



SB3218

RELATING TO HAWAIIAN RECOGNITION DAY

e Kōmike 'Aha Kenekoa o ka Limahana, Mo'omeheu, a me nā Hana No'eau
(Senate Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts)

&

Ke Kōmike 'Aha Kenekoa o ke Kuleana Hawai'i
(Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs)

Pepeluali 10, 2022

1:00PM

Hālāwai Keleka'a'ike

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** SB3218, which aspires to establish Lā Kū'oko'a, November 28, as a Lā Kū'oko'a, Hawaiian Recognition Day, to celebrate the historical recognition of the independence of the Kingdom of Hawaii.

Reestablishing Lā Kū'oko'a as an official holiday restores important connections to Hawai'i's rich cultural and political history, a history that is largely ignored and largely left out of public school curriculum and public discourse. As a result, Lā Kū'oko'a passes by each year without formal recognition by the the state. Lā Kū'oko'a commemorates the day Great Britain and France, through joint proclamation, formally recognized the Kingdom of Hawai'i as an independent nation. With the Kingdom of Hawai'i's recognition by these nations, the Hawaiian Kingdom entered into treaties and engaged in foreign diplomacy with the major nations of the world. Lā Kū'oko'a was celebrated as a national public holiday under the Kingdom of Hawai'i, the Provisional Government, the Republic of Hawai'i, and the Territory of Hawai'i.

The State of Hawai'i's recognition of Lā Kū'oko'a will accurately recall and honor our collective history. Lā Kū'oko'a is a source of pride for many Native Hawaiians as it demonstrates the political acumen of our kūpuna and the status of the Hawaiian Kingdom as an active and respected member of the international community. Over the years, community celebrations and recognition of Lā Kū'oko'a has grown substantially in the community and in Hawai'i's schools. As Lā Kū'oko'a re-gains its prestige, with organizations holding celebrations on November 28 across the islands, it is appropriate and timely for the State of Hawai'i to formally recognize the unique historic and political significance of this day to all who call Hawai'i home.

Hawai'i's special heritage and celebration of various holidays tied to our historical underpinnings distinguish us from other states. Previously, Hawai'i lawmakers adopted official holidays that reflect this distinct past, including Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalaniana'ole Day and King Kamehameha I Day. Lā Kū'oko'a merits joining these unique Hawaiian holidays.

Accordingly, we respectfully urge your Committees to **PASS** this measure. Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CURT T. OTAGURO
COMPTROLLER
AUDREY HIDANO
DEPUTY COMPTROLLER

STATE OF HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES

P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HAWAI'I 96810-0119

WRITTEN TESTIMONY
OF
CURT T. OTAGURO, STATE COMPTROLLER
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO THE
COMMITTEES ON

LABOR, CULTURE AND THE ARTS
HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

FEB 10, 2022, 1:00 P.M.
VIDEOCONFERENCE, STATE CAPITOL

S.B. 3218

RELATING TO HAWAIIAN RECOGNITION DAY.

Chairs Taniguchi and Shimabukuro, Vice Chairs Ihara and Keohokalole, and Members of the Committees, thank you for the opportunity to testify on S.B. 3218.

The Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) supports this bill and wishes to add the following comments for consideration:

1. The signing of the Anglo-French Declaration on 28 November 1843 was one of the most pivotal moments in Hawaiian history. At a time when Captain George Paulet of the British Navy had seized control of the Hawaiian Kingdom, this declaration between two of the most powerful nations of the day made clear to all the world that the Hawaiian Islands were one political geographic unit under the complete and exclusive control of the Hawaiian People. With the United States joining this recognition, it was made clear to the other world powers that Hawai'i was to stay whole and under its own government, able to

negotiate amongst the nations of the world as equals. This was an accomplishment for which the Hawaiian diplomat Timoteo Ha'alilio gave his life, having succumbed to illness acquired during the journey.

2. The State of Hawai'i is the only government of Hawai'i that has not yet recognized and celebrated the significance of the Anglo-French Declaration. Lā Kū'oko'a was first recognized as a holiday in Hawai'i in 1847, was recognized as an official holiday of the Republic of Hawai'i in 1896, and continued to be celebrated as an official holiday by the Territory of Hawai'i – with schools closing in 1900, and government buildings and principle places of business closing in 1902.
3. As the Keepers of Public Memory, the State Archives has extensive documentation on the events leading up to the seizure of the Hawaiian Kingdom by Captain Paulet, the diplomatic mission to Europe and America, the signing of the Anglo-French Declaration, the many treaties that were signed between Hawai'i and foreign nations that resulted from the Declaration, important historical documents that clearly illustrate the many ways in which this singular event has been celebrated in Hawai'i for the past century and a half.
4. Recognition of this event will provide a unique opportunity for the People of Hawai'i to reflect upon their history and the prominent place that Hawai'i has held on the world stage for over two centuries.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this matter

