



## Hawaii Society, Sons of the American Revolution

745 Fort Street, Suite 311  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813



March 31, 2022

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chairman  
Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Dear Representative Nakashima,

The Hawaii Society, Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), founded in Hawaii in 1895, gives its full support to the approval of HR166/HCR166, "Requesting the Governor to Establish A Hawaii Commission on the United States Semi-quincentennial by Executive Order."

The Hawaii Society of the SAR is a 50<sup>th</sup> Vietnam War Commemoration Partner, and was a Hawaii World War One Centennial Commemoration partner from 2015-2020, providing support to the 36 of the 40 WWI Centennial events conducted in the State of Hawaii.

The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution has established a National 250<sup>th</sup> Committee, and has tasked every SAR State Society and Chapter to recognize those events that led to the American Revolution, as well as those events which occurred during the Revolution. Each SAR State Society and Chapter will hold public venues to educate, recognize, honor, and celebrate the events and heroes of the period surrounding the American Revolution.

The Hawaii Society SAR is partnering with the Hawaii Daughters of the American Revolution to provide meaningful commemoration events and activities. One such example is the Hawaii DAR's efforts to honor Revolutionary War Ship Captain John Kendrick, who served in the Continental Navy on the privateer ships *Fanny*, *Count D'estaing*, and *Marianne*. Captain Kendrick died on December 12, 1794 in Honolulu Harbor while on a trans-Pacific after being the first official American delegation to visit Japan after the establishment of the United States. Just five months before his death.

We look forward to the Hawaii Congress approving both resolutions to recommend them to the Governor, and we look forward to contributing to the State's commemoration efforts as we have done in the past.

I may be reached at [hawaiisar.president@gmail.com](mailto:hawaiisar.president@gmail.com)

Respectfully,

Dr. Arthur N. Tulak, Ed.D.  
COL, USA, Ret.  
President  
Hawaii Society,  
Sons of the American Revolution



U.S. SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL COMMISSION

**Testimony on:**

HR166 and HCR166, Which Call for the Creation of a Hawaii Commission on  
the United States Semiquincentennial

**Submitted to:**

The Hawaii House Committee on  
Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs  
April 5, 2022

**Submitted By:**

Daniel M. DiLella  
Chairman  
United States Semiquincentennial Commission

**For Additional Information Contact:**

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Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee –

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony regarding HR166 and HCR166 which call for the creation of a Hawaii Commission on the United States Semiquincentennial in order to plan and coordinate, within the state of Hawaii, the commemoration of 250 years since the United States declared independence.

My name is Dan DiLella. I have the honor of serving as Chairman of the United States Semiquincentennial Commission, which was established by Congress to lead the nationwide commemoration of this historic anniversary and to inspire each and every American to participate in our country's greatest milestone yet.

The 250th anniversary of our nation's founding provides an unparalleled opportunity to reflect on the great American Experiment and to Educate, Engage, and Unite Americans throughout the country and our friends around the world. In anticipation of this milestone in 2026, the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission will work with public and private entities across the country with the goal of orchestrating the largest and most inclusive anniversary observance in our nation's history.


This initiative, which will be referred to commonly as "America250," anticipates nearly 125,000 programs—the vast majority of which will be state- and territory-led initiatives—resulting in billions of dollars in resources that will ripple through our local, state, territorial, and national economies.

State- and territorial-level involvement is a top priority of the Commission, and the Commission plans to work in full partnership with each state's official Semiquincentennial entity in order to support planning efforts across the country. Twenty-four states have already created Semiquincentennial entities to administer and organize their America250 programming, and many others are in the process of doing so. Through those commissions and their programs, states will be highlighting the contributions that they and their citizens have made to American history and culture since America's founding.

The Commission is encouraged to see that the Hawaii legislature is considering HR166 and HCR166 to establish its own commission for participation in this once-in-a-lifetime commemoration.

The U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission stands ready to partner with you to achieve our shared goals over the next several years. We look forward to the establishment of Hawaii's commission and to working with you—as we are with other states that have active commissions—to engage Hawaiians and to honor your state's unique story and contributions during this historic moment.

Sincerely,



Daniel M. DiLella  
Chairman, U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission

**HR-166**

Submitted on: 4/4/2022 12:41:24 PM

Testimony for JHA on 4/5/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sloane Struse	Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10276	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Rep. Matayoshi,

On behalf of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10276, I am submitting testimony in support of HR166, "Requesting the Governor to Establish a Hawaii Commission on the United States Semi-quincentennial by Executive Order." We keep our country united by celebrating its greatness. Hawaii needs to join those states that have already established a 250th Commission. Such an organizing body is necessary if we are going to have multi-organization cooperation for a meaningful commemoration. Please send the resolution to the Governor so that we can move forward.

Respectfully,

Lieutenant Colonel Sloane Struse, USAR

Life Member, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10276

92-1085 Koio Drive Apt D

Ko Olina, Hawaii 96707

**HR-166**

Submitted on: 4/2/2022 10:27:16 PM

Testimony for JHA on 4/5/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Michael S Lighthill	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Rep. Matayoshi,I would like to submit my testimony in full support of HR 166, “Requesting the Governor to Establish a Hawaii Commission on the United States Semi-quincentennial by Executive Order.” The 250th anniversary of the founding of the nation should be commemorated in all 50 states, and most certainly in the 50th State.

