



Maui Korean Community Association

Est. 1987 Hawaii USA

March 15, 2024

Senator Chris Lee, Chair

Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair

**Senate Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts**

**HB 1950 (HSCR734-24)**

Designating November 22 each year as Kimchi Day in the State of Hawai'i

Tuesday, March 19, 2024 3:00 PM

State Capitol Conference Room 224

415 South Beretania Street Honolulu HI 96813

**In Support**

In 2003 President George W. Bush recognized the celebration of 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first arrival of Korean immigrants to U.S., and the Korean American Day was officially acknowledged on January 13, 2005. Since the first courageous Korean immigrants, who had arrived at Honolulu Harbor 121 years ago, worked the land and sea in Hawaiian Islands with the determination towards the better future for their families, and for their children's families, Korean Americans continue to enrich our country in creative contents, education, public service, entrepreneurship, and so much more. It is fitting that the State of Hawai'i should become one of the first States to celebrate the Kimchi Day annually, for the collective Aloha here in Hawaii has always embraced the strength in inclusion, the vitality of new visions, and the wisdom of multiculturalism in our contemporary society. Kimchi Day Hawaii will become a festive calendar day that warrants the replay on community gatherings, cultural exchanges, paying homage to immigrant histories, campaign efforts, and most importantly enjoying the superb food culture that has survived over 1,500 years, sustained us with essential health benefits, and has now become a tasty global sensation.

The prominent playwright and political activist George Bernard Shaw (7/26/1856-11/02/1950) was once famously quoted by President John F. Kennedy in his address before the Irish Parliament: *Some men see things as they are, and say why. I dream of things that never were, and say why not.* We can dream of something new in the state measure and share the sense of pride and achievement. As we celebrate many special occasions under the state banner, we are reminded of the importance of honoring and reflecting on our cultural roots in history. National Donut Day is one such food holiday. It dates to WWI. The Salvation Army nurses fried donuts in soldier's helmets and served them on the battlefield offering comfort. National Donut Day began in Chicago to commemorate the wartime nurses called "Donut Lassies". Kimchi Day can tell a story in our state history, too, of those who work with purpose and live with passion in the Aloha State no matter where we came from. Let us celebrate the heartbeat of living: the good food and its extraordinary power to bring people together.

On behalf of Maui Korean Community Association, I'd like to express my appreciation to you and the members of the Senate Committee on TCA for having allowed the Kimchi Day hearing despite your busy schedule. Thank you very much!

Sincerely yours,

Jeannie Archer a.k.a. 최은진/Director

Maui Korean Community Association

☐ 마우이한인회

2773 Kalialani Circle Pukalani HI 96768

+1 (808) 442-2970

**HB-1950**

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 1:25:10 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Haley Shimada	Testifying for Maui Dance Klub at University of Hawaii Maui College	Support	In Person

Comments:

Kimchi Day is a necessary step our community must take in order to support, connect, and empower our Korean community in Hawai'i. With the massive growth of the "Hallyu wave," or the globalization of South Korean media (Korean dramas, K-Pop, etc.), Korean culture is becoming more mainstream. I, myself, became interested in studying the Korean language and learning about the culture because of K-Pop. For the past 11 years, I have been involved in volunteering to support the Korean community in Hawai'i. As a local Japanese individual with no Korean heritage, I started a Korean club at Baldwin High School, and have supported the Korean Association of Maui ever since. Through this involvement as well as being co-founder of Maui Dance Klub at UHMC (a dance organization on campus that shares a love for K-Pop and other styles of dance), I have seen the positive impact that Korean pop culture has had on other locals in Hawai'i. However, the Korean community does not seem well supported by most locals, and there is a lack of belonging or community among them as well as integration within the rest of the Hawai'i community. Because of this, we should share more knowledge about other aspects of Korean culture outside of pop culture; and the easiest way to do this is through food. With celebrating Kimchi Day, we might be able to empower and bring pride to the Korean community, connect others all across the state who share a love for Korean culture, and introduce those interested in Korean media to a deeper range of knowledge about Korean culture.



# 하와이 한인회

## The United Korean Association of Hawaii

Mailing: PO Box 235512, Honolulu, Hawaii 96823  
Physical: Physical: 1527 Keeaumoku Street, Building 42, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Tel: (808) 591-8984 E-Mail: tukah808@gmail.com  
FEIN: 20-0070639 Hawaii Tax ID: T-047-622-9632



March 17, 2024

Senator Chris Lee, Chair  
Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts

Re: Support of SB 2402/HB 1950 (HSCR734-24)  
Designating November 22 each year as Kimchi Day in the State of Hawaii

Dear Senators:

Thank you for the opportunity to bring your attention to an iconic cultural representation that's worth celebrating every year in Hawaii. We say "KIMCHI" with a smile!

