

SB-915-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2022 11:31:40 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2022 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kimberly Perez Hults	Windclub Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

We - Windclub Hawaii - are a registered Hawaii nonprofit that educates the next generation of Hawai'i's watermen and waterwomen in windsports and provides equitable access to learning, training, and equipment. We strive to create an inclusive pathway for participation in emerging sports such as windfoiling, with the goal of developing a cohort of highly-skilled athletes and coaches to represent Hawai'i in local, national and international competitions.

We are in full support of SB915, the Duke Kahanamoku license plate bill. Duke is a revered cultural and athletic icon in Hawaii and is an inspiration to our youth today. He and his legacy are very much deserving of this distinguishment and we hope you will vote favorably to pass this bill. Our club members will look forward to seeing this bill become reality!

Thank you,

Kim Perez Hults

Kailua, HI

SB-915-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2022 12:12:11 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2022 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marcy	Outrigger Duke Kahanamoku Foundation	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing on behalf of the Outrigger Duke Kahanamoku Foundation (ODKF) as Board President and as a private citizen of Hawaii. The proposed license plate will honor the legacy of Duke Kahanamoku and Celebrate the legacy of surfing in Hawaii. Funds raised will be administered by ODKF and used to fund water safety and swim programs *in the State*. Sadly in a state surrounded by water, many of our citizens do not know how to swim. As a former lifeguard, coach, and lifelong swimmer I see this bill as an opportunity to bring awareness to both Duke Kahanamoku and swim programs. Mahalo for your support. .

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Submitted on: 3/29/2022 6:23:16 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2022 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bernice Parsons	Outrigger Duke Kahanamoku Foundation	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Representative Sylvia Luke & House Finance Comittee Members,

The passage of Bill 915 would mean a great deal to many people in our ocean-loving community and would be a source of immense pride.

This special license plate would honor and perpetuate the legacy of Duke Kahanamoku, Hawaii's legendary waterman, Olympian, and Ambassador of Aloha.

The plate would proudly celebrate Hawaii as the birthplace of surfing and Duke as the father of modern surfing.

Furthermore, issuance of Duke's license plate would raise funds for water safety and swimming programs in Hawaii, with minimal costs to the local government. Our state has one of the highest drowning rates in the nation, yet we have the potential to raise the world's best swimmers

The Outrigger Duke Kahanamoku Foundation would administer the funds to local water safety and swim programs, using its existing grantmaking framework.

I hope that you and the finance committee members will see the passing of this bill as an important and worthwhile endeavor to honor one of Hawaii's greatest sons, Duke Kahanamoku.

Sincerely,

Bernice Parsons



Testimony to the House Finance Committee
Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair; Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair
Thursday, March 31, 2022, 2:30 p.m.
Via videoconference

RE: SB 915, Relating to Special Number Plates

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and members of the House Finance Committee:

On behalf of the Outrigger Duke Kahanamoku Foundation, I would like to thank you for hearing **SB 915** and testify in **strong support** of this bill. **The purpose of this bill is to create a specialty license with the likeness of Duke Kahanamoku while raising funds for water safety and swimming programs in Hawaii.** Ideally, surfing would be incorporated into the final design to highlight Hawaii as the birthplace of surfing and Duke as the father of the modern sport. This past year we witnessed the realization of Duke's century-old dream: surfing's introduction as an Olympic sport. This spring, *Waterman*, a major motion picture about Duke's legacy, will release in movie theaters nationwide. Further, the trademark owner is authorizing the royalty-free use of Duke's image specifically for this plate, based on the intent to raise water safety awareness and swimming prestige in Hawaii. The timing could not be better.

