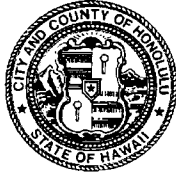


DEPARTMENT OF CUSTOMER SERVICES
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

MISSION MEMORIAL BUILDING
550 SOUTH KING STREET, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 768-3391 FAX: (808) 768-1591
<http://www.honolulu.gov>

RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR



KIMBERLY M. HASHIRO
ACTING DIRECTOR

February 17, 2022

The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
And Members of the Committee on Ways and Means
State Capitol, Conference Room 208
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, and
Members of the Committee on Ways and Means,

SUBJECT: S.B. 915 S.D.1 – Relating to Special Number Plates

The City and County of Honolulu, Department of Customer Services (CSD),
Motor Vehicles, Licensing and Permitting Division, strongly supports S.B. 915 S.D.1
Relating to Special Number Plates, which would allow the counties to issue a license
plate honoring Duke Kahanamoku.

This new license plate will commemorate and celebrate Duke Kahanamoku's
contributions to the state, and provide fund raising for programs to further his legacy in
the community, including support for swimming and surfing programs, water safety and
world class athletics.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on S.B. No. 915 S.D.1.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K.M. Hashiro".

Kimberly M. Hashiro
Acting Director



**Testimony to the Senate Committee of Ways and Means
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair; Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Friday, February 18, 2022, 10:00 a.m.
Via videoconference**

RE: SB 915, Relating to Nonprofit Organizations

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the Committee of Ways and Means:

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 super star. 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. Influenced by these experiences, when elected as of Sheriff 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. 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 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 Splash Aquatics). ODKF grants typically range from \$1,000 to \$3,000 each, but these amounts are often 10% or less of the funding need. There is so much room to grow and Duke's legacy can help us get there.

