

SB-2657

Submitted on: 2/24/2024 11:48:27 AM

Testimony for TCA on 2/27/2024 3:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
M. Leilani DeMello	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Kāko‘o piha au i kēia pila. I STRONGLY SUPPORT this bill. There should be more recognition of Hawaiian culture and practices across the state. Educating people about Makahiki and what happens during that time of year is a good start for our people, Native Hawaiians and non Native Hawaiians alike. Normalize being Hawaiian!

Mahalo,

M. Leilani DeMello

‘Ōla‘a, Puna, Hawai‘i

LATE

SB-2657

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 3:03:58 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/27/2024 3:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dr. Kaliko Baker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha nui e ke Kōmike Transportation, Culture, and the Arts:

My name is Dr. Kaliko Baker and am in complete support of HB2657 being passed. I am testifying here as an individual citizen of the State of Hawai‘i.

Although I hold a Philosophical Doctorate in Linguistics, a position as an Associate Professor of Hawaiian at UH Mānoa, and other titles, the one that I put my highest regard to is my title as Mo‘o Lono, a traditional practioners of Lono rituals and ceremonies. I have been practicing (that is, performing the sacred traditional rights and rituals connected to) Makahiki since 1993 with the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana and since 2003 been at the helm of the ceremonies.

There are currently no holidays or recognized calendar days of the State of Hawai‘i that finds its roots in the traditional ways of the Kānaka Maoli, the aboriginal people of Hawai‘i nei. Sure there is a day in July that recognizes Lā Ho‘iho‘i Ea. However, that is a holiday which celebrates a post-colonial constructed government. What HB2657 will do is honor a traditional Kanaka Maoli practice, that is, Makahiki, in a modern way, by creating an official day of recognition. Traditionally, there were periods of time, days, that were set aside to honor the rights and rituals of Makahiki that were focused on harvest and yield of crops. Society was put on pause, as holidays do, while these rights and rituals were performed.

For those who may wonder what the Makahiki is, it is recognition of the Hawaiian new year based on the lunar month of ‘Ikuā during the kapu nights of Hua, namely, Hua, Akua and Mōhalu. The Hawaiian lunar month of ‘Ikuā generally coinsides with October. Easter Sunday is a holiday that is celebrated on various dates of the calendar year based on the first full moon after the vernal equinox. There is, thus, precedence to have holidays being based on lunar and/or stellar calendars.

If I may suggest that the HB2657 be ammended to have the recognition day in October based on the lunar month of ‘Ikuā and on one of the kapu Hua nights (where nights here means "days" of month), either Hua, Akua or Mōhalu.

Like many harvest orientated traditions, the Makahiki season also indicated the start of the new year, similar to Christmas, or the Christmas season as it's said. The Makahiki throughout the Hawaiian community has provided significant inspirational change to our community as well as

other communities. By making Makahiki a recognized day by the State, it will further work in the same light it has for the past 40 plus years.

‘O au nō me ka ha‘aha‘a,

Dr. C.M. Kaliko Baker.

SB-2657

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 5:21:31 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/27/2024 3:01:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sonja Kanani Enos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou,

As a practitioner of Makahiki in South Kona and a supporter of Makahiki traditions throughout the islands, I support this bill. This bill will allow for Hawaii's diverse community to celebrate a centuries old tradition that promotes sustainability and island consciousness.

As a mother of four, I teach my children the importance of my ancestral ceremonies, and teach them to share this among their community members regardless of ethnicity. Commemorating Makahiki will help Hawaii's economic development to increase "buy local" from fishers and farmers. Further, the spirit of Makahiki will promote good fellowship and cross cultural exchanges to assist in addressing global conditions such as climate change and other types of foreign affairs.

Please support SB2657 and allow traditional celebrations to live in Hawaii Nei. Mahalo for reading my testimony.

Mahalo na,

Sonja Kanani Enos

LATE

SB-2657

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 7:49:55 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/27/2024 3:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Debra M Javar	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill and ask that you humbly support this bill too.

Thank you for your time and support.

LATE

SB-2657

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 2:08:35 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/27/2024 3:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kuikeokalani Kamakea-Ohelo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2657

Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 2657, which seeks to designate November 20th of each year as Makahiki Commemoration Day in Hawaii. As a native Hawaiian practitioner and farmer, I believe that this bill is a crucial step towards recognizing and preserving the rich cultural heritage of our people.

The Makahiki season is a significant and sacred time in Hawaiian tradition. It is a time when we celebrate the harvest, express gratitude for the abundance of the land, and honor the god Lono. By designating November 20th as Makahiki Commemoration Day, we will ensure that future generations understand and appreciate the importance of this traditional festival.

