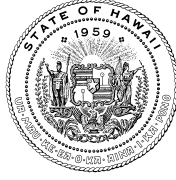


JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR  
KE KIA'ĀINA



KEITH A. REGAN  
COMPTROLLER  
KA LUNA HO'OMALU HANA LAULĀ

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KA HOPE LUNA HO'OMALU HANA LAULĀ

**STATE OF HAWAII'Ī | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII'Ī**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES | KA 'OIHANA LOIHELU A LAWELAWE LAULĀ**  
P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

WRITTEN TESTIMONY  
OF  
KEITH A. REGAN, COMPTROLLER  
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES  
TO THE

**COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

S. B. 731

MARCH 15, 2023, 10:00AM  
CONFERENCE ROOM 309 AND VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE, STATE CAPITOL  
RELATING TO HAWAIIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY.

Chair Tam, Vice Chair Martinez, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on S.B. 731.

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 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 Capt. 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 the 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.

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Unity, Equality, Aloha for all



To: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS & INTERNATIONAL  
AFFAIRS

For hearing Wednesday, March 15, 2023

Re: SB 731 RELATING TO HAWAIIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY.  
Designates November 28 of each year as La Kuokoa, Hawaiian  
Independence 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 officially acknowledged by the State of Hawaii. For example, 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 Kamehameha 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 Independence Day" -- the word "Hawaiian" or even "Ko Hawai'i Pae 'Āina" is not included in the historical name of this former holiday, 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. The historic rationale described in the text of this bill asserts that the holiday was observed "throughout 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." During those periods ethnic Hawaiians were a shrinking minority of Hawaii's population primarily because of the many tens of thousands of Japanese, Chinese, and Filipinos (after 1906) who were recruited to work on the sugar plantations by King Kalakaua and later Hawaii heads of government. Hawaii was thoroughly multiracial. Calling it "HAWAIIAN Independence Day" thus falsely implies that what is to be recognized is a racial group, not a multiracial nation/territory and certainly not what the sovereignties call the "Fake" State of Hawaii.

For those reasons, and to avoid any confusion that this ever was or now should be a race-based holiday, the word "Hawaiian" should be removed from the English version of the holiday's name. The English name should also display upfront that this is an acknowledgment of a historic holiday which does not in any way imply that Hawaii is now or ever should be an independent nation. Therefore the title of this bill and the name of this revived holiday should be as follows:

**SB 731 RELATING TO THE HISTORIC HAWAII NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE DAY.**

Designates November 28 of each year as Lā Kū'oko'a, the "historic Hawaii national independence day", to celebrate the 1843 recognition of the independence of the Kingdom of Hawaii by Britain and France on November 28, 1843.

**SB-731**

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 6:46:21 PM

Testimony for CAI on 3/15/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Angelina Woo	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

TO:

The Honorable Representative Adrian Kam, chair of the house committee on Culture, Arts & International Affairs.

The Honorable Representative Rose Martinez, vice chair of the house committee on Culture, Arts & International Affairs.

FROM: Angelina Kekina Woo

Aloha, ‘o Angelina Woo ko‘u inoa. Noho au i Makiki. He ‘umikūmālima o‘u makahiki. Hello everyone, my name is Angelina Woo, I am from Makiki, 15 years old, a proud native Hawaiian, and I am testifying in strong support of Senate Bill 731 which recognizes November 28th as Lā Kū‘okō‘a or Hawaiian Independence day.

I would like to teach you all a hua ‘ōlelo or word. Mana. According to wehewehe, the Hawaiian dictionary, it means divinely powerful or spirited. This bill isn’t talking about buildings or budgets, it is about the unity, pride, and ultimately, mana of Hawai‘i’s people through centuries.

Lā Kū‘okō‘a was established in 1843 when the Kingdom of Hawai‘i was recognized by England and France through the Ang-lo-Franco Proclamation. This marks the day that the Hawaiian Kingdom and it’s kanaka (or people) were heard. The only reason recognition for this mana landmark became lost is the illegal overthrow of Hawai‘i. At this time the lāhui or Hawaiian community were told to stick their heads in the sand, forget their practices, language, mana, and pride for being a Native Hawaiian.

But times have changed...we are in a sort of Hawaiian Renaissance. All around the state, Native Hawaiians are promoting cultural issues, recognizing historical events, and finding mana within each other. Currently, during Lā Kū‘okō‘a Kamehameha students march to the capital or simply around campus, waving the Hawaiian flag, and singing mele such as Hawai‘i Pono‘i, Hilo’s Boys and Girls Club hosted a two-day educational conference, multiple news channels covered Lā Kū‘okō‘a to speak about its importance and the Hawaiian pride that goes with it.

I have been dancing Hula since I was four years old. I go to a Hawaiian school where I learn the importance of our culture, ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i, and native Hawaiian values of aloha (or love), kulena (responsibility), pono (righteousness), etc... I have seen Native Hawaiian movements begin and

die because of a lack of hope, pride, or resources. This bill will give exactly that to our state. Lā Kū'okō'a will inspire youths like me, give peace to our kupuna, and help create a united Hawai'i WITHOUT any monetary cost to the state. It is something so easy, but so powerful and filled with mana. This is an important step towards recognizing our native Hawaiians and unifying our state aloha. Mahalo nui, e ola nā lāhui, e ola ka Hawai'i. (Long live Hawai'i's community, long live Hawai'i.)