

## **tokioka2-Robert**

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**From:** Denisa Thompson <dthompson4@ft.newyorklife.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 21, 2015 10:12 PM  
**To:** Faye Kennedy; Patrick J Daly; vmitestimony  
**Subject:** SB 194

March 21st 2015

Blessings Senator, 😊😊

How are you. First i want to say thank you for taking the time to read my email and allowing me to speak.

Aloha my name is Denisa Thompson I stand and pray for Bill SB 194, I work for New York Life Insurance Company and a proud Supporter of the African American Community and our Corporate Office of New York Life also a Proud Supporter of our African American Community in Hawaii. I wanted to share a little of my history, what I am realizing in the community as I work and live, also what other cultures have accomplished, how it would be if we all stand together and to get your support financially, and to not forget Hawaii's meaning of the Hawaiian Islands. Finally I stand for SB 194.

I have lived in Hawaii for 28yrs, this is home. Absolutely love Hawaii, but notice as I travel back and forth to the mainland when visiting my relatives on the mainland. I notice when we share about education they believe that I am missing a great portion of my African American History, being that I grew up here most of my life. My family made sure they educated me and bring me up to speed when I visit them in the mainland as I was growing up.

I believe it is only fair, since we all know Hawaii is a Fair state, to also share our History and culture like everyone else, that are in a different diversity of cultures here. It should be an automatic. As all of you that sit on the panel that either share the same or different diversity of cultures. I can only believe that all of you are, proud of who you are and where you came from, and proudly share your culture with others.

There are chambers of commerces of of different ethnicys that you see on the Islands.  
That are proudly standing. Also proud to be a support to there people.

We as African American people would love to also share our culture to everyone, and those that are born here, raised mixed or adopted with African American blood, would be blessed to know there African American History instead of knowing just one or several parts of different cultures they have within thereselves, if say they are mixed or adopted. When they go to visit the mainland, I know majority end up not knowing about there selves, or feeling left out, or gravitating to one culture which is not African American, that they know of. When they should know about there whole African American ethnicity along with there other ethnicity, not leaving no culture out, only fairness across the board.. Which will make a child feel whole inside and complete. Also beautiful, which they are because they share other cultures within thereselves as well as one main race. Meaning all children of different cultures are beautiful and adults too. Which God has created for a purpose and reason.

If you pass this bill and to support us financially, you will be opening up a world of blessings. To us as a culture and others, to those that coming up in Hawaii, the military, those who visit, and Finally to those who love our culture, music, and our vibe. Finally the unforgettable Martin Luther King whom we all know and respect.

We are not called the Rainbow State just for rainbows but for many diversity of beautiful cultures. The Melting Pot of many cultures. Let's all stand by what is already put in place in Hawaiian History by adding to it, in what Hawaii's true meaning is, which Hawaiian Culture say: Aloha is Love. And Welcome is E komo mai for the African American Culture Center and History to be put in place in Hawaii. Just like everyone else.

I Stand for this bill SB 194.

Sincerely,

Denisa Thompson  
Agent  
Licensed # 126891 for agents in Hi  
New York Life Insurance Company  
[841 Bishop Sreet, Suite 1900](#)  
[Honolulu, Hi 96813](#)  
[1-808-783-1459](#)

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**tokioka2-Robert**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 21, 2015 5:38 PM  
**To:** vmitestimony  
**Cc:** jlee16@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB194 on Mar 23, 2015 10:30AM\*

**SB194**

Submitted on: 3/21/2015

Testimony for VMI on Mar 23, 2015 10:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jenny Lee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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**tokioka2-Robert**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 21, 2015 8:15 AM  
**To:** vmitestimony  
**Cc:** kphmedia@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB194 on Mar 23, 2015 10:30AM  
**Attachments:** SB 194.pages.zip

**SB194**

Submitted on: 3/21/2015

Testimony for VMI on Mar 23, 2015 10:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kevin Henry	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, March 20, 2015 8:30 PM  
**To:** vmitestimony  
**Cc:** naacphawaii@aol.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB194 on Mar 23, 2015 10:30AM

**SB194**

Submitted on: 3/20/2015

Testimony for VMI on Mar 23, 2015 10:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Alphonso Braggs	NAACP	Support	No

Comments: The Honolulu Hawaii NAACP fully supports the authorization of this much needed commission. We do not recommend any funds be attached to the establishment of this commission.

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**HAWAII**

STATE FOUNDATION on  
CULTURE and the ARTS

No. 1 Capitol District Building  
250 South Hotel Street  
Second Floor  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Governor  
David Y. Ige

Comptroller  
Douglas Murdock

Chairperson  
Barbara Saromines-Ganne

Commissioners  
Rai Saint Chu  
Jane Clement  
Joel Guy  
Michael Moore  
Dean Sakamoto  
Karen Tiller Polivka  
Sherman Warner  
Eva R. Washburn-Repollo

Executive Director  
Jonathan Johnson

Telephone  
808.586.0300

Fax  
808.586.0308

Website  
[www.hawaii.gov/sfca](http://www.hawaii.gov/sfca)

TESTIMONY OF  
THE STATE FOUNDATION ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS  
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
VETERANS, MILITARY AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS  
AND CULTURE AND THE ARTS  
March 23, 2015

SB 194 SD2

RELATING TO CULTURAL EXCHANGES BETWEEN HAWAII AND AFRICAN  
AMERICANS

Chair Ito and members of the committee I am Jonathan Johnson, executive director of the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts, and I am pleased to offer testimony on SB 194 SD2. The State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA) supports the intent of this measure to recognize the contributions of African Americans to Hawaii's history, cultural community, and society.

The current version of the bill assigns the commission to the SFCA, an attached agency in the Department of Accounting and General Services (HRS 26-4). Temporary commissions are usually placed within a principal department and not within an attached agency like SFCA. As a state arts agency, the SFCA provides support to cultural communities primarily through grants and technical assistance.

The SFCA urges the Legislature to have this commission partner with a local nonprofit organization within the community or be attached to a principal department for administrative purposes.

We applaud the effort that this bill represents and thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

I support the passing of SB194.SD2 to establish a commission on African American History and Culture to recognize the contributions of the people of African descent in Hawaii.

African Americans have contributed considerably to Hawaii and its culture for at least one hundred seventy-five years. Despite this long history and the connection of many notable African Americans to Hawaii, African American history and culture in Hawaii is not well documented or appreciated. By establishing a commission to organize projects and events and educate residents and visitors about the African American experience in Hawaii, the State may help further the understanding of African American history and culture in Hawaii.

I respectfully request that you kindly establish a Commission on African American History and Culture to further the understanding of African American history and culture in Hawaii. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Sylvia Pope-Young

PO Box 88032

Honolulu, HI 96830-8032

(808) 943-6449

[sylvias-space@att.net](mailto:sylvias-space@att.net)

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**tokioka2-Robert**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 21, 2015 12:47 PM  
**To:** vmitestimony  
**Cc:** tadiarice@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB194 on Mar 23, 2015 10:30AM\*

**SB194**

Submitted on: 3/21/2015

Testimony for VMI on Mar 23, 2015 10:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Tadia Rice	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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