



Testimony to the House Committee of Culture, Arts & International Affairs
Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair; Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair
Wednesday, March 16, 2022, 10:30 a.m.
Via videoconference

RE: SB 915, Relating to Special Number Plates

Dear Chair Gates, Vice Chair Tam, and members of the Committee of Culture, Arts & International Affairs:

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. Influenced by these experiences, 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.



OUTRIGGER
DUKE KAHANAMOKU
FOUNDATION

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 needed. There is so much room to grow and Duke's legacy can help us get there. Based on the support of the 1990 Waikiki Duke Statue and the 2002 Duke postage stamp we can expect tremendous support for a license plate.

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

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SF', is placed above the typed name.

Sarah Fairchild
Executive Director
808-292-7694

Tuesday, March 15, 2022



Testimony in Support of SB915 - RELATING TO SPECIAL NUMBER PLATES: HEARING: 03-16-22 10:30 AM



Testimony in Support of SB915 - RELATING TO SPECIAL NUMBER PLATES: HEARING: 03-16-22 10:30 AM

Name: Duane DeSoto
Email: duanedesoto@gmail.com
City of Residence: Waianae

Testimony:

I support this bill. It would be a privilege to have Duke Kahanamoku plates on my vehicles in honor his amazing accomplishments and contributions to Hawaii and the world.



Tuesday, March 15, 2022



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Testimony in Support of SB915 - RELATING TO SPECIAL NUMBER PLATES: HEARING: 03-16-22 10:30 AM

Name: Gracianne Young
Email: ygracianne@gmail.com
City of Residence: Honolulu

Testimony:

I support this bill. This island will benefit having a special number plate for Duke Kahanamoku. We need to honor his amazing legacy in all of the island's.



Monday, March 14, 2022



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Testimony in Support of SB915 - RELATING TO SPECIAL NUMBER PLATES: HEARING: 03-16-22 10:30 AM

Name: Tate Goodman
Email: tgoodman22@punahou.edu
City of Residence: Aiea

Testimony:
I support this bill.



Monday, March 14, 2022



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Testimony in Support of SB915 - RELATING TO SPECIAL NUMBER PLATES: HEARING: 03-16-22 10:30 AM

Name: Linda Woo
Email: lwoo@staradvertiser.com
City of Residence: Honolulu

Testimony:

Duke is Hawaii...he is the spirit of aloha. He is Hawaii's first celebrity putting Hawaii on the map, people all over the world flock to see him. He deserves this, the State of Hawaii owes this to him.



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Testimony in Support of SB915 - RELATING TO SPECIAL NUMBER PLATES: HEARING: 03-16-22 10:30 AM

Name: Arthur Tokin
Email: atokin@aol.com
City of Residence: Honolulu

Testimony:
I strongly support this bill.

Aloha



Monday, March 14, 2022



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Testimony in Support of SB915 - RELATING TO SPECIAL NUMBER PLATES: HEARING: 03-16-22 10:30 AM

Name: Monica Salter
Email: monica.salter@gmail.com
City of Residence: Honolulu

Testimony:

Aloha -
Thank you for this strong consideration of the bill that would put Duke Kahanamoku on a Hawaii license plate.

It's an exemplary way to perpetuate the legacy of Duke Kahanamoku, legendary Native Hawaiian waterman, Olympian, and Ambassador of Aloha and 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.

Mahalo for your support!



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Name: Riley Smith

Email: rsmith@lanihau.net

City of Residence: Kamuela

Testimony:

I support the issuance of a special license plate, honoring Duke Kahanamoku. He is a Hawaii treasure and paved the way for many more Olympic swimmers (like my dad, Bill Smith, Jr.) and watermen from Hawaii.

Riley Smith



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Name: Joelle Foti
Email: joellefoti@gmail.com
City of Residence: Kailua

Testimony:
I support this bill!



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Testimony in Support of SB915 - RELATING TO SPECIAL NUMBER PLATES: HEARING: 03-16-22 10:30 AM

Name: Jimmy McMahon

Email: jimmyswim@mac.com

City of Residence: Honolulu

Testimony:

Duke is an icon of Hawaii, nothing says Aloha like the image of Duke, ocean, health and beauty. That is what Hawaii is, a great representation.