As you know, kimchi has undergone a remarkable transformation in recent years, evolving from a niche ethnic dish to a globally recognized culinary icon. Once considered exotic, unfamiliar and an acquired taste for those outside of Korea, kimchi is now celebrated as a symbol of health, flavor, and cultural richness across the world as evidenced by the recognition of kimchi making as a UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2013. From its humble beginning, kimchi has transcended cultural boundaries, captivating palates and inspiring culinary innovation worldwide.

Why is it worthwhile to place kimchi on our calendar and affirm its tangible significance in Hawaii? It's because the growing regard of kimchi mirrors the evolution of Hawaii's multicultural landscape, where diverse communities coalesce to form a rich tapestry of traditions and experiences. Kimchi represents the spirit of resilience, adaptability, and unity of families and communities.

In conclusion, by designating November 22<sup>nd</sup> as Kimchi Day, Hawaii will once again embrace cultural inclusivity and culinary heritage, fostering deeper connections among its diverse population.

We appreciate your time and consideration.

Very truly yours,

David Suh  
President, The United Korean Association of Hawaii



## KOREAN AMERICAN FOUNDATION HAWAII

1881 East-West Road, Honolulu, HI 96822  
Phone: (808) 455-7780 Website: kafoundationhi.org

March 18, 2024

President  
Francis C. Park

Senate Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts  
Hawaii State Legislature, State Capitol

**Subject: Support for Bill # HB1950 - Designation of November 22 as "Kimchi Day" in the State of Hawaii**

Vice President  
Ivan Chong

Honorable Senators,

Secretary  
Taeyong Kim

On behalf of the Korean American Foundation Hawaii, I write to express strong support for HB 1950 (HSCR734-24), proposing Kimchi Day in Hawaii. As a resident immersed in Hawaiian and Korean cultures, I believe this celebration holds immense value for our diverse community.

Treasurer  
Ann Chung

Kimchi symbolizes cultural heritage, resilience, and unity, with a history spanning centuries. Designating a day to honor kimchi pays homage to Korean immigrants and celebrates Hawaii's cultural fusion.

Board of Directors

Kimchi Day fosters cultural exchange, connecting individuals of diverse backgrounds through stories and recipes. Embracing traditions like kimchi promotes inclusivity and harmony in our divided world.

Song Choi

Jeff Chung

Beyond cultural significance, kimchi offers health benefits, promoting gut health and well-being. By raising awareness through a dedicated day, we encourage healthier eating habits and support local businesses.

Kloe Kang

Rex Kim

I urge your support for HB 1950 (HSCR734-24) to establish Kimchi Day in Hawaii, honoring our shared heritage and promoting a healthier, inclusive community.

Jae Young Lee

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Francis Park  
President  
Korean American Foundation Hawaii



# 마우이 순복음교회 MAUI FULL GOSPEL CHURCH

390 Kanaloa Ave, Kahului, Hawaii 96732

Tel: (808) 242-8748 / C.P: (808) 757-6472 / E-Mail: mauipastorseo@gmail.com

Website: <https://www.mauifgc.org>

March 18, 2024

Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair  
Rep. Greg Takayama, Vice Chair  
Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Re: HB 1950

Designating November 22 each year as Kimchi Day in the State of Hawai'i

## In Support

Food gives us the strength to live today, and regardless of any generation, it's the joy of bringing together a community. Kimchi has such power and joy. Kimchi became the force that supported the 121-year history of Korean immigrants. It gave a variety of flavors to all generations and it is a precious piece of Hawaiian heritage that has brought joy to the community's dinner table.

Kimchi, which has become a precious heritage of Hawaii, is a world-famous food registered by UNESCO. This type of kimchi is worthy of commemoration within Hawaii and among its diverse heritage. This means that it will be a perfect day for a festival.

Thus, designating November 22nd as Hawaii Kimchi Day will become a new festival tradition in Hawaii, and along with the global Korean Wave, it will be an attractive day that will greatly contribute not only to Hawaiian tourism, but also to the local community and economy.

We are deeply grateful for this committee's thoughtful commitment to the people of Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Rev. Jeongwoan Seo  
Senior Pastor, Maui Full Gospel Church

**RE: HB1950 Designating November 22 as “Kimchi Day” in the State of Hawaii**

Aloha e TCA chairperson and committee members,

My name is Amy Ancheta, and I am a Korean Language Teacher at H.P. Baldwin High School on the beautiful island of Maui. I am writing this letter in support of bill HB1950, the designation of November 22 as the “Kimchi Day.”

