



Committee on Culture, Arts, & International Affairs

Pō 'akolu, Malaki 17, 2021

Via Wikiō

Ke Kapikala Moku 'āina

415 South Beretania Street

Re: SB83 SD1 - RELATING TO GOVERNMENT

Aloha Luna Ho 'omalu Cedric Gates, Hope Luna Ho 'omalu Matthew LopResti and members of the House Committee on Culture, Arts, & International Affairs:

The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs **SUPPORTS** SB83 SD1. This bill for an act will designate November 28th of each year as Lā Kū'oko'a, Hawaiian Recognition Day, not constituting a state holiday, to celebrate the historical recognition of independence of the kingdom of Hawaii. At the 57th annual convention of the Association, resolution 2016-36 was passed which calls for the celebration and respectful remembrance of Lā Kū'oko'a on November 28th of each year.

Thus, the Association respectfully urges the committee to **PASS** SB83 SD1 Proposed.

The civic club movement was founded in 1918 by Congressional Delegate Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalaniana'ole with the creation of the Hawaiian Civic Club; the Association was formally organized in 1959 and has grown to a confederation of over sixty (60) Hawaiian Civic Clubs located throughout the State of Hawai'i and the United States. The Association is the oldest

Hawaiian community-based grassroots organization. The Association is governed by a 16-member Board of Directors; advocates for improved welfare of Native Hawaiians in culture, health, economic development, education, social welfare, and nationhood; and perpetuates and preserves language, history, music, dance and other Native Hawaiian cultural traditions.

Mahalo for allowing us to share our *mana* 'o.

Me ka 'oia 'i 'o,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hailama Farden', written in a cursive style.

Hailama Farden

Pelekikena

ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS

A RESOLUTION

16 - 36

REMEMBER AND RESPECT LA KUOKOA (HAWAIIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY) AS A HAWAIIAN NATIONAL HOLIDAY TO BE OBSERVED AND CELEBRATED ON NOV. 28 EVERY YEAR

WHEREAS, La Kuokoa—Hawaii’s Independence Day—was officially celebrated around the same time as Thanksgiving from about 1844 until 1895*; and

WHEREAS, La Kuokoa is the 28th of November, marking the day in 1843 that the Alii Timoteo Haalilio succeeded in obtaining the signatures of the authorities of Great Britain and France on a treaty recognizing Hawaii as a sovereign and independent nation; and

WHEREAS, Haalilio, with the missionary William Richards along as his secretary, traveled through Mexico on foot and donkey to Washington D.C., where they met President John Tyler; and

WHEREAS, President Tyler agreed to the intent of the proposed treaty; and

WHEREAS, Haalilio and Richards, armed with his agreement, then went on to Europe, to Belgium, Paris, and London, where the treaty was finally signed; and

WHEREAS, they then returned to the United States to cement U.S. agreement; and

WHEREAS, the Treaty of Independence was a substantial achievement under International Law recognized by the Hawaiian Kingdom government through the official celebration of La Kuokoa; and

WHEREAS, after the coup in 1893, the so-called Republic of Hawaii government announced that November 28, 1895—a Thursday—would not be celebrated as La Kuokoa, but would become the American Thanksgiving holiday, instead; and

WHEREAS, the poe aloha aina—the thousands of Hawaiian Kingdom subjects opposed to the illegal government—were incensed; and

WHEREAS, the people ignored the government's orders, and held celebrations of La Kuokoa instead; and

WHEREAS, at those gatherings, the poe aloha aina told the story of Haalilio's journey and significant achievement; and

WHEREAS, James Kaulia of the Hui Aloha Aina stated that the people recalled with gladness the restoration and perpetuation of the independence of Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, the perpetrators of 1895-1896 not only deprived Hawaii of a national holiday, they enacted laws that caused all Hawaiians the loss of our language and the related loss of our own history, a process that caused us to be deprived of even the memory of this Hawaiian national holiday; and

WHEREAS, the council of Hawai'i County recognize La Kuokoa.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs at its 57th annual convention at Las Vegas, Nevada this 19th day of November 2016, that it remember and respect La Kuokoa (Hawaiian Independence Day) as a Hawaiian national holiday to be observed and celebrated on Nov. 28 every year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs encourage the State of Hawaii and County governments to consider recognizing La Kuokoa; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs includes, along with its celebration and recognition of American holidays such as July 4th American Independence Day and January 16th Martin Luther King Day, specific remembrance of La Kuokoa as a Hawaiian holiday; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs include La Kuokoa holiday as Hawaiian Independence Day on its calendar of events.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of the State of Hawai'i, President of the State Senate, Speaker of the State House of Representatives, Chair of the State Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs, Chair of the State House Committee on Ocean, Marine Resources, & Hawaiian Affairs, Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and all County Mayors.

Sources:

*Noenoe Silva, PhD. 1998 <http://www.hawaiiankingdom.info/C1126750129/E501424467/>

*_Ke Aloha Aina_ (Hawaiian language newspaper)
November-December 1895, January 1896.

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Submitted on: 3/17/2021 10:02:02 AM

Testimony for CAI on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Golojuch Jr	LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Representatives,

The LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, Hawaii's oldest and largest policy and political LGBTQIA+ focused organization, fully supports Senate Bill 83.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration,

Michael Golojuch, Jr.

Chair

LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i

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Submitted on: 3/12/2021 10:45:11 PM

Testimony for CAI on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leimomi Khan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, I continue to support this bill, but am extremely disappointed that it is not being recognized as a state holiday. As the bill itself recognizes, "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."

La ku'oko'a remained a national holiday under the Provisional Government of Hawaii (1893), the Republic of Hawaii (1894-1898), and the initial years of the Territory of Hawaii. La ku'oko'a was among the codified list of national holidays enacted by the Republic of Hawaii in 1896 (Act 66). I do not know why it was dropped by the State of Hawaii.

Thus, I urge you to amend this bill to declare Nov 28 as a state holiday. If you can't do this this year because it may be too soon to substitute election day with la ku'oko'a since mail ballot voting just started, then commit as legislators to revisit this day as a holiday next year. See this bill as the stepping stone leading to that objective. Mahalo.

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Submitted on: 3/13/2021 1:40:40 PM

Testimony for CAI on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Will Caron	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha committee members,

I support this bill, but would also support amending it to make La Ku'oko'a an official state holiday.

Mahalo!

SB-83-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 11:46:30 AM

Testimony for CAI on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Midori Marcia Sue Trent	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support