Please send the resolution to the Governor so that our state can join with the rest of the nation in celebrating this significant milestone.

**HR-166**

Submitted on: 4/2/2022 10:50:14 PM

Testimony for JHA on 4/5/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Margaret Russo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a local-history buff and volunteer researcher with a nonpolitical, nonprofit women's service organization, I am writing as an individual citizen in support of HR166, legislation authorizing Governor Ige to create an “America 250” USA Semiquincentennial” committee, commission, or task force in Hawai’i nei to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States. The proposed commemoration is modelled after Hawai’i ‘s 50th Vietnam Commemoration and its 100th Commemoration of World War 1.

My interest in the America 250 commemoration was sparked by my current research project: Hawai’i’s connection to the American Revolutionary War through Captain John Kendrick, an American sea captain. Captain Kendrick served as the commander of privateer brigantines during the Revolution, aiding the cause of American Independence. After independence from Great Britain was won and the United States established, Captain John Kendrick opened trade routes between the Pacific Northwest, Hawai’i, and China—including, partnering with Kamehameha I, the Hawaiian sandalwood trade and black pearl trade with China--which helped provide the capital to rebuild the war-torn, fledgling American nation. He was also the first American to initiate trade negotiations with Japan and was honored there with a memorial in 2016.

After arriving in the Hawaiian Islands for the last time in December 1794, Captain Kendrick and two English captains provided support to O’ahu’s king Kalanikupule, defeating the invading army of Maui’s chief Ka’eokulani. However, the victory celebration soon turned deadly for the American captain. On December 12, 1794, during a victory salute at Honolulu Harbor, the neighboring English ship, the *Jackal*, shot live rounds into the side of the *Lady Washington*, killing Captain Kendrick and some of his crew. Captain Kendrick was buried onshore at Honolulu, but his gravesite no longer exists. As a small part of the America 250 Semiquincentennial observances, I hope to obtain the needed permissions to donate and install a bronze historical marker to honor Captain Kendrick—Hawai’i’s tangible connection to the American Revolutionary War—at a public park near Honolulu Harbor.

For our state to meaningfully participate in the semiquincentennial observances, an America 250 organization is needed in Hawai’i. So far, twenty-one states have already established committees, commissions, or task forces to commemorate the upcoming 250th Anniversary of the founding of the USA.

Although it may seem at first glance that the remote Hawaiian archipelago has no historical link to the founding of the USA, that is not the case. Buried in her soil, Hawai'i holds the remains of an American patriot who fought to establish a new nation nearly 250 years ago--Captain John Kendrick.

To honor Captain Kendrick and all those who have worked to build and improve this nation in the years from its founding to the present, please lend your support to HR 166 in the House, as well as its companion legislation in the Senate (SR205).

Again, please vote in favor of HR166, to establish an "America 250" Commission in Hawai'i to commemorate the semiquincentennial of the United States, 1776 to 2026.

Mahalo nui for your kind consideration!

**HR-166**

Submitted on: 4/3/2022 11:03:08 AM

Testimony for JHA on 4/5/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Robert Takao	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Rep. Matayoshi,

I would like to submit my testimony in full support of HR 166, "Requesting the Governor to Establish a Hawaii Commission on the United States Semi-quincentennial by Executive Order." The 250th anniversary of the founding of the nation should be commemorated in all 50 states, and most certainly in the 50th State.

Please send the resolution to the Governor so that our state can join with the rest of the nation in celebrating this significant milestone.



**HR-166**

Submitted on: 4/3/2022 5:23:59 PM

Testimony for JHA on 4/5/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Daniel Curtis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Rep. Matayoshi,

As a the Chaplain of the Hawaii Society Sons of the American Revolution (HISSAR) I am submitting testimony in support of HR166, "Requesting the Governor to Establish a Hawaii Commission on the United States Semi-quincentennial by Executive Order." We keep our country united by celebrating its greatness. There is currently too much divisivness across our great Nation and seemingly they're people who appear to enjoy dividing us further apart. Hawaii needs to join those states that have already established a 250th Commission. The 250th anniversary of the founding of the nation should be commemorated in all 50 states, and most certainly in the 50th State. Such an organizing body is necessary if we are going to have multi-organization cooperation for a meaningful commemoration. I respectfully request to send this resolution to the Governor so that we can move forward.

**HR-166**

Submitted on: 4/3/2022 10:48:07 PM

Testimony for JHA on 4/5/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Julene Ignacio	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Sir & Madame,

This written testimony is to lend my support to SR205 and its companion legislation HR/HCR 166.

Sincerely,

Julene Ignacio

**HR-166**

Submitted on: 4/4/2022 11:28:38 AM

Testimony for JHA on 4/5/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Robert Moore	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Rep. Matayoshi,

I am a member of the Hawaii Sons of the American Revolution (HISSAR) and the Hawaii Trustee to the National Society of SAR and fully support HR166, "Requesting the Governor to Establish a Hawaii Commission on the United States Semi-quincentennial by Executive Order." Please send the resolution to Gov. Ige so that Hawaii may participate in this important commemoration in a meaningful and memorable way.

This effort to recognize America's 250th birth is being fully supported by all the States in our Union and want to ensure Hawaii fully is represented in that effort. As a 37 + year resident of Hawaii and a retired military whose Great, Great, Great Grandfather fought in the American Revolution, I humbly ask for your support.

Mahalo,

Rob Moore