

SB-731

Submitted on: 1/30/2023 12:16:03 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/2/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
cheryl B.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT

I am in support of this bill that designates November 28 of each year as La Kuokoa, Hawaiian Independence Day, to celebrate the historical recognition of the independence of the Kingdom of Hawai'i. This designation should come with support to our communities, including allowing people to take this day off in place of another holiday. Lā Kuokoa should be on our State calendar, Good Friday, not so much. Time to truly look through a changed lens.

SB-731

Submitted on: 1/30/2023 8:17:10 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/2/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dana Keawe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly support SB731

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Unity, Equality, Aloha for all



To: SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

For hearing Thursday, February 2, 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, Kauikeaouli 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 Kauikeaouli 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 Ku'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.

LATE

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



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

MEOH-LENG SILLIMAN
DEPUTY COMPTROLLER
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OMALU HANA LAULĀ

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

February 1, 2023

WRITTEN TESTIMONY
OF
KEITH A. REGAN, STATE COMPTROLLER
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO THE
COMMITTEE ON
HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

FEB 2, 2023, 1:00 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 224, STATE CAPITOL

S.B. 731

RELATING TO HAWAIIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY.

Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Fevella, 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 digitized and placed online 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 that 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

LATE

SB-731

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 1:27:23 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/2/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hulali D Patoc	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am in support of SB731.

Mahalo