This bill holds immense value for native Hawaiian practitioners and farmers like myself. It will provide an opportunity for us to share our cultural practices, stories, and knowledge with the broader community. Makahiki Commemoration Day will serve as a platform to educate and raise awareness about the deep connection between our land, our people, and our traditions.

Moreover, this designation will help to foster a sense of unity and pride among native Hawaiians. It will strengthen our cultural identity and promote a greater understanding and respect for our indigenous practices. Makahiki Commemoration Day will serve as a reminder of the enduring legacy of our ancestors and their profound wisdom in cultivating and sustaining the land.

In addition to its cultural significance, Makahiki Commemoration Day has the potential to boost tourism and economic development in Hawaii. Visitors from around the world are increasingly interested in experiencing and learning about indigenous cultures. By promoting Makahiki as a cultural event, we can attract tourists who are eager to engage with our customs, taste our traditional foods, and witness our unique ceremonies. This will not only benefit our local economy but also create opportunities for cultural exchange and understanding.

In conclusion, I urge you to support Senate Bill 2657 and recognize the importance of designating November 20th as Makahiki Commemoration Day. By doing so, we will honor our cultural heritage, strengthen our community, and preserve the invaluable traditions passed down to us by our ancestors. This bill is an essential step towards ensuring the continued vibrancy and vitality of native Hawaiian practices and the well-being of our land.

Mahalo nui loa for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kū'ike Kamakea-Ohelo

Native Hawaiian Practitioner and Farmer

LATE

SB-2657

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 10:06:52 AM

Testimony for TCA on 2/27/2024 3:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gretchen Losano	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Please support SB2657 and vote in favor of a Makahiki commemoration day.

Mahalo,

Gretchen Losano

Lahaina, Maui

LATE

SB-2657

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 4:10:21 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/27/2024 3:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Uilani Naipo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Kāko‘o piha!

- U‘ilani Naipo

LATE

SB-2657

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 9:26:27 AM

Testimony for TCA on 2/27/2024 3:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William Mae-Huihui	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB2657 in relation to Makahiki commemoration day.

LATE

SB-2657

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 5:57:59 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/27/2024 3:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Momi Nuuhiwa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We know from Hawaiian newspapers that Makahiki was a season that celebrated not only Lono but numerous other ākua, such as Kanaloa, Haumea and Kāne. I would like to see that the bill does not exclusively identify Lono as the only "God of Makahiki", particularly since the English connotation of god is very different from the Hawaiian connotation of akua. They are not quite the same.

I am very much in support of recognizing Makahiki, as it is an important part of Hawaiian identity. If other holidays like New Year's are state holidays, why not Makahiki? This is our Hawaiian new year! We need to demonstrate equity, especially since this is Hawai'i!

Make Makahiki a state holiday!

Confer state funds to support the celebration of Makahiki across all islands and have a state competition!

Makahiki could greatly increase health and cultural engagement. Makahiki could be celebrated across all schools, with state competitions. Makahiki could expand to include all manner of traditional cultural practices, such as the need for demonstrating gratitude for healthy agricultural practices and feeding our ocean and land and people with the best produce.

This bill is a good start.

LATE

SB-2657

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 4:32:21 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/27/2024 3:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shane Akoni Palacat-Nelsen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai kakou,

As a practitioner of Makahiki ceremony in South Kona and support Makahiki ceremonies through the island chain including Kaho'olawe, I support this bill to Commemorate Makahiki. This will allow Native Hawaiian traditions to be relevant in Hawaii's diverse community today. Some of the benefits are:

- The ability to continue centuries old celebration and traditions that promote sustainability, and island consciousness.
- Makahiki can boost cultural identity to be more inclusive and practiced by all who reside and visit Hawaii's multi-ethnic society.
- Contribute toward Hawaii's economic development in both rural and large towns by increasing "buy local from fishers and farmers.
- Educate and highlight Hawaii's unique seasons and promote good fellowship and cross cultural exchanges.

Please support SB2657 and allow traditional celebrations to live in Hawaii today and not just in our distant past. Mahalo for reading my testimony.

me ka ha'aha'a,

Shane Akoni Palacat-Nelsen, Kealakekua Bay

LATE

SB-2657

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 1:09:03 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/27/2024 3:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mikiala Pescaia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Kako'o wau i keia.

LATE

SB-2657

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 1:44:19 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/27/2024 3:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kanoelani Steward	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha nui,

I strongly support SB2657 to recognize Makahiki and to create a path forward for everyone of Hawai'i to learn more about the history, value, and function of Makahiki every year.

LATE

SB-2657

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 11:21:40 AM

Testimony for TCA on 2/27/2024 3:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Momi Wheeler	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha ‘āina,

Mahalo e Senator Keohokālole for putting forth Senate Bill 2657 to establish Makahiki Commemoration Day on November 20th of each year. Definitely in support of SB2657.

Lonoikamakahiki!