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Name: Ed Hampton

Email: hampton@hokua.org

City of Residence: Honolulu

Testimony:

Duke is the ambassador of Aloha and there for should be featured on our state plate



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Name: Marybeth Ruth
Email: marybethruth@aol.com
City of Residence: Oahu

Testimony:

What an amazing opportunity to honor a hero and legend of our State. And, to endow and support water education.



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Name: Joyce Timpson

Email: joyce@jtahawaii.com

City of Residence: HONOLULU

Testimony:

I support this bill. The cultural and international implications of this opportunity are extremely positive. Duke stood for all that is right and good in our amazing state. Please continue to honor his legacy with a special license plate.

With aloha,
Joyce Timpson



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Name: James Fulton
Email: jimfulton1010@gmail.com
City of Residence: Honolulu

Testimony:

Duke Kahanamoku ,the Father of International Surfing and the Ambassador of Aloha deserves to have a license plate to celebrate and honor Duke Kahanamoku, and support the Outrigger Duke Kahanamoku Foundation programs. We need tp preserve his legacy and this appropriate way to honor Duke.

Jim Fulton
Duke's OceanFest



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Name: Jeff Wagoner

Email: jeff.wagoner@yahoo.com

City of Residence: Honolulu

Testimony:

I support this bill. Sure feels like a no-brainer. Duke was the Ambassador of Aloha for Hawaii and this is an amazing way to recognize his legacy and bring in money to support water safety and swim education for the state.





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Name: Kailani Lippert
Email: kailippert@hotmail.com
City of Residence: Kapolei

Testimony:

It is extremely important for the people of Hawaii to honor Duke Kahanamoku with a License Plate!

Duke Kahanamoku continues to support our Hawaii athletes and students through the Outrigger Duke Kahanamoku Foundation

Duke Kahanamoku taught the people of Hawaii perseverance, honored them with his athletic abilities and is loved as one of the greatest Hawaiians in our history

Hawaii needs to have this amazing man honored with a license plate so that our future generations will always know the legacy of Duke Kahanamoku as a legendary Native Hawaiian waterman, Olympian and Ambassador of Aloha

His license plate will help to promote his ideals and spirit of aloha that are so important to the people of Hawaii and those throughout the world.

His license plate will celebrate Hawaii as the birthplace of surfing and Duke Kahanamoku as the father of modern surfing.

A Duke Kahanamoku license plate will provide funds for water safety and swimming programs in Hawaii with minimal costs to the local government

The Outrigger Duke Kahanamoku Foundation will be able to support these programs through their commitment to Duke Kahanamoku's legacy and sharing it with the people of Hawaii

Please pass legislation to authorize the issuance of a Duke Kahanamoku license plate!!!



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Name: Gaylord Wilcox
Email: gaylord@gwilcox.com
City of Residence: Honolulu

Testimony:

I support SB915, as it will both help preserve Duke's legacy and raise funds for causes Duke would have supported and that are important to the State.





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Name: Dennis Lippert
Email: dennislippert@hotmail.com
City of Residence: Kapolei

Testimony:

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Testimony in Support of SB915 - RELATING TO SPECIAL NUMBER PLATES: HEARING: 03-16-22 10:30 AM

Name: Anastacia Lippert
Email: jhenglippert@hotmail.com
City of Residence: Kapolei

Testimony:

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Name: Valerie Davis

Email: crzshp@aol.com

City of Residence: Honolulu

Testimony:

I support this bill.



