

Testimony of
Ryan Kawailani Ozawa
Publisher, Hawaii Bulletin
Founder, Hawaii Hui LLC / Kilinahe Foundation

Before the
Committee on Culture, Arts, & International Affairs
Hawaii State Capitol in Conference Room 309
Wednesday, February 7, 2023

HB2736 — Relating to a State Gesture

Dear Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Chair; Rep. Rose Martinez, Vice Chair;
and Members of the Committee:

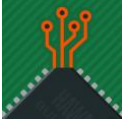
I am submitting this testimony to express my **STRONG SUPPORT**
of **HB2736** relating to establishing a STATE GESTURE.

As a lifelong born-and-raised resident of Hawaii, I believe the shaka is perhaps the best symbolic embodiment of the spirit and values of our island home. As a native Hawaiian, I also believe it has grown to encompass the aloha spirit as it is both practiced and celebrated by all who are lucky to live in, visit, and love Hawaii.

The shaka is more than just a physical gesture—it's a globally understood, universal expression of warmth, welcome, and even strength and resilience. When you share a shaka, you are sharing friendship, compassion, gratitude, and connection.

The shaka binds us together across cultures and backgrounds with positivity and goodwill. Few hand gestures have persisted for as long as the shaka and retained a pristine and positive vibe.

Establishing the shaka as a state symbol will honor the unique culture of Hawaii. It will celebrate the diverse histories that contributed to this gesture while preserving its origins here. Adopting the shaka as an official symbol will also strengthen Hawaii's global brand—officially staking Hawaii's claim to the globally familiar hand sign—and spread the spirit of aloha worldwide.



The shaka represents the best of who we are as a people. There is no better symbol to share our island values with the world. And while Hawaii continues to face both systemic and sudden challenges, I believe this bill chooses to focus on the qualities that will ensure that we overcome them.

May 2024 be The Year of the Shaka. Thank you for your consideration.

HB-2736

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 6:48:39 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/7/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
?????? ?	Hawaii.bio	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear administration! I believe that "Shaka" is the symbol of the state of Hawaii as well as the spirit of Aloha. This will also bring additional income for the state in the form of souvenirs that are bought by tourists from all over the world. Let's make a license plate "Shaka" that's really cool and modern. Mahalo

Vitali Alizier

Founder Hawaii.bio Inc

HB-2736

Submitted on: 2/2/2024 3:38:28 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/7/2024 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I **support** this Bill.

HB-2736

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 10:47:34 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/7/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Steve Sue	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

IN SUPPORT OF RECOGNIZING THE SHAKA AS THE HAWAI’I STATE GESTURE.

I am a Kaimuki District resident of Honolulu who, since 2019, has been involved in an oral history project, first-funded by Kamehameha Schools, to create an educational documentary that preserves the 110-year old story and evolution of the shaka gesture. The project is produced by ID8, a Honolulu-based 501(C)(3) nonprofit organization of which I serve as Chairperson. No individual, including myself, has any financial interest in the project and I take no compensation from the nonprofit. I am also the producer/writer of the project and through the project believe that I am currently the world’s leading expert in the shaka gesture. My only goal is that as a fan of the shaka, I desire to help it be an effective tool of aloha to build a better Hawai’i and a better world at large.

I support bill HB2736 for the following reasons:

IT MEMORIALIZES HAWAI’I AS THE PLACE OF THE SHAKA’S ORIGIN. While multiple origin theories exist from Hawaii Island, Maui, Molokai and Oahu, all theories have the shaka developing within the State of Hawai’i. However, the shaka is now used internationally around the world, with epicenters of significant use of the shaka outside of Hawai’i which may tend to cause confusion as to the place of its origin. For example, California might see relevance in it symbolizing their easy-going surf and sun culture, Texas might see relevance in it symbolizing a longhorn bull or the country of Brazil may see it as symbolic of their extreme sports industries including surfing and Brazilian Jiu Jitsu. In the cases of California and Brazil, their use of the shaka clearly derives from Hawai’i as the place of origin. Thus Hawai’i’s adoption of the shaka would ensure retaining Hawai’i’s place on the global map as the birthplace of the shaka.

IT PROTECTS THE SHAKA AS PART OF HAWAI’I’S CULTURE & HERITAGE. Multiple Hawai’i ethnic cultures including Hawaiian, Samoan, Japanese, Chinese, Portuguese, Filipino Haole, and various resident groups have contributed to the deep and complex meanings of the shaka. The shaka is in fact representative of 110 years of Hawai’i history and Hawai’i’s melting pot of cultures and heritage at large. If any state other than Hawai’i adopted the shaka first, the meaning and historical significance of Hawai’i’s shaka would be diluted. Thus Hawai’i’s adoption of the shaka will ensure that the meaning of the gesture will be protected and forever tied to Hawai’i culture and heritage.

