

SB332

LATE

TESTIMONY

Measure Title: RELATING TO MOHANDAS KARAMCHAND GANDHI DAY.
Report Title: Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi Day; Non State Holiday
Description: Designates October 2 of each year as Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi Day in Hawaii.
Companion:
Package: None
Current Referral: HEA
Introducer(s): TANIGUCHI, CHUN OAKLAND

From: [Anwar Kazi](#)
To: [HEA Testimony](#)
Subject: I support S.B. 332
Date: Tuesday, February 24, 2015 2:17:28 PM

Hello, I support S.B. 332 to Honor Ghandi's Birthday, thanks, anwar kazi

Terry T. Shintani, M.D., M.P.H.

LIC #: 5624 • DEA #: BS0471475 • NPI #: 1245362235

600 Queen Street, #C-2

Honolulu, HI 96813

Tel: (808) 566-6922 • Fax: (808) 566-6911

Name: DOB:

Address: Date:

R SB 3.32

*I wholeheartedly support
this bill to Declare Oct 2
as Dandhi Day.*

Terry Shintani

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SCRIPT# 2435

Order # 1306188-1

VERIFICATION BOX: HOLD BETWEEN THUMB AND FOREFINGER
OR BREATHE ON IT: COLOR WILL DISAPPEAR THEN REAPPEAR

Respected Senators,

My name is Eric Bott, and I am a public school teacher at McKinley High School. As I am unable to present my testimony in person due to classes, I have requested that Raj Kumar have it read into the record for me.

As you consider the merits of SB 332 today, my American history students are studying a very special unit about the Civil Rights Era. Students are learning about landmarks such as the Supreme Court's Brown v Board of Education which resulted in desegregating public schools, and enactment and enforcement of a variety of federal civil rights laws.

Out of the millions who participated, there were thousands of local leaders, and out of the thousands of local leaders, there would be hundreds of national leaders. Out of these, one stands out above all others – Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr..

Born a son and grandson of Baptist preachers, King became a third generation Baptist preacher who desperately wanted to address the evils he found in society. For those here old enough to remember, there were others at that time as well - some were calling for armed insurrection, some calling for a campaign of hatred.

Reverend King had a different vision, a different dream. A dream that would not be fulfilled, that *could* not be fulfilled by those motivated by hatred, or by the commission of acts of violence. But he struggled to find a way to make that dream a reality.

He would find that way in Gandhi – these are the words of Reverend King, himself –

“It was in this Gandhian emphasis on love and non-violence that I discovered the method for social reform that I had been seeking.”

The use of Gandhi's tactic of achieving social reform through non-violent means became King's hallmark, and King would become the primary leader of the Civil Rights Movement. Possibly, the essential leader. Unfortunately, King, like Gandhi before him, did not live to see his dream fulfilled; both men dying at the hands of others who did not share their view that it is better to try to effect change by non-violent means than force change through acts of aggression.

It is fitting that King has been honored with a federal holiday every January in his name.

My hope is that *this* distinguished body will find it befitting to recognize the man *behind* the man who made our civil rights era so successful, and in so doing will help keep this history alive.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eric Bott', written in a cursive style.

Eric Bott

Social Studies Dept.
President William McKinley High School
eric_bott@notes.k12.hi.us

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to refuse to ride the buses as a way to express their opposition to Parks's arrest in particular, and segregation, in general. Meanwhile, during the **Montgomery bus boycott**, the NAACP began preparing a legal challenge.

For a long while, many people thought that Parks had refused to give up her seat simply because she was tired after a long day of work. But, in reality, Parks had a record of fighting for civil rights. She had been active in the Montgomery chapter of the NAACP for years. This does not mean that she set out to get arrested and spark a movement. But Parks and other activists welcomed the chance to use the incident to protest bus segregation.

INFOGRAPHIC

King's Philosophy of NONVIOLENT PROTEST

For Martin Luther King, Jr., the strategy of nonviolent protest had diverse roots. As the son and grandson of Baptist preachers, King absorbed the teachings of Jesus at an early age. Later, a deep interest in philosophy led him to explore the writings of the American author Henry David Thoreau, who advocated civil disobedience, or refusing to obey unjust government or laws. Mohandas Gandhi was another critical influence on King. During India's struggle for independence from British rule, Gandhi expanded on Thoreau's approach, preaching nonviolence as the only way to achieve victory against much stronger foes.

King was a Baptist preacher with a deep faith in God and in the teachings of Jesus.

"In the midst of ... dangers I have felt an inner calm and known resources of strength that only God could give. ... I have felt the power of God transforming the fatigue of despair into the buoyancy of hope."

King read Thoreau's *Essay on Civil Disobedience*.

"Fascinated by the idea of refusing to cooperate with an evil system, I was so deeply moved that I reread the work several times. This was my first intellectual contact with the theory of nonviolent resistance."



Gandhi's tactics inspired King.

"It was in this Gandhian emphasis on love and nonviolence that I discovered the method for social reform that I had been seeking."



Thinking Critically

- 1. Apply Information** How did King put his belief in nonviolence into practice in the Montgomery bus boycott?
- 2. Draw Conclusions** What are the advantages and disadvantages of nonviolent protest?

DR. KAHU KALEO PATTERSON, PRESIDENT
Pacific Justice and Reconciliation Center
Honolulu, Hawaii

February 23, 2015

Testimony in Support of SB 332 Relating to Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi day.
(Designates October 2 of each year as Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi Day in Hawaii.)

Date: February 24, 2015

Time: 2:30pm

Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 224

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi,
Senator Lorraine R. Inouye,
(And Members of Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts):

Dear Committee Chairs and Members,

I want to send this support for SB 332, Recognizing Gandhi Day on October 2nd of every year. The gatherings on this day, which already take place in Waikiki as the sun is setting, have been a powerful reaffirmation of life and the legacy of Gandhi, and nonviolence linked with Aloha, for the people of Hawaii.

Celebrations over the years have included the association of Martin Luther King Jr. and Queen Liliuokalani, with Gandhi. It is said that Gandhi as a law student in Britain, was inspired about the bravery of the Queen when she was overthrown and treated with indignities and humiliated. Her legacy and commitment to nonviolence in many ways parallel the struggles of the people of India, in the peaceful yearning for justice and reconciliation, and envisions the Hawaiian homeland to one day be liberated, with the arc of justice demonstrated by the multicultural rainbow.

It is a very important time to continue our commitment to nonviolence and its promotion in our families and communities, which must become the new and defining characteristic of Aloha.

Let us support the UN Pledge of Nonviolence and make this important peacemaking element an integral part of the Aloha that we promote in the world.

Me ka maluhia o ke Akua,

Rev. Dr. Kaleo Patterson
President, Pacific Justice and Reconciliation Center
808 330-3769
Kaleop@me.com