At Baldwin High School, the Korean language program has grown from just a Level 1 class in 2020 to Levels 1, 2, & 3. Moreover, students who completed their level 3 class last year are taking their “Seal of Biliteracy” tests this year.

Korean culture has been an integral part of local culture since the first arrival of Korean immigrants on January 13, 1903, and the establishment of the temporary Korean government on the island of Oahu in July 1927. Kimchi is one of the representative symbols of Korean culture. As a first-generation Korean immigrant, I appreciate the support of the local government to be inclusive of many diverse cultures in Hawaii.

Last year, we celebrated Kimchi Day at Baldwin High School by passing out small jars of Kimchi to staff members and having a student “Kimchi” cook-off competition. Competitors handed out small food samples during lunch, and ratings were collected to determine the winners. Many students not only loved the taste of Kimchi but were very surprised to learn the benefits of Kimchi. This talk started the whole conversation about healthy food in different cultures. Learning about each other’s cultures will lead to understanding and peace in a diverse society like Hawaii.

I fervently support the bill HB 1950, the designation of November 22 as the “Kimchi Day.” Thank you for your time and effort in moving the bill forward.

Mahalo nui loa,  
Amy Ancheta  
Korean Language Teacher  
H.P. Baldwin High School  
1650 Ka’ahumanu Avenue  
Wailuku, HI 96793

**Senator Chris Lee, Chair**  
**Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair**  
Senate Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts

March 16, 2024

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF:**

**HB 1950 (HSCR734-24)**

**DESIGNATING NOVEMBER 22 EACH YEAR AS KIMCHI DAY IN THE STATE OF  
HAWAII**

My name is Jung Park and I am a resident of Wailuku, Maui. I am writing to express my support for the resolution to designate November 22 each year as Kimchi Day in the State of Hawaii.

Kimchi is a symbol of the resilience and creativity of the Korean people. By recognizing Kimchi Day, we acknowledge the contributions and achievements of Korean immigrants and their descendants in Hawaii, in various fields such as military, agriculture, business, education, arts, and politics.

Kimchi Day is a way to strengthen the friendship and cooperation between Hawaii and Korea. Kimchi Day is not only a local event, but also a global one, as it coincides with the World Kimchi Day that is celebrated in Korea and other countries. By joining this celebration, we show our respect and appreciation for Korea, one of our important allies and partners in the Asia-Pacific region. We also demonstrate our commitment to cultural diversity and harmony, which are the core values of Hawaii.

I would greatly appreciate your affirmative consideration of this bill.

Sincerely,



Dr. Jung W. Park

Professor  
Electronic and Computer Engineering Technology  
University of Hawaii Maui College  
Kahului, HI 96732  
Email: [parkjung@hawaii.edu](mailto:parkjung@hawaii.edu)  
Phone number: (808) 984-3423 (o)



**HB-1950**

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 10:41:14 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
catherine kosora	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha! On this specific day, sixty one years ago, 22 November 1963, President John F. Kennedy was assassinated. Could this Kim CHEE day please be considered for a different day.

mahalo for your consideration

# PAUL SNEED, PHD (MSW STUDENT)

(808) 492-6546 | psneed@hawaii.edu

March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Re: Designating November 22 each year as Kimchi Day in the State of Hawai'i

To: Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair  
Rep. Greg Takayama, Vice Chair  
Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Aloha kākou,

Designating November 22 each year as Kimchi Day in the State of Hawaii. I offer my testimony as that of a US citizen and resident of Hawaii who lived for seven years in the Republic of Korea as an associate professor of humanities at Seoul National University (2014-2021), where I regularly consumed kimchi. It is a delicious food with well-known health benefits. I was also a visiting researcher at the Center for Korean Studies at the University of Hawaii at Manoa (2019-2020). I am currently a student in the masters in social work at UHM.

I was thrilled when I learned of the efforts to create a day for honoring kimchi and the vital contributions of Koreans and Korean Americans to our state. The creation of Kimchi Day not only honors those with connections to Korea but also symbolizes the tremendous Asian-Pacific cultural and ethnic diversity that makes Hawaii such a unique and great state. In other words, Kimchi Day will be a lovely part of our collective life here in Hawaii.

‘O au iho nō me ka mahalo,

*Paul Sneed*

Paul Sneed