IT PROTECTS THE SHAKA AS AN ASSET TO BUILD THE STATE'S ECONOMY. The shaka is a key asset for the people and the State of Hawai'i to enjoy in that it offers the power to build our economy and global brand. No other symbol for Hawai'i is as visual and intuitively meaningful as the shaka. A second best brand symbol might be the word "aloha", or images of rainbows or tropical flowers but none are as iconically Hawai'i as the Shaka. Further, as a brand symbol that requires no word characters, it is superior as an international brand symbol. This is why countless Hawai'i apparel, food, art, transportation, souvenir and other businesses leverage the shaka as a key design element. The shaka needs to be preserved for the economic vitality of Hawai'i.

IT PROTECTS THE SHAKA AS A TOOL OF ALOHA. The shaka is imbued with Hawaii's meaning of aloha, such as being thankful, welcoming, being of service, fostering connection and being "pono." As such, it is an ideal way to share aloha, both locally and around the world.

IT SUPPORTS THE ALOHA SPIRIT LAW. The Aloha Spirit Law is an actual law that is encoded in the Hawaii Revised Statutes as section 5-7.5. This statute requires that all citizens, government officials and visitors conduct themselves in accordance with the Aloha Spirit. Appropriate use of the shaka supports and makes possible the compliance with the Aloha Spirit Law.

IT FOSTERS THE SHAKA AS A KEY TO PEACE & PARADISE. Famed Hawaiian philosopher Aunty Pilahi Pahi once wrote, "The world will turn to Hawai'i as they search for world peace, as Hawai'i has the key, and that key is aloha." The shaka is such a key to unlock peace. Further, its meaning of having no fear and going for excellence, also renders it a key to creating paradise in Hawai'i and anywhere in the world beyond. To achieve these ends, it's essential that the Hawaiian shaka be preserved and protected.

For these reasons, I support bill SB3312 as an Act to adopt, establish, and designate the shaka as the official gesture of the State of Hawai'i.

HB-2736

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 5:27:08 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/7/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brynn A. Rillamas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the "Shaka" as our official State gesture. It's iconic and beloved around the world.

Mahalo, Brynn Rillamas

HB-2736

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 5:31:14 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/7/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Linda Sue	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Better to make the Shaka the State's formal icon before some other State or non-Hawaiian organization steals it right from under our feet. The Shaka belongs to Hawaii and her peoples. It has its roots here, and much of its history. The Shaka IS Hawaii!

HB-2736

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 5:41:14 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/7/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dr. Sharon Tisza	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Shaka sign originated in Hawaii, but is to be shared with the rest of the world. I am proud to call Hawai'i my home for the last 27 years and throwing a Shaka is one way that I feel connected to the Hawaiian culture and these beautiful islands. I 100% support making the Shaka the official Hawaiian gesture.

HB-2736

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 6:03:25 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/7/2024 10:00:00 AM


Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kekela Miller	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha:

My name is Kekela Miller from La'ie, I support this Bill because we have always used this since

Tutu Hamana Kalili has used, it is a sign of :

1. Aloha Spirit
2. How you doing
3. Do you need help
4. How's your Ohana
5. We Love  You

Mahalo nui loa

Kekela Miller (Kupuna La'ie)

HB-2736

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 6:23:25 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/7/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Loukie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support.

HB-2736

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 6:46:21 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/7/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susie Chun Oakland	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB2736.

Mahalo,

Susie Chun Oakland

HB-2736

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 6:55:14 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/7/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karen Asato	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill 🙏 !!

HB-2736

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 7:31:43 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/7/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vu Nghiem	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure.

HB-2736

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 7:51:35 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/7/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ellen Okazaki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support!

HB-2736

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 8:06:36 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/7/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pauline Sato	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill because it is a positive thing that doesn't cost us anything. People naturally gravitate toward making the shaka sign when having pictures taken, when greeting someone, and when wanting to show positivity and approval. The origin of the gesture is here; let's keep it as ours. Mahalo!

HB-2736

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 8:13:24 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/7/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tammy Yamada	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It protects the Shaka as a tool of aloha.

HB-2736

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 10:17:00 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/7/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ian Kitajima	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In full support! Mahalo and Shaka!

HB-2736

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 10:55:57 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/7/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sean M. Morris	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this.