SB-3218

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 1:14:56 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/10/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
AGS- Jansen, Dr. Adam	Testifying for DAGS/Hawaii State Archives	Support	No

Comments:

Will be available for comments in support of testimony submitted by State Comptroller

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR



NOLA N. MIYASAKI
DIRECTOR DESIGNATE
FLORENCIO C. BAGUIO, JR.
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

February 8, 2022

The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts
and Hawaiian Affairs
The Senate, Room 219
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Taniguchi, Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committees:

Subject: Testimony on S.B. 3218 Relating to Hawaiian Recognition Day

The City and County of Honolulu would like to share our concern regarding S.B. 3218. The City and County of Honolulu is not opposed to recognizing the historical and cultural significance of Lā Kū'oko'a, Hawaiian Recognition Day. However, as a Public Employer, the City is concerned with the added inherent cost should this become a paid holiday. The cost to the City of a new holiday would be \$1.7 million (includes fringe costs). In addition to the added cost, the matter would be subject to collective bargaining with all public sector unions.

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

Sincerely,

Nola N. Miyasaki
Director Designate

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Unity, Equality, Aloha for all



To: SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR, CULTURE, AND THE ARTS, and
AND COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

For hearing Thursday, February 10, 2022

Re: SB 3218 RELATING TO HAWAIIAN RECOGNITION DAY.
Designates November 28 of each year as La Kuokoa, Hawaiian
Recognition Day, to celebrate the historical recognition of the
independence of the Kingdom of Hawaii.

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION

There were many holidays in the Kingdom of Hawaii which have never been proposed to become holidays of the State of Hawaii. For example, Kauikeaouli Kamehameha III, whose glorious statue now graces Thomas Square, did not know the date of his birth and was unable to reconstruct it on the Western calendar based on stories or other events that happened on that same day; so, like royals in other nations sometimes do (even when they do know their actual birthdate), he proclaimed for himself an "official birthdate" of March 17 to enable his subjects to celebrate. Today we call that St. Patrick's Day, and that's no blarney. But perhaps the Hawaiian sovereigntists will present the legislature with another bill like this one, to rename that date Kauikeaouli Day. Might as well!

First of all: The academic language police will not like the name "La Kuokoa." They would insist on spelling it with correct diacritical marks as "Lā Kū'oko'a".

Second: This bill is mistaken in saying that "Lā Kū'oko'a" (however spelled) means "Hawaiian Recognition Day" -- the word "Hawaiian" or even "Ko Hawai'i Pae 'Āina" is not included, which could yield the word "Hawaiian." So if the term to be used is "Lā Kū'oko'a" then the word "Hawaiian" should be removed from the English part of the designation. Note also that today's race-activists strongly insist that the word "Hawaiian" refers exclusively to people who have a drop of the magic blood [Associated Press stylebook endorses this usage], whereas the Kingdom of Hawaii was multiracial with full equality for many hundreds of Asians and Euro-American immigrants who took the loyalty oath to become naturalized subjects of the Kingdom, some of whom were elected or appointed to the legislature or served in the cabinet or as department heads. Calling it "Hawaiian Recognition Day" thus implies that what is to be recognized is a racial group, not a multiracial nation and certainly not the [Fake!] State of Hawaii.

Third and more importantly: The word "kū'oko'a" does not translate as "recognition" -- not in the Pukui/Elbert dictionary and not as used among today's activists. The dictionary also does not translate the English word "recognition" into Hawaiian by using the word "kū'oko'a." The word "kū'oko'a" in both the dictionary and in its usage among activists means "independence." Saying that "La Kū'oko'a" means "Recognition Day" is an act of subterfuge and deception. It's actually an example of kaona -- a double-meaning; a sort of code word or phrase which superficially seems to be presented as meaning one thing when actually it is intended to convey a stronger, more profound meaning to people "in the know." Like a song or hula about a bird

flitting from flower to flower sipping the nectar, which is actually sarcasm against a man in the front row, too stupid to grasp the metaphor, who everyone knows is a bed-hopping womanizer. Will you legislators fall for this treasonous bill which is actually an insult to your intelligence? Or do you perhaps endorse its intent?

Fourth and most importantly: voting to make "Lā Ku'oko'a" a holiday of the State of Hawaii could be construed as a violation of a legislator's oath to "support and defend the Constitution of the United States" because it is not intended to be a simple acknowledgment of a piece of history but rather as a celebration of the secessionists' hope for a return of sovereignty to an independent nation of Hawaii. Please take notice of HB2475 in this year's legislature which proposes to name July 31 as a State of Hawaii holiday "Lā Ho'iho'i Ea" which was also a Kingdom holiday meaning "Sovereignty Restoration Day" -- another example of a day whose recognition by the State of Hawaii would not merely acknowledge a historic Kingdom holiday from long ago but rather would endorse the secessionist hope for an actual restoration of sovereign independence to Hawaii.