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Testimony in Support of SB915 - RELATING TO SPECIAL NUMBER PLATES: HEARING: 03-16-22 10:30 AM

Name: James Foti

Email: jkfoti@gmail.com

City of Residence: Kailua

Testimony:

A Duke license plate wouldn't only be the coolest plates on the road, but the support of ocean safety is monumental. I have many friends in Ocean Safety and I listen to complaints about the shortage of funding from vehicles to jetskis, to facilities and more. I mean, one jetski from something like Sandy beach to Kualoa isn't going to do the trick. Anyhow, point is, this is a good way to raise added funds while giving people a very cool option for their plates. Mahalo, Jim Foti



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Testimony in Support of SB915 - RELATING TO SPECIAL NUMBER PLATES: HEARING: 03-16-22 10:30 AM

Name: Sara McKay-Hines
Email: smhines@midpac.edu
City of Residence: Kailua

Testimony:
I support this proposal.



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Testimony in Support of SB915 - RELATING TO SPECIAL NUMBER PLATES: HEARING: 03-16-22 10:30 AM

Name: Dexter Kahanamoku
Email: kahanamokumana@gmail.com
City of Residence: Honolulu, Hi.

Testimony:
I support this bill!



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Testimony in Support of SB915 - RELATING TO SPECIAL NUMBER PLATES: HEARING: 03-16-22 10:30 AM

Name: Mary Nees
Email: marynees2012@gmail.com
City of Residence: Kula

Testimony:

The world needs more Aloha and no one better to remind us of that than the Duke! Having a license plate in honor of him not only will help remind drivers to DRIVE with Aloha, but the proceeds raised help a worthy organization! I hope I am lucky enough to secure one of the license plates!



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Testimony in Support of SB915 - RELATING TO SPECIAL NUMBER PLATES: HEARING: 03-16-22 10:30 AM

Name: JD Devins
Email: jeffdevins@yahoo.com
City of Residence: Hawi

Testimony:

I strongly support this bill to commemorate Duke Kahanamoku. As a past UH swimmer, assistant swim coach, lifeguard, swim instructor and still avid bodysurfer - I find the benefits to be most valuable. First to honor Hawaii's most famous waterman! and to promote aquatic safety and education for the people of Hawaii. This allows for a safer and enjoyable experience in one of Hawaii's resources - the ocean. Such knowledge is undoubtedly life-saving.



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Testimony in Support of SB915 - RELATING TO SPECIAL NUMBER PLATES: HEARING: 03-16-22 10:30 AM

Name: Aidan Quinn
Email: aqmaui808@gmail.com
City of Residence: Kihei

Testimony:
I support this bill.



SB-915-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 1:28:51 PM

Testimony for CAI on 3/16/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Azuma Chrupaluk	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for this bill. We need more bills like this one that lend a glimpse of hope to our adolescents, young adults, and locals who have lost all hope that Kanaka Maoli could ever be someone important. What other great Hawaiian legends can we celebrate? Is it possible to take a day to observe the contributions of all of our migrant farm workers who have built Hawai'i as we know it today?

SB-915-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 7:43:30 PM

Testimony for CAI on 3/16/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alexandra Jackson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. The cultural and international implications of this opportunity are extremely positive. Duke stood for all that is right and good in our amazing state. Please continue to honor his legacy with a special license plate.

With aloha, Alexandra Jackson

SB-915-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 7:49:01 PM

Testimony for CAI on 3/16/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dennis Lippert	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony of Dennis Lippert in support of SB 915 RELATING TO SPECIAL NUMBER PLATES

Dennis Lippert

92-6040 Kalemakapii St

Kapolei, Hawaii 96707

It is extremely important for the people of Hawaii to honor Duke Kahanamoku with a License Plate!

Duke Kahanamoku continues to support our Hawaii athletes and students through the Outrigger Duke Kahanamoku Foundation.

Duke Kahanamoku taught the people of Hawaii perseverance, honored them with his athletic abilities and is loved as one of the greatest Hawaiians in our history.

Hawaii needs to have this amazing man honored with a license plate so that our future generations will always know the legacy of Duke Kahanamoku as a legendary Native Hawaiian waterman, Olympian and Ambassador of Aloha.

His license plate will help to promote his ideals and spirit of aloha that are so important to the people of Hawaii and those throughout the world.

His license plate will celebrate Hawaii as the birthplace of surfing and Duke Kahanamoku as the father of modern surfing.

A Duke Kahanamoku license plate will provide funds for water safety and swimming programs in Hawaii with minimal costs to the local government.