HB-2736

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 11:58:07 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/7/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Steven Navon Schonberger	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am not a resident of Hawaii but have visited often and come to love the Islands and particularly the Aloha spirit. The Shaka gesture captures the deep roots and tapestry of Hawaiian culture and shares the Allha spirit. It serves as a kind of ambassador to the World. I hope that the Hawaii legislature can make Shaka the official gesture.

HB-2736

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 1:24:09 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/7/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Johanna Tokunaga	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill because it is a sign of aloha which I would like to see maintained to highlight to all others and to remind ourselves on these islands to live aloha.

HB-2736

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:13:10 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/7/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chip Phelps	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Our Hawaiian Shaka is Fundamental to our Aloha attitudes, long-held beliefs and behaviors - Shaka is as powerful as the Lei we bestow locally with folks, visitors and dignitaries in formal meetings. Shaka's goodwill is recognized internationally and even in war-torn countries.

The Shaka is also Fundamental to our Economic interests here in Hawaii.

Please preserve and further empower the Shaka as a profound action for worldwide Peace-making. Please cast your vote FOR this legislation.

HB-2736

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:50:06 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/7/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mar Aipoalani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support “SHAKA” 🙌 HAWAI’I’S FOREVER. This bill costs \$0 money, memorializes Hawai’i as the place of origin, protects the Shaka as an asset that builds the State’s economy and most importantly helps us all share aloha through the Shaka. “I Support”. Please do the same and pass this bill.

Mahalo,

Mary A.

HB-2736

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:33:05 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/7/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Georgette Stevens	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kākou,

My testimony is in support of House Bill 2736, relating to the state gesture and the adoption of the "shaka" sign as a symbol of aloha, which effectively communicates the significance of this gesture and its potential positive impact. This reminds me of the widely recognized peace sign is a symbol of peace. The "shaka" sign will then become a symbol of the spirit of aloha.

With the cultural and symbolic importance of the "shaka" sign, I see that embracing it as a state symbol would contribute to spreading the values of aloha.

Mahalo piha,

Georgette Nohea Stevens

HB-2736

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:41:01 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/7/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Viktor Cox	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This makes sense for all the reasons stated below

- It memorializes Hawai'i as the place of origin.
- It protects the Shaka as a part of Hawai'i's cultural heritage.
- It protects the Shaka as an asset to build the State's economy.
- It protects the Shaka as a tool of Aloha.
- It costs \$0 to claim the Shaka for Hawai'i.

HB-2736

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:42:04 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/7/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kenneth S. Hara	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB 2736 and believe it is appropriate to make the Shaka Hawaii's official gesture.

HB-2736

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:56:38 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/7/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nancy Lueck	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I wholeheartedly support this Bill to establish the Shaka as Hawaii's official gesture. The more our community recognizes and promotes genuine sharing of this gesture of aloha in the world the better our humanity can be.

HB-2736

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:56:58 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/7/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Olderr	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. It's impossible for the shaka literally and figuratively separated from Hawaii, so why not make it official. ?

HB-2736

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:14:22 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/7/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bonnie Kudlicki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Symbols are powerful vehicles to carry a message. As a property owner on the Big Island, each time I visit and am greeted by Shaka from a stranger, it spreads pride in my second home state, and shares a common courtesy which evokes feelings that you are part of a special community. Nothing can spur on respect of each other more than kindness and common ground. This gesture is a perfect compliment to the spirit of Aloha, one that can physically be seen and one that is unique to this beautiful place and people. There are no politics in passing this bill. It is the perfect non partisian issue that has the capability to cement goodness on all sides.

HB-2736

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:14:33 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/7/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keith Ziolkowski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I think the Shaka is a representation of a way of life, living aloha! What a better way then to memorialize it as the state's official greeting. It's unique and though it spans the world, it's best representation is from Hawaii. Own it, make it the official greeting!

thanks for the opportunity,

Keith Ziolkowski

HB-2736

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:25:07 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/7/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brian	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Having been born and raise here in Hawaii, I have seen that the "Shaka" sign is the most universal and fundamental way of communicating love, unity and happiness in this state of Hawaii. It is also commonly understood in many parts of the world as well. I would like this sign to be formally recognized by the legislature to be an official gesture by this wonderful state. Mahalo! (And Shaka, Braddah!)

HB-2736

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 1:22:36 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/7/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kale Ornellas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am proud of where I am from , born and raised here in Hawaii and support " the Shaka " as a symbolic gesture exclusive here in our state !

HB-2736

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 1:23:54 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/7/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Collin Mansanas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB2736

HB-2736

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 1:24:41 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/7/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anapuni Coleman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill.

