Hawai'i State Legislature,

Please understand that the ideology of a day of world peace and the Holy Day of Our Lord Jesus Christ does not conform to what is more peaceful. It is contradictory that the Prince of Peace would be lesser of a choice. When Jesus Christ was born the angels announced, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth 'peace' to men whom his favor rests" (Lk 2.14). This is sacred scripture. But on the other hand the United Nations General Assembly declared the International Day of Peace, to be devoted to strengthening ideals of peace.

House Bill 1780 is an effort of arrogance and an extreme act of disrespect; how can you defend peace without Jesus Christ the Peace-Maker? I'm a defender of the 'God of Peace' Himself.

One holiday is in September and the other in April, again no significance, imagine that. Then what gives, pride and envy?

For the Good of the State of Hawai'i, give to Cesar what is Cesar's, but give to God what is God's. This is divine peace which comes from above. Love your God with all your heart, soul and mind.

I want to be very clear on my final submission of opposing such a preposterous House-Bill (1780).

It would be ill-fated to consider otherwise.

Godspeed,

Frankie Kia

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 11:30:13 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
CHESTER LUM	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony opposing this bill.

Queen Lili'uokalani was a Christian and removing this holiday will diminish her legacy.

HB1780 should be tabled.

Once again, thank you for allowing me to submit testimony opposing this bill.

Chester Lum

Written testimony in support of HP1780 regarding World Peace Day.

In 2007 the state legislature approved a bill declaring September 21 to be Peace Day in Hawaii. The legislation was signed into law by then Governor Linda Lingle. That year, I began producing the annual “Parade and Festival for the United Nations International Day of Peace” under the auspices of the Honokaa Hongwanji Buddhist Temple. See www.PeaceDayParade.org



The mission of the parade and festival was to promote the existence of Peace Day in Hawaii. Many other events have been produced as part of the Peace Festival – peace poster contests, music and comedy concerts, 5K runs, guest speakers, “Read for Peace” in the local library, suicide prevention and awareness marches, Peace Movie Nights, “199,000 Cranes Project”(to remember those lost in the atomic bombings in Japan), Peace Gardens, peace education, etc. The parade always receives good coverage on the television stations broadcasting out of Honolulu as well as on the internet.

These are the kinds of events and projects that communities and schools across the state could produce and participate in.

Despite the United Nations marking of the International Day of Peace for the past forty years, there are relatively few companion events of note in the State. (One exception is the event sponsored by Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawai`i – “Ring Your Bell for Peace” – which draws hundreds of participants from around the world.)

To my knowledge, Hawai`i remains the only state in the Union to have an “official” Peace Day, seventeen years after leading the way.

World Peace Day as a statewide holiday can become an excellent opportunity for the Aloha State to lead the way by example, teaching the world the values and meaning of the Aloha Spirit, which are synonymous with the values of Peace.



www.PeaceDayParade.org
[Facebook/PeaceDayParade](https://www.facebook.com/PeaceDayParade)
a production of the Peace Committee
Honpa Hongwanji Buddhist Temple

Sponsored by the
County of Hawaii



HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 5:58:46 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 wishing to comment.

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 6:57:27 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joanne Roa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Promoting world peace by canceling a holiday whose core message is on peace on earth is bigotry. I oppose this move.

January 30, 2024

Honorable Adrian Tam, Chair

Honorable Rose Martinez, Vice Chair

Members of the House Committee on Culture, Arts and International Affairs

My name is Claire Tamamoto and I am testifying in favor of HB1780, establishing September 21, as World Peace Day as a state holiday. In 2007, the Hawaii Legislature passed SB866 and Governor Lingle signed the bill establishing Hawaii as the only state in the nation to recognize Peace Day in conjunction with the United Nations International Peace Day. In 2008 and 2009, Peace Day was recognized and celebrated on the State Capitol grounds by students, politicians, community groups such as the Spark M. Matsunaga Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution, MADD, and Domestic Violence. The program included national guest speakers, religious groups representing our diverse cultures, and the recognition of individuals in our State that epitomized Peace through their actions. Your own Representative Scot Matayoshi was recognized for his program to reduce bullying as a teacher at Nanakuli High and Intermediate School. The University of Hawaii offers a BA degree in Peace and Conflict Resolution under their School of Communication and Information. Currently throughout our State various groups commemorate Peace Day, with parades, “Ring Your Bell for Peace” and school programs.

So you ask, isn't that enough, why do we need a World Peace Day state holiday? Holidays should commemorate and recognize important concepts and occasions. I have worked with youth for over 40 years in education and through community organizations. I think and feel that it is time to recognize September 21st as a state holiday. A World Peace Day state holiday would create greater awareness and elevate Hawai'i's commitment to world peace. World Peace manifests itself internationally and locally. In Hawai'i, our Aloha state, we see a rise in teen suicide from actual and cyber bullying, domestic violence, and hate crimes. We must do more. We owe it to our youth!

The current bill proposes World Peace Day as an alternative to Good Friday as a State holiday. Currently, Hawai'i is one of ten (10) states that recognizes Good Friday as a state holiday: Connecticut, Delaware, Hawai'i, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, New Jersey, North Carolina, North Dakota and Tennessee. In addition, California, Texas and Florida recognize it as an optional or partial public holiday. These states varying from entire, partial or optional days off. For the states where Good Friday is a state public holidays: state offices, agencies and business are open and are not required to allow workers to take the day off or pay them for taking the day off. My support for this bill is not to minimize the importance of Good Friday but rather to support the universal and important concept of PEACE.

In closing, this summer, I traveled to Hiroshima in support of Hawai'i's Ohana Arts Youth Theater Company, who carried their message of PEACE to the people of Hiroshima. The message was not lost on a city that has experienced the long-lasting devastation of an atomic bomb. It was a moving and an inspiring experience to see and hear their message of “Peace on Your Wings”. This message must continue globally so maybe one day, just maybe, there will be more youth that have experienced peaceful resolutions to conflict rather than rhetoric that incites war or conflict to our individual differences.

Thank you for your time this morning.
Claire J. Tamamoto

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

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 8:40:57 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicky Cruz	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Good Friday is the reason we all are forgiven, Jesus died for our sins. Without Christ, we could not have come into relationship with God. We are saved because of Him dying for us. This must be shared in schools. He is the reason we are all here.