

# SB 235

Dean Seki	<b>DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL</b>	SUPPORT
Lehua Kalima	<b>KING KAMEHAMEHA CELEBRATION COMMISSION</b>	SUPPORT
Elmer Kaai	<b>ROYAL ORDER OF KAMEHAMEHA</b>	SUPPORT
Jalna Keala	<b>ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS</b>	SUPPORT
Joe Lewis	<b>HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS CAUCUS OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY</b>	SUPPORT
John Aeto	<b>KALAIMOKU GROUP</b>	SUPPORT
Laurence Todd	<b>MALAMA LIO HAWAII HORSE JOURNAL</b>	SUPPORT
Leimomi Kahn	<b>HALE O NA ALII O HAWAII AHAHUI POO</b>	SUPPORT
Lu Faborito	<b>MAKAHA HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUB</b>	SUPPORT
Troy Abrham		SUPPORT
Jeanette Nahinu		SUPPORT
Kamaka Aquino		SUPPORT



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES**

P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

WRITTEN TESTIMONY  
OF  
DEAN H. SEKI, COMPTROLLER  
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES  
TO THE  
SENATE COMMITTEES  
ON  
TOURISM AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS  
AND  
TECHNOLOGY AND THE ARTS  
ON  
February 11, 2013

S.B. 235

RELATING TO THE KING KAMEHAMEHA CELEBRATION COMMISSION

Chairs Galuteria, Wakai and members of the Committees, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on S.B. 235.

The Department of Accounting and General Services supports the intent of S.B. 235, provided its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget.

The King Kamehameha Celebration is one of three signature events of this state and one of two state recognized ali'i celebrations, the other being Prince Kuhio. As such, the celebration is a visitor attraction and more importantly honors the legacy of King Kamehameha and the culture of Native Hawaiians.

The changes proposed by S.B. 235 will enhance the management and effectiveness of the Commission as it fulfills the duties and responsibilities assigned to it by the State of Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on this matter.



## **KING KAMEHAMEHA CELEBRATION COMMISSION**

Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committees for Tourism and Hawaiian Affairs,  
and Technology and the Arts  
Monday, February 11, 2013 at 2:45 pm  
by  
Elmer K. Ka'ai, Jr., Chairperson  
and  
Lehua Kalima, Arts and Program Specialist  
King Kamehameha Celebration Commission

Aloha Chairs Galuteria, Wakai and members of the committees, thank you for opportunity to provide testimony in support on SB 235 which will add the Daughters of Hawai'i as a member; change the representation of the appointed, non-organization representatives on the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission (Commission) from residents of the islands of Kauai, Maui, Molokai, and Hawaii to residents of the counties of Kauai, Maui, and Hawai'i; authorizes the Commission to appoint an executive director; and requires the executive director and clerk typist's salaries to be provided, in part, by the State. At its regular public in January 2013, the Commission approved the support of this measure and authorized its arts and programs to represent the Commission on this matter.

SB 235 is a simple step as the Commission re-invents and re-structures itself to become more effective and grounded. The commission is also looking internally to firm up its organizational policies, processes and procedures to fulfill its fiduciary responsibilities.

### Background on the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission.

By Royal Proclamation on December 22, 1871 issued by Kamehameha V, June 11 was designated a public holiday to honor the memory of his grandfather Kamehameha the Great. He was and still is Hawai'i's greatest hero, warrior and statesman. He is honored each year by the citizens of Hawai'i with parades, pageantry, sports, hula, dignity and respect, a legacy to a great man, to his life and to his accomplishments.

In 1939, the Territorial Legislature established the Kamehameha Day Celebration Commission, which was to be responsible for the planning and managing of all the festivities. In 1974, the name was changed to the King Kamehameha Celebration, but the goals and purposes of the Commission have not changed.

Today, the Commission is made up of 13 commissioners representing several traditional Hawaiian organizations, as well as representatives from each of the neighbor islands. All commissioners are appointed by the Governor of Hawai'i for a limited term and serve gratis

HRS §8-5 King Kamehameha celebration commission. (a) There shall be a commission to be known as the King Kamehameha celebration commission... e) The commission shall have charge of all arrangements for the celebration each year generally observed throughout Hawai'i

Nei on June 11, to commemorate the memory of the great Polynesian Hawaiian warrior and statesman King Kamehameha I, who united the Hawaiian Islands into the Kingdom of Hawai'i.