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

Mahalo,

Sarah Fairchild
Executive Director
808-292-7694

Submission Date	First Name	Last Name	City of Residence:	Testimony:
2022-02-14 13:07:08	William	Phillipotts	Honolulu	Please vote in favor of Bill 915 (S9915). We need to perpetuate Aloha and water safety to & for our community and visitors alike.
2022-02-14 07:28:13	Kirk	Fritz	Ewa Beach	Duke is an icon for Hawaii. I moved here to become a CEC Water Safety Officer and attend UH Manoa because of my knowledge of Duke saving those fishermen in Corona Del Mar where I grew up. I wanted to study and serve as the old. Full on no holding back. I would purchase a Duke license plate to support his legacy and the Legends. Mahalo for this initiative. Hoppe it passes.
2022-02-14 22:04:23	Kathryn	Heller	Honolulu	It is critical that the youth of today and tomorrow learn about Duke's legacy. Any and every opportunity to share knowledge of him and his creed should be acted on.*
2022-02-14 20:29:15	Ben	H	Keolu	Duke is the Hawaii ambassador of surfing and represents aloha to all that live and visit. I'd be honored to have a Duke plate on my car.
2022-02-14 18:32:46	Jessamy	Honor	Honolulu	As a community-based hui advocating for increased ocean and aquatic safety statewide, we strongly support this initiative. The Duke Kahamoku Foundation is well-positioned to support programs that promote ocean safety and swim education across the state. It is estimated that less than half of our keiki know how to swim and even fewer have basic awareness of ocean safety. According to the Hawaii Department of Health, between 2014 and 2018 the leading cause of injury-related mortality for Hawaii's keiki was drowning, and Hawaii has one of the country's highest drowning rates in general, which is unacceptable for a state surrounded by water. These facts alone underline a very tangible issue that cannot be ignored any longer; less tangible but also, as serious is the cost of children not being able to access the ocean due to lack of ocean and aquatic education, and the loss of all that it can offer over a lifetime. We must come together to support not only safety, but our wellbeing as a community through initiatives like this.
2022-02-14 17:39:02	Melana	Leitchild	Honolulu	Believe duke was the most influential person that came from Hawaii. He should be remembered by having a license plate in his honor.
2022-02-14 15:59:59	Duane	Pesoto	Waialae	Duke Kahamoku is an iconic inspiration to ever Hawaiian blooded person along with everyone who lives in Hawaii. His story should be known by all and shared to all as a reminder of his amazing accomplishments and standard of living.
2022-02-14 15:48:17	Allison	Guard	Honolulu	I support this bill.
2022-02-14 14:00:59	Michael Jo	Raqueño	Las Vegas	Hard vouch for this bill.
2022-02-14 13:43:13	Linda	Robb	Kea Iu	As a young child growing up on the Mainland, Duke Kahamoku was my hero, an individual that I aspired to emulate. His athleticism and warm aloha has made an international impact on the sports of swimming and surfing. He is the epitome of the Aloha Spirit and ambassador of both Hawaiian culture and sports. Duke Kahamoku deserves to be honored for his accomplishments and for the humble manner in which he brought Aloha to the world.
2022-02-14 13:41:45	Soreya	Lippert	Kapolei	I support this bill.
2022-02-14 13:01:06	Kainalu	Morimoto	Honolulu	Chairperson Dala Cruz and Vice Chair Keith Agaran My name is Kainalu Morimoto and I'm currently a resident of Oahu. I believe authorizing special license plates to commemorate Duke's legacy is crucial in upholding his spirit and our unique culture here. I recommend full passage of the bill without amendments for the full senate to vote on. Mahalo
2022-02-14 12:50:31	Christiana	Rendon	Lanai City	I support this bill.
2022-02-14 12:47:55	Kristian	Kewtchew	Lanai City	I support this bill.
2022-02-14 12:43:52	Jacob	Leisenge	Lanai City	I support this bill.
2022-02-14 12:42:35	Joe	Danger	Lanai City	I support this bill.
2022-02-14 12:39:02	Mitchell	Gantt	Las Vegas	I support this bill.
2022-02-14 12:37:35	Travan	Ayonayon	Lanai City	I support this bill.
2022-02-14 12:36:58	Stedan	Yim	Honolulu	"I support this bill."
2022-02-14 12:36:04	Marcy	Fleming	Kailua	Duke Kahamoku was a legendary waterman and icon to those young and old. It would be wonderful to honor him with the commemorative license plate. As a lifelong resident of Hawaii, I was shocked to learn that, despite being surrounded by water, many keiki and adults in Hawaii do not know how to swim. Proceeds from the sale of the plates will be used by the Outrigger Duke Kahamoku Foundation to support programs that promote water safety and swim education across the State of Hawaii.
2022-02-14 12:12:11	Peer	Birchfeldt	Honolulu	I feel that a Duke Kahamoku license plate would be a wonderful way to commemorate his legacy as well as provide funds to support his foundation. I urge you to pass this bill.
2022-02-14 11:53:45	Reggi Hong	Hibacker	Honolulu	Perfect way to honor the Duke & show our pride in all that he represents. My parents love began in Europe (1945), my Dad a Hawaiian, my mother German. They both shared a love for swimming & they both loved the Duke. My Dad was a Waterman with the 1956 Hawaii's Surf Lifesaving team. The Duke was the ambassador from Hawaii for the 56 Olympics when surfing made history in Australia. The Duke represents all that is Hawaii. He makes us feel proud. A license plate will enable us to be a part of him always & remind others of this truly great icon, Mahalo.
2022-02-14 10:41:20	Bill	Lane	Honolulu	I have been a surfer and swimmer for over 60+ years. My respect for the Duke has only been enhanced by being here in Hawaii for 50 of those years. He is a pioneer and hero to many of the ocean folks that abound here in Hawaii.