HB-2736

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 1:26:32 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/7/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joshua Mueller	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB2736

HB-2736

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 1:29:09 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/7/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Liam Wilmott	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB2736

HB-2736

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 1:29:20 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/7/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dave Chew	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB2736.

Thank you

HB-2736

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 1:43:54 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/7/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ben Cayetano	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB 2736.

HB-2736

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 1:57:05 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/7/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Justin Dunhour	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support Bill HB2736

HB-2736

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:29:37 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/7/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Makana Fronda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill.

HB-2736

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:33:07 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/7/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cameron kama	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB2736

HB-2736

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:26:35 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/7/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sydney Millerd	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support this bill.

Mahalo,

Sydney Millerd

HB-2736

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:50:11 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/7/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rob Webb	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha is automatic. Mahalo for supporting this bill.

Rob Webb

Kula, Hawaii

HB-2736

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:14:34 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/7/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaleo Buck	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB2736

HB-2736

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:17:54 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/7/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robbie Paikai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB2736

HB-2736

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:22:36 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/7/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
richard gideon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB2736

HB-2736

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:33:11 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/7/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jonovan Tuinei	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support hb2736!

HB-2736

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:19:25 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/7/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hunter Mako Morton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB2736

HB-2736

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:26:03 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/7/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sierra Revilla	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB2736

HB-2736

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:47:59 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/7/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wade Terlep	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In strong support

HB-2736

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:53:07 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/7/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Derek Kamm	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support

HB-2736

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:13:56 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/7/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Enriquez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly support HB2736

HB-2736

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:23:05 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/7/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Conan K Donahue	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2736

HB-2736

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:03:09 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/7/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tyler Yuu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB2736

HB-2736

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:38:59 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/7/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kona Makaula	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB2736

HB-2736

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 11:12:59 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/7/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aaron Miyashiro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB2736

HB-2736

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:26:40 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/7/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alfred Horner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Alfred Horner, support HB2736.

HB-2736

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 6:16:46 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/7/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
June Dillinger	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is June Dillinger and I support the official naming of the Shaka 🙌 for the state gesture. It adds to the impact of Aloha and is known around the world. With Steve Sue's creative work and leaving a legacy of a documentary about it, the world will have one more way to connect to the true grace of the Hawaiian islands.

Sincerely,

June Dillinger

Hawaii Business Owner

Heart Cards Global LLC <https://heartcardsglobal.com/>

It's All About Love aka I DO HAWAIIAN WEDDINGS <https://idohawaiianweddings.com/>

Making Love Visible LLC <http://makinglovevisible.com/>

HB-2736

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 6:45:08 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/7/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alfonso Pitolo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. For the shaka

HB-2736

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 7:46:12 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/7/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Peter Hamasaki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Tam, Vice Chair Martinez and Committee Members:

I would like to offer my **STRONG SUPPORT** for House Bill No. 2736, relating to State Gesture, which would recognize the shaka as the official gesture of the State of Hawai'i. This measure recognizes the shaka as a reflection of the aloha spirit and a unique part of local culture, cementing its ties to Hawai'i as use of the shaka spreads around the world. Thank you for your consideration.

Peter Hamasaki

HB-2736

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:37:01 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/7/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wendy Nagaishi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The "Shaka" sign is a very special gesture that is an automatic expression of our Aloha for each other. It has deep meaning to the people of Hawaii. It is very important that we keep it ours and not give anyone else the opportunity to take it as theirs. We kindly ask you to help us secure our own "Shaka", and make it the official gesture of Hawaii. It belongs to the people of Hawaii.

Mahalo nui!

HB-2736

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:12:50 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/7/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
anthony padilla	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Insupport of Hb2736

HB-2736

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:46:24 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/7/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hopena Pokipala	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB2736

HB-2736

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 2:58:12 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/7/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Griff Jurgens	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Legislators,

Mahalo for the work you do and taking the time to read this testimony. I've lived in Hawai'i for nearly 15 years now and done my best to listen, understand, and support local communities and maintaining the pride people have in being from this one-of-a-kind place. As we all know, there has been much taken from this land and its people. This is why I'm in strong support of HB2736. This effort helps identify and maintain a little peice of what makes Hawai'i so special, here where it belongs.

Again, thank you for your time and commitment to bettering the place we call home.

Aloha,

Griff Jurgens

Honolulu, HI, 96813 | 808.753.0960

HB-2736

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:39:02 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/7/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephanie Antonio	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB2736!