The name Duke Kahanamoku connotes Native Hawaiian excellence in the ocean, supreme athletic achievement, surfing, the aloha spirit, and Hawaii. In 1912, Duke Kahanamoku set world swimming records and won an Olympic Gold for swimming; in the flash of a flutter kick, he became the world's first Native Hawaiian superstar. He went on to earn a total of five medals over three Olympics, teaching the world about surfing and the aloha spirit wherever he went. When he was home in Hawaii, Duke organized local swimming competitions to improve his racing skills and raise community spirits. While the infrastructure for community swim instruction was very limited in Duke's day, he was troubled by how many Hawaiian residents could not swim. As a true Hawaiian waterman, he made many ocean rescues and gave water safety warnings throughout his life. In 1925, in his most famous rescue, he used a surfboard to save eight people from a shipwreck in Newport Beach, California. He was also impacted by the tragic task of recovering the dead bodies of drowning victims on more than one occasion. When elected as of Sherriff of Honolulu for thirteen consecutive terms, Duke continued to advocate for community safety. In his later years, he was ultimately named Hawaii's official Ambassador of Aloha, charged with greeting dignitaries and celebrities to the islands, and representing Hawaii to the world. He was the first person to be inducted into both the Swimming Hall of Fame and the Surfing Hall of Fame. For all these reasons, it is fitting for Duke to be honored with a license plate, to represent Hawaii and to promote ocean safety.



Today, as you are likely aware, Hawaii consistently ranks among the highest in the nation for drowning deaths. According to the Hawaii Department of Health website, 84% of these drownings occur in ocean waters. Funding this bill would provide extra support to public and private entities already working towards drowning prevention and ocean safety, while utilizing minimal state resources. Tied to this, these funds can help support learn-to-swim programs for every child, competitive training programs available to older children, and world-class facilities to host training and competition. We are surrounded by ocean and blessed with ideal water and weather conditions. We could and should be developing numerous Olympic-class swimmers again, like Duke and his contemporaries.

ODKF has a proven framework to receive and review grant applications, and to process grant funds. The Outrigger Duke Kahanamoku Foundation (ODKF) is a public, non-profit foundation with 501(c)(3) status. Since its inception in 1986, ODKF has administered 804 grants to Hawaii individuals, teams, and organizations to sponsor water safety programs, or to facilitate or to participate in athletic events. Grantees from recent years include water safety training programs (the Kauai Jr. Lifeguard Program, a Jr. Lifeguard Training for at-risk youth in Surfrider Spirit Sessions, and Na Kama Kai); local swim contests (the South Shore Classic swim contest and the North Shore 5k/10k Swim); water sports days for youth (the Boys & Girls Club of Hawaii Ocean Sports Day and the Hawaii National Guard Youth Watersports Day); and swim club programs which train youth to compete at high levels (Kamehameha Swim Club and Swim Kauai Aquatics). ODKF grants typically range from \$1,000 to \$3,000 each, but these amounts are often 10% or less of the funding needed. There is so much room to grow and Duke's legacy can help us get there. Based on the widespread community support of the 1990 Waikiki Duke Statue and the 2002 Duke postage stamp we can expect tremendous support for this license plate.

ODKF strongly urges this committee to pass this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

Sarah Fairchild
Executive Director
808-292-7694

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Submitted on: 3/29/2022 2:39:37 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2022 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ben Komer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To perpetuate the legacy of Duke Kahanamoku, Hawaii's legendary waterman, Olympian, and Ambassador of Aloha.

To celebrate Hawaii as the birthplace of surfing and Duke as the father of modern surfing.

To raise funds for water safety and swimming programs in Hawaii, with minimal costs to the local government. Our state has one of the highest drowning rates in the nation, yet we have the potential to raise the world's best swimmers.

The Outrigger Duke Kahanamoku Foundation would administer the funds to local water safety and swim programs, using its existing grantmaking framework.

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Submitted on: 3/29/2022 5:43:16 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2022 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ralph Gray	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I fully support Bill SB915 and hope you will pass it and move it forward. Anything that promotes Duke Kahanamoku and his Aloha spirit will help Hawaii in all industries and especially tourism. We really need to get the message out there and promote his legacy. Covid has not helped our main industry and this could help us put Hawaii in front of everyones eyes again.

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Submitted on: 3/30/2022 10:51:52 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2022 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
George "Bud" Antonelis. PhD	Na Kama Kai	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hear are my comments in strong favor of this bill

- To perpetuate the legacy of Duke Kahanamoku, Hawaii's legendary waterman, Olympian, and Ambassador of Aloha.
- To celebrate Hawaii as the birthplace of surfing and Duke as the father of modern surfing.
- To raise funds for water safety and swimming programs in Hawaii, with minimal costs to the local government. Our state has one of the highest drowning rates in the nation, yet we have the potential to raise the world's best swimmers.

The Outrigger Duke Kahanamoku Foundation would administer the funds to local water safety and swim programs, using its existing grantmaking framework.