

Testimony of SUPPORT from: Ms. Kēhau Pe‘a  
Committee on FIN

March 27, 2018 – 3:00 p.m.

**SB2580 SD1 HD1: Relating to the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission Appropriates moneys to the department of accounting and general services to establish one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) position for the executive director of the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission. Appropriates moneys to fund the costs incurred by the annual King Kamehameha day celebration events.**

Aloha Chair Taniguchi and distinguished members of the FIN Committee,

I am Kēhau Pe‘a and I’m submitting testimony in *strong support* of SB 2580 SD1 HD1, relating to the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission. I am one of the new commissioners and am grateful to be a part of an organization that honors a fearless leader like Kamehameha ‘Ekahi, who unified the Hawaiian Islands under one rule.

Lot Kapuāiwa, grandson of Kamehameha ‘Ekahi, declared King Kamehameha Day as a national holiday to celebrate the reputable legacy of his grandfather. It has been a national holiday since 1872. The holiday continued through the Republic of Hawai‘i, the Territory of Hawai‘i and today, and now the kuleana lies with the State of Hawai‘i to continue this tradition.

Support of SB2580 SD1 HD1

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Our King Kamehameha Celebration Commission has previously had an Arts Program Specialist (APS). It has since been done away in 2009 due to lack of funding and we are currently seeking to have general funds reinstated in order to run the daily operations and aiding the volunteer commission in the planning and executing of celebration events and festivities statewide. We are also seeking to change the APS position to an Executive Director title to better attract more qualified applicants to manage Commission business and events.

The commission is in place to celebrate the life and legacy of Kamehameha I, centralized around a *state holiday*. We are asking the state to continue this kuleana into perpetuity.

Mahalo for your time in reading this and I humbly ask for your support.

Me ka ha‘aha‘a,

Kēhau Pe‘a, Legislative Chair

King Kamehameha Celebration Commission – Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs

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**SB-2580-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/24/2018 11:44:16 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2018 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.	Hawaiian Civic Club of Honolulu	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-2580-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/27/2018 1:39:37 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2018 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melodie Aduja	Oahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-2580-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/27/2018 2:05:29 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2018 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Bronson K. Silva	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I truly appreciate the opportunity to address you today as a fellow constituent. I am strongly in support of Senate Bill 2580. This position is integral to the King Kamehameha Day Commission and its mission to celebrate the legacy of King Kamehameha I.

**LATE**

Testimony from: Trevor Kainoa Daines (SUPPORT)

House Committee on Finance

March 28, 2018 – 3:00 p.m.

SB2580: Relating to the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission

Aloha Chair Luke and distinguished members of the House Finance Committee,

My name is Kainoa Daines, and I am submitting testimony in *strong support* of Senate Bill 2580, relating to the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission. I represent the Royal Order of Kamehameha.

King Kamehameha V declared a national holiday to honor his grandfather. It has been a national holiday since 1872. The holiday continued through the Republic of Hawai'i, the Territory of Hawai'i and today, the happy responsibility lies with the State of Hawai'i.

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### Support of SB2580

In 1939, the Territorial Legislature of Hawai'i created the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission to formally develop and execute events focused around celebrating the great statesman of Hawai'i. With the creation of this commission, two positions were created as well. The primary position today is the Arts Program Specialist. We are seeking to change the APS position to an Executive Director title to better attract more qualified applicants to manage state commission business and events.

This position is vital in running the daily operations and aiding the volunteer commission in the planning and executing of celebration events and festivities statewide, centered around the Kamehameha Day Holiday, a state holiday. The celebration of our state's unifier and symbol of collective pride should not have been viewed as a mere line item. I am asking this committee to reinstate general funds, annually to the state staff salary.

\$47,832 salary + \$19,442 fringe = \$67,274 TOTAL being requested from general funds, annually.

The commission is in place to celebrate the life and legacy of Kamehameha I, centralized around a *state holiday*. We are asking the state to continue this kuleana into perpetuity.

Mahalo for your time.

Aloha,

Kainoa Daines, Chair

King Kamehameha Celebration Commission

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Testimony from: Ms Beverly Lee (**SUPPORT**)  
House Committee on Finance  
March 28, 2018 – 3:00 pm  
**SB2580**: Relating to the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission



Aloha Chair Luke and distinguished members of the House Finance Committee,

My name is Beverly Lee and I am submitting testimony in *strong support* of Senate Bill 2580, relating to the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission. I am the Vice Chair of the Commission representing the Kapahulu Music Club and Honolulu's King Kamehameha Celebration Floral Parade Equestrian Chair from 2010 to current.

King Kamehameha V declared a national holiday to honor his grandfather. It has been a national holiday since 1872. The holiday continued through the republic of Hawai'i, the Territory of Hawai'i and today, the happy responsibility lies with the State of Hawai'i.

### **Support of SB2580**

The King Kamehameha Celebration Commission was created in 1939 to formally develop and execute events celebrating our great statesman, Kamehameha I. When the commission was created, two additional positions were created as well. The primary position today is the Arts Program Specialist. We are seeking to change the APS position to an Executive Director title to better attract more qualified applicants to manage this state commission business and events.

This position is responsible in running the daily operations and aiding the volunteer commission in the planning and executing of celebration events and festivities statewide, centered around the Kamehameha Day Holiday, which is a state holiday. I am asking this committee to reinstate general funds, annually to the state staff salary.

\$47,832 salary + \$19,442 fringe = \$67,274 Total being requested from general funds, annually.

The commission is in place to celebrate the life and legacy of Kamehameha I, centralized around a state holiday. We are asking the state to continue this kuleana into perpetuity.

Mahalo for your time,

Aloha,

Beverly Lee, Vice Chair  
King Kamehameha Celebration Commission  
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