Do you legislators really want to proclaim a Hawaiian Independence Day and a Hawaiian Sovereignty Restoration Day? I know there are some who do. If they have a sense of honor they should resign from the legislature of a State of Hawaii which they believe should not exist because of the "illegal overthrow" of 1893 and "illegal annexation" of 1898 and "illegal statehood vote" of 1959, not to mention colonial oppression, making Hawaiian language illegal, denationalization, and a never-ending litany of grievances.

SB-3218

Submitted on: 2/6/2022 2:55:06 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/10/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Alec Marentic	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I support this bill to recognize the Hawaiian Kingdom.

SB-3218

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 4:59:37 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/10/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Dara Carlin, M.A.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Stand in Suport.

1288 Kapiolani Blvd, Apt 1905
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

February 8, 2022

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts

Senator Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Chair
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair
Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

Subject: Testimony in support of SB3218 with Comments, Hearing, Thursday, Feb 10, 2022,
1:00 p.m.

Aloha

I am writing in support of SB3218, Relating to Hawaiian Recognition Day, that designates November 28 of each year as Lā Kū'oko'a, Hawaiian Recognition Day, to celebrate the historical recognition of the independence of the Kingdom of Hawai'i. **While I am in support of SB3218, I wish to strongly urge members of your committee to propose a bill that lifts a simple "recognition" to a bill that reinstates the Lā Kū'oko'a as a state holiday.**

In 2021, HB 678, HD1 proposed that Lā Kū'oko'a, Hawaiian Recognition Day be designated as an official state holiday. The bill passed second reading as amended and was referred to the committee(s) on JHA, but has had no hearing. It is worthy to note that in 2016 Hawai'i County Resolution 285-15 voted unanimously requesting the state legislature to make Lā Kū'oko'a a paid state holiday and Maui county recognized Lā Kū'oko'a unanimously and submitted the date to become a paid state holiday in their 2017 legislative package. In 2017, Kauai county passed their resolution for Lā Kū'oko'a to become a paid state holiday. Lastly, the Hawai'i Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO submitted testimony in support of H.B. 678. As the bill noted, "The legislature finds that every state in the Union celebrates holidays unique to that state's history. Texas celebrates its own Texas Independence Day, a day honoring Texas' independence from Mexico's central government. Utah celebrates Pioneer Day, the day Brigham Young ventured to its territory. Alaska celebrates Seward's Day, when the purchase treaty between the United States and Russia was codified."

Lā Kū'oko'a remained a national holiday under the Provisional Government of Hawai'i (1893), the Republic of Hawai'i (1894-1898), and the initial years of the Territory of Hawai'i. Lā Kū'oko'a was among the codified list of national holidays enacted by the Republic of Hawai'i in 1896 (Act 66).

I recognize that this year may not be the time given the following circumstances:

- The need to stabilize Hawaii's economy that is suffering from the effects of COVID;
- The need to raise the minimum wage;
- The many educational and health funding needs impacting upon our keiki and Kupuna;
- Funding for programs and services that address sexual abuse and exploitation; and women's rehabilitation and re-entry programs into the community after serving their terms in prison.

However, I am concerned that as the opportunity for making any day a holiday is extremely limited, that if the legislature does so, that it give priority to recognizing the historical hardships of Hawaii's own indigenous people before others. A bill that recognizes that Hawai'i was once an independent nation brings with it the opportunity to celebrate that time in Hawaii's glorious history and to learn of the hardships that Native Hawaiians endured subsequently as the U.S. overthrew Queen Liliuokalani's government. Today, many of the legislature's own bills recognize those hardships, such as Native Hawaiians suffering in health, in homeless, etc.

I offer these comments because there have been at least three senate bills and three house bills this year, all calling for Juneteenth to be a holiday, in recognition of the history and legacy of slavery in the United States and in honor of the significant roles, contributions, and achievements of African Americans in the history of the United States and Hawai'i. HB1449, that proposes to make Juneteenth Day a state holiday has already been reported from CAI (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 70-22) as amended in HD 1, recommending passage on Second Reading and referral to JHA.

While I recognize the history and legacy of slavery in the United States, I strongly urge that we should first provide justice and opportunity to Native Hawaiians as the indigenous people of Hawai'i. Thus, please practice our own Hawaiian and island values of Mālama and 'ohana by introducing and adopting a bill to make Lā Ho'i Ho'i Ea a state holiday.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide these comments.

Me kealoha pumehana

LEIMOMI KHAN