

SB-3088-SD-2

Submitted on: 6/21/2020 7:48:06 AM

Testimony for EDB on 6/22/2020 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Z. Arakawa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Submitted on: 6/21/2020 1:28:11 PM

Testimony for EDB on 6/22/2020 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laverne Higa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Submitted on: 6/21/2020 10:50:26 PM

Testimony for EDB on 6/22/2020 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Norman Nakasone	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Due to the very strong and active Okinawan community here in Hawaii, the Hawaii-Okinawa sister relationship has been one of the strongest over the years. Two examples of longstanding Okinawan events held in Hawaii annually are sponsored by the Hawaii United Okinawa Association. The first is the annual Okinawan Festival, one of the State's premier cultural and ethnic festivals which now draws over 50,000 attendees over the Labor Day weekend including performers and attendees from Okinawa. The second is the Okinawa-Hawaii Student Exchange program which just celebrated its 30th Anniversary. Each year, 25 students from various public high schools spend 2 weeks in Hawaii learning about the local culture and even learn things about their own culture they have not been aware of. Local students also have an opportunity to spend an equal amount of time in Okinawa learning about its culture and history as well. These are just two of many reasons I think our continued connection with Okinawa is of vital importance and why I am in strong support of SB30088. Thank you for considering my testimony.

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Submitted on: 6/22/2020 7:49:09 AM

Testimony for EDB on 6/22/2020 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jon Itomura	Hawaii United Okinawa Association	Support	No

Comments:

Hawaii's cultural heritage "the melting pot" is unique and should be perpetuated by maintaining strong ties with our sister states. Communications lead to relationships that lead to collaboration. For example, recently, Okinawa Governor Denny Tamaki sent COVID-19 PPE to Governor David Ige to assist Hawaii.