2022-02-14 08:22:06	LeiAnn	Akai-Haas	KAILUA	My son has benefited from a college scholarship from the Duke Kahanamoku Foundation and so have many other students at my school. DK represents aloha, what it means to be a contributing member of our community and our state.
2022-02-14 07:44:01	Marc	Haine	East Honolulu	I'd be extremely proud and would have my whole family have a license plates that promotes Aloha.
2022-02-14 07:27:14	Bhil	sevier	Kailua	I am definitely in favor of Duke Kahanamoku license plate to honor Hawaii's favorite son.
2022-02-14 00:20:41	Bill	Kenser	Honolulu	Duke is the pioneer of surfing, and the father of Hawaii. He wore many hats from being Hawaii's ambassador to being a Sheriff here as well. Representing the US in the Olympics to becoming a member of the US Olympic Hall of Fame! Duke swam with my father, while both were being coached by Soichi Sakamoto. He means more to Hawaii than anyone that I can remember in my 65 years in Hawaii. Honoring Duke on our license plate would be a great step forward showing our Aloha!
2022-02-14 00:09:08	Fower	Vergera	Honolulu	I support this bill.
2022-02-14 00:01:32	Gillian	Yamagata	Honolulu	I support this bill.
2022-02-13 19:34:40	Britt	Garcia	Kapolei	Anything that supports water safety in islands surrounded by water is important. Keep Duke's legacy alive.
2022-02-13 17:04:18	Kaira	Williams	Kapaa	I support the creative ideas and the message behind the plate. Honoring and remembering duke forever a bad decision!
2022-02-13 14:43:57	Fate	Godman	Aiea	I support this bill.
2022-02-13 14:05:30	Shelley	Olson-Wilding	Honolulu	This is the type of positive history we should be supporting here in Hawaii. I support this bill with all my heart and I am thankful for this being put forward.
2022-02-13 12:30:04	Aidan	Quinn	Kihne	Duke Kahanamoku is one of Hawaii's most famous figures, and deserves to be featured on our license plates. He was a positive figure that treated everyone with respect and spread the Aloha Spirit to all. Also, water safety and swim education is extremely important, especially here in Hawaii. If everyone was educated on these subjects, many lives could be saved. I support this bill, as Duke Kahanamoku deserves to be featured on license plates here in Hawaii.
2022-02-13 11:50:25	Leighton	Iam	Honolulu	I started surfing at 12 years old in Waikiki, 54 year later I still get out and surf as much as I can. Duke Kahanamoku gave the gift of surfing and much more Hawaii. It is important we honor that legacy. The license plate will resonate with this place and all who enjoy the ocean each and everyday with the same Aloha spirit Duke lived.
2022-02-13 11:40:11	Wendy	Cabb	Honolulu	You may ask, "Why is it so important to the State of Hawaii, our tourism industry, and future generations to have a recognizable Hawaiian Ambassador on our license plates? Here's why:.....
2022-02-13 11:19:26	Mfred	Van Gleason	Waialae	To perpetuate the legacy of Duke Kahanamoku, Hawaii's legendary waterman, Olympian, and Ambassador of Aloha.
2022-02-13 10:41:34	Sra	Mckay-Hines	Kailua	To celebrate Hawaii as the birthplace of surfing and Duke as the father of modern surfing.
2022-02-13 10:38:13	Fotis	Russell-Christians	Kapaa	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.
2022-02-13 10:02:03	Barbara	Marumoto	Honolulu	I support this bill in order to perpetuate the legacy of Duke Kahanamoku and to promote awareness of ocean safety throughout the state of Hawaii.
2022-02-13 09:51:17	Marketa	Ginoza	Honolulu	Water safety is critically important to our visitors and to Hawaii's image as a land of beautiful sunny beaches. Please support this bill that will help us all and enhance the history of Duke Kahanamoku.
2022-02-13 09:41:41	Nalu	Tokin	Honolulu	Former Rep. Barbara Marumoto
2022-02-13 09:27:40	Lisa	Ho	Iahana	I support this bill.
		Livingson	HONOLULU	Duke was the exemplar of the aloha that will save the world.
				I fully support this bill!

SB-915-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/16/2022 2:00:47 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/18/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Susie Saxten	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To Whom it may concern,

As a board member of the Outrigger Duke Kahanamoku Foundation and the owner and Chairman of T S Restaurants (owner of the Duke's restaurant concept), I am writing in support of the Duke license plate. I think this is an important step in perpetuating the legacy of Duke Kahanamoku, Hawaii's legendary waterman, Olympian, and Ambassador of Aloha. His legacy and his home of Hawaii deserve to be celebrated.

Further, the funds will go to a great cause. Hawaii 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.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Susie Saxten

Chairman, T S Restaurants