



Senate Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

BILL SB 2202
POSITION: SUPPORT

Hearing Date: February 14, 2022; Hearing Time 3:10pm

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara and Committee Members:

Aloha United Way would like to express its full support for Bill SB 2202, which designates the month of April as Volunteer Month; provided that the month is not construed as a state holiday.

Aloha United Way has long recognized the critical and irreplaceable role volunteers fill for our non-profit sector and its ability to effectively help to meet community needs such as tutor and educational help, emergency response, environmental clean ups, homelessness and food distribution programs, sports leagues, animal shelters and so much more. AUW in fact provides resources and a centralized database to match volunteers to opportunities of interest and where there is need, and we solicit and support hundreds of volunteers to serve their community and causes each year.

The value of volunteers and the unpaid work and donated time and services they offer reaches into the billions nationally. Without them, many of the wonderful services provided in Hawaii would shrink or disappear. Volunteerism strengthens the foundation of neighborhoods and communities, connects people to others they may not otherwise meet, and when managed well, can add significant capacity to a non-profit service and its reach.

Supporting and increasing volunteerism and the public's understanding of the incredible value volunteers add to the State and our communities should be celebrated, recognized and promoted, and **AUW supports Bill SB 2202** as a mechanism to help build volunteerism in Hawaii.

Thank you for considering this testimony and for your support of SB 2202 to designate April as Volunteer Month for the State of Hawaii.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Suzanne Skjold".

Suzanne Skjold
Chief Operating Officer

SB-2202

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 2:58:29 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Shari Chang	Testifying for Girl Scouts of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, as the CEO of Girl Scouts of Hawai`i, we enthusiastically support Senate Bill 2202. As a nonprofit, we could not deliver all of the programs and services we have without the support of our amazing volunteers in this community. Our 1700 volunteers help our Girl Scouts unlock their limitless potential and make a lasting difference in the world. Although volunteers are always appreciated having a month long recognition and acknowledgement of their support would help our community understand the value of volunteerism. They are our neighborhood heroes, professional mentors and inspirational leaders, and we can't do what we do without their support.

If you have any questions, or need additional information, please feel free to contact me directly.

Mahalo for yur support of SB2202

Shari Chang

CEO

Girl Scouts of Hawai`i

SB-2202

Submitted on: 2/12/2022 4:50:04 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ryden Iwamoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara, and members of the Senate Committee on Labor, Culture, and the Arts:

My name is Ryden Iwamoto and I am testifying in strong support of SB2202, a measure to dedicate April as volunteer month. As a student who has spent many hours volunteering in my community, having a month dedicated to volunteer service has the potential to increase volunteer rates across the state in many areas of service.

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the importance of volunteers and their role in supporting communities of all kinds. While many have given back to their communities by volunteering, the need for volunteers and the services they provide, according to surveys conducted by Kanu Hawaii, is only increasing. Having a month to bring awareness to the importance of volunteer service might help to meet these needs.

I hope the committee feels the same and adopts SB2202.

TESTIMONY OF

LARRY S VERAY

TO THE COMMITTEE ON:
LABOR, CULTURE AND THE ARTS

MOST STRONGLY SUPPORT SB 2202

RELATING TO VOLUNTEER MONTH

FEBRUARY 12, 2022

Aloha, Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara and committee members. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 2202. Although I am Chair for the Pearl City Neighborhood Board No. 21, I am submitting this testimony as an individual.

I totally support SB 2022 and its intent to designate the month of April as Volunteer Month to recognize the thousands of volunteers who sacrifice their personal family time to support others for always a good cause. This past two years during the pandemic, many citizens stood up to help others supporting Department of Health vaccine centers, providing food and water to our elderly, families and the homeless; The Pearl City Lions Club volunteered their time to support blood drives and even donating much needed blood, Many church groups assisted in facilitating food drives and collecting food from the community for the needy. Lastly, many military and civilian volunteer groups, working side-by-side assisted in keeping our island clean by picking up trash off the Pearl Harbor Historic Bike Trail, from our parks and on off roadways. This volunteerism was observed throughout all the island communities while spreading their Aloha to others.

I most strongly urge you to support and approve SB 2202 because it is the right thing to do to recognize our special volunteers in Hawaii. Mahalo!

Very respectfully,

Larry S. Veray

SB-2202

Submitted on: 2/13/2022 8:51:50 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sandra Mactagone	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB2202, it will showcase the importance of giving of your self by serving others in our community and will be aligned with celebrations throughout the country.

I volunteer every month, because there isa need towillingly offer of my time and service to where ever it is needed.

SB-2202

Submitted on: 2/13/2022 10:00:36 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jeanette Clark	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As someone who has benefitted from volunteer services, both on the giving and receiving end, I fully support this action to designate April as a month to recognise volunteers in the State of Hawaii.



Ali'i Pauahi Hawaiian Civic Club
Promoting Hawaiian culture and values since 1973
99-045 Nalopaka Place
`Aiea, Hawai'i 96701

February 13, 2022

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senate Committee on Labor, Culture and Arts
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania St.
Conference Room 225
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: Testimony in Support of SB 2202, Relating to Volunteer Month

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara, and Members of the Committee,

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to voice our **strong support** for SB 2202, which designates the month of April as "Volunteer Month," to honor volunteers in the community and encourage participation in service projects throughout the month.

Ali'i Pauahi Hawaiian Civic Club, is a civic organization that was founded in 1973 by Native Hawaiian teachers who volunteered their time, knowledge and resources to nurture and perpetuate the culture and traditions of the indigenous people of Hawai'i. At the time, Native Hawaiian cultural education was not offered in the Department of Education, and, as a club, they worked tirelessly to promote the resurgence of the study of native culture, history and language in the public schools. Their volunteerism led to the creation of Kupuna-driven learning programs that are the foundation of today's extraordinary Native Hawaiian educational systems which touch students from preschool to Doctoral programs and beyond.

We honor the vision and perseverance of our founders who laid the pathway for our club to continue to move in service, as we strive to develop innovative character education and natural resource stewardship models and spaces for community volunteerism to unite and thrive at Loko i`a Pā`aiāu, in Kalauao, Waiakeakua in Mānoa, and Wailea, in Hilo, Hawai`i.

Volunteers are the lifeblood of our work, without which we would not be able to succeed. Every stone, every plant, every gift, and every word that is shared by those who choose a life of service brings immeasurable blessings to the `āina, as well as to our generations that will follow.

Volunteering is aloha in practice, and we thank and commend you for considering this measure, which honors and nurtures the spirit of all that is good, charitable and loving in Hawai`i Nei and beyond.

Mahalo nui loa,

Kehaulani Lum
Pelekikena
Ali`i Pauahi Hawaiian Civic Club

SB-2202

Submitted on: 2/13/2022 3:27:35 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Naomi Masuno	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a Rotarian I can say that we live by the motto of "Service Above Self". Our Rotarians in Hawaii work thousands of hours volunteering each and every year to make our communities a better place. We volunteer at The Pantry, at schools, at senior centers and many more locations. Every year in April, our clubs do projects for our "Rotarians at Work" day. Last year hundreds partnered with other organizations to pick up plastics and trash around the State at various locations. As the Environment is one of Rotary's focus areas, we planted thousands of trees. To honor volunteers in April recognizes that the efforts are appreciated and encourage others to join in. Rotarians are People of Action. We see a need, we find a solution.