HB-2736

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 11:02:42 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/7/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emari Hunn	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Members of the Legislative Committee,

I am writing to you today to advocate for the adoption of the "Shaka" gesture as the official symbol of Hawai'i. The Shaka, with its roots deeply embedded in Hawaiian culture, represents the spirit of aloha, unity, and the unique identity of our beautiful islands.

This simple yet powerful hand gesture has become synonymous with the warmth and friendliness of the people of Hawai'i. Choosing the Shaka as the official gesture will not only celebrate our cultural heritage but also serve as a unifying symbol for residents and visitors alike. Unity is what the Aloha State is about & I believe that shaka is the physical demonstration of the aloha spirit.

By officially recognizing the Shaka, we affirm our commitment to preserving and promoting the values of aloha, fostering a sense of community, and embracing the inclusivity that defines Hawaii. I urge you to consider this proposal, recognizing the Shaka as an enduring emblem of our state's rich cultural tapestry.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Emari Hunn



PONO CONNECTIONS

Andrew Rosen
88 Pi'ikoi Street
Suite 2304
Honolulu, HI 96814

February 26, 2024

Aloha Committee:

It is my pleasure to offer this letter of support on behalf of Bill HB2736 & SB3312.

As many remember, Aloha Poke in Chicago sent a cease and desist to a Native Hawaiian couple in Alaska to remove "Aloha" from their business name. It caused much a stir about coopting our culture. Let's not forget that Surfing, which developed here has been coopted in California has the capital of the sport.

Now we have an opportunity to create precedent through HB 2736 & HB 3312 and protect Shaka. Already se see companies incorrectly use the logo of the shaka, showing the three middle fingers that the conductor who this symbol was established, did not have those three digits.

THEY PROTECT THE SHAKA AS PART OF HAWAI'I'S CULTURE & HERITAGE. Multiple Hawai'i ethnic cultures including Hawaiian, Samoan, Japanese, Chinese, Portuguese, Filipino Caucasian, and various resident groups have contributed to the deep and complex meanings of the shaka.

The shaka is in fact representative of 110 years of Hawai'i history and HAWAI'I'S melting pot of cultures and heritage at large. If any state other than Hawai'i adopted the shaka first, the meaning and historical significance of Hawai'i's shaka would be diluted. Thus, Hawai'i's adoption of the shaka will ensure that the meaning of the gesture will be protected and forever tied to Hawai'i culture and heritage.

THEY PROTECT THE SHAKA AS AN ASSET TO BUILD THE ECONOMY of the State.

The shaka is a key asset for the people and the State of Hawai'i to enjoy in that it offers the power to build our economy and global brand.

No other symbol for Hawai'i is as visual and intuitively meaningful as the shaka. A second-best brand symbol might be the word "aloha", or images of rainbows or tropical flowers but none are as iconically Hawai'i as the Shaka. Further, as a brand symbol that requires no word characters, it is superior as an international brand symbol.

This is why countless Hawai'i apparel, food, art, transportation, souvenir and other businesses leverage the shaka as a key design element. The shaka needs to be preserved for the economic vitality of Hawai'i.



PONO CONNECTIONS

THEY PROTECT THE SHAKA AS A TOOL OF ALOHA. The shaka is imbued with Hawaii's meaning of aloha, such as being thankful, welcoming, being of service, fostering connection and being “*pono*.” As such, it is an ideal way to share aloha, both locally and around the world.

THEY SUPPORT THE ALOHA SPIRIT LAW (§5-7.5). The Aloha Spirit Law is an actual law that is encoded in the Hawai'i Revised Statutes §5-7.5. This statute requires that all citizens, government officials and visitors conduct themselves in accordance with the Aloha Spirit. Appropriate use of the shaka supports and makes possible the compliance with the Aloha Spirit Law.

THEY FOSTER THE SHAKA AS A KEY TO PEACE & PARADISE. Famed Hawaiian philosopher Aunty Pilahi Paki once wrote, “The world will turn to Hawai'i as they search for world peace, as Hawai'i has the key, and that key is aloha.” The shaka is such a key to unlock peace. In fact, it's a key symbol of Aloha, as the concept of Aloha is intellectual and not driven by a tangible object. Further, the Shaka meaning of having no fear and going for excellence, also renders it a key to creating paradise in Hawai'i and anywhere in the world beyond. To achieve these ends, it's essential that the Hawaiian shaka be preserved and protected.

For these reasons, I support HB2736 & SB3312 as an Act to adopt, establish, and designate the shaka as the official gesture of the State of Hawai'i.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely and with Aloha,

Andrew Rosen
Founder | CEO