The Outrigger Duke Kahanamoku Foundation will be able to support these programs through their commitment to Duke Kahanamoku's legacy and sharing it with the people of Hawaii.

Please pass legislation to authorize the issuance of a Duke Kahanamoku license plate!!!

Mahalo,

Dennis Lippert

SB-915-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 7:54:06 PM

Testimony for CAI on 3/16/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kailani Lippert	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony of Kailani Lippert in support of SB 915 RELATING TO SPECIAL NUMBER PLATES

Kailani Lippert

92-6040 Kalemakapii St

Kapolei, Hawaii 96707

It is extremely important for the people of Hawaii to honor Duke Kahanamoku with a License Plate!

- Duke Kahanamoku continues to support our Hawaii athletes and students through the Outrigger Duke Kahanamoku Foundation.
-
- Duke Kahanamoku taught the people of Hawaii perseverance, honored them with his athletic abilities and is loved as one of the greatest Hawaiians in our history.
- Hawaii needs to have this amazing man honored with a license plate so that our future generations will always know the legacy of Duke Kahanamoku as a legendary Native Hawaiian waterman, Olympian and Ambassador of Aloha.
- His license plate will help to promote his ideals and spirit of aloha that are so important to the people of Hawaii and those throughout the world.
-
- His license plate will celebrate Hawaii as the birthplace of surfing and Duke Kahanamoku as the father of modern surfing.
-
- A Duke Kahanamoku license plate will provide funds for water safety and swimming programs in Hawaii with minimal costs to the local government.
- The Outrigger Duke Kahanamoku Foundation will be able to support these programs

through their commitment to Duke Kahanamoku's legacy and sharing it with the people of Hawaii.

- Please pass legislation to authorize the issuance of a Duke Kahanamoku license plate!!!

Mahalo,

Kailani Lippert

SB-915-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 7:59:41 PM

Testimony for CAI on 3/16/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anastacia Lippert	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony of Anastacia Lippert in support of SB 915 RELATING TO SPECIAL NUMBER PLATES

Anastacia Lippert

92-6040 Kalemakapii St

Kapolei, Hawaii 96707

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Please pass legislation to authorize the issuance of a Duke Kahanamoku license plate!!!

Mahalo,

Anastacia Lippert

SB-915-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 7:44:18 AM

Testimony for CAI on 3/16/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Duane DeSoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

to:

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

I support this bill. It would be a privilege to have Duke Kahanamoku plates on my vehicles in honor of his amazing accomplishments and contributions to Hawaii and the world. Making Duke Plates available to the public will allow his story to reach many people. Thank you for your time.

Aloha no Duane DeSoto

SB-915-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 10:06:46 AM

Testimony for CAI on 3/16/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William Philpotts	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Representatives,

I encourage you to support Bill SB 915 for the Duke License Plate. Our community needs more Hawaiian representatives that live a true spirit of Aloha and a Duke license plate reminds us all of our kuleana to share Aloha. Proceeds raised from the issuance of his plate will directly promote his legacy of Aloha and support our students and athletes that compete in Duke's Sports, (surfing, paddling/kayaking, swimming, water polo, and volleyball), through the Outrigger Duke Kahanamoku Foundation's athletic grants and scholarships. Please schedule a hearing to review the Bill and encourage your fellow representatives to support its passage.

As Duke's Creed of Aloha says:

Hawaii we greet friends, loved ones or strangers with Aloha, which means Love. Aloha is the key word to the universal spirit of real hospitality, which makes Hawaii renowned as the world's center of understanding and fellowship.

Try meeting or leaving people with Aloha. You'll be surprised by their reaction. I believe it and its is my creed."

Aloha to you, Duke Paoa Kahanamoku.

Mahalo for your service to our community and your leadership.

William Philpotts

133 Dowsett Ave

Honoullu HI 96817

SB-915-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 11:31:10 AM

Testimony for CAI on 3/16/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Manny Kulukulualani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support the issuance of special numbers license plates commemorating Duke Kahanamoku