### Historical Celebrations

The first "commemoration" was held on June 11, 1872 and was a day filled with sporting events held on the open plains of Kulaokahua, southeast of Honolulu, the highlight of which were horse races. The grand prize of the Kamehameha plate made in San Francisco for \$200.00 was won by a horse named "Carry the News to Mary."

In 1875, Kamehameha Day was celebrated with a three-hour long baseball game. A sham battle between the Hawaiian infantry and the cavalry highlighted the celebration in 1876.

In 1877, the celebration returned to horse races and the year that Kapi'olani Park was formally dedicated and the grand race program was produced. These horse races continued until 1911, when the legislature tore down the walls of the Jockey Club.

The first parade held as of the celebration was staged on June 12, 1916 and featured pa'u riders, civic organizations and the Honolulu Fire Department.

### Current Activities

The Commission coordinates state-wide activities. On O'ahu, the Kamehameha statue lei draping ceremony is normally held on the Friday preceding the O'ahu parade and kicks off O'ahu celebrations events. On Hawai'i island, in Hawi, Kohala, the Kamehameha statue lei draping ceremony, parade and ho'olaule'a is always held on June 11. Hilo celebrates its lei draping at the Kamehameha statute at bay front on June 10th, and a ho'olaule'a is held at Mokuola. In Kailua-Kona, a parade through downtown Kailua along Ali'i Drive and a ho'olaule'a is held on the Saturday following the Kamehameha holiday. Both Kaua'i and Maui holds their respective celebration events on the Saturday following the Kamehameha Day holiday. Kaua'i parades runs from Vidinha Stadium to the County Building on Rice Street where a ho'olaule'a is held. Maui's festivities take place in Lahaina where the parade travels down Front Street and culminates in a ho'olaule'a at Kamehameha 'Iki Park.

I hope our testimony provide some context regarding the Commission. Again, thank you for opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.



**Royal of Kamehameha I**

Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committees on Tourism & Hawaiian Affairs and  
Technology & the Arts  
Monday, February 11, 2013 at 2:45pm  
by  
Elmer K. Ka'ai, Jr.  
Māmo Hawai'i,  
King Kamehameha Celebration Commission Representative  
And  
Chairperson of the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission

SB 235 – Relating to the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission

Chairs Galuteria, Wakai and Members of the Committees:

My name is Elmer Ka'ai, Māmo Hawai'i, the designated representative to the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission (commission) for the Royal Order of Kamehameha 'Ekahi and the Commission's Chairperson. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support for SB 235, which provides the commission with essential processes and policies to improve its mission to commemorate the memory of the great Polynesian Hawaiian warrior and statesman King Kamehameha I. This measure is one of many steps to improve the commission.

The first change is to add a representative from the Daughters of Hawai'i. The Daughters of Hawai'i tradition is well documents and will be welcome addition on the commission. From my point of view, the great asset they bring to commission is their business and philanthropy expertise. They also bring a wealth of experience in non-profit arena. The removal of a Moloka'i representative is not a lost to the island; they will be well represented by the Maui (county) representative.

The second change impacts our current Arts and Program Specialist. The commission is seeking to provide this individual with a leadership role for the commission more in line with the roles and responsibility of an Executive Director. Currently, the members on the commission take on additional responsibilities besides its regular fiduciary duties as event planners and coordinators for most, if not all, of the state-wide celebration activities. My personal opinion is that the event planning and coordinators are not the roles of the commission; however, I believe this is how the commission was originally formed. Again from my point of view, the commission needs to refocus on its basic fiduciary responsibility and empower our executive director to manage and administer the task set forth by the commission.

The final change to this measure is the most critical – providing a steady funding source for the commission staff positions. In the mid-1990, former Governor Cayetano eliminated the budget

for the commission's staff positions; however, kept the commission administratively attached to the Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS). The uniqueness of the commission is its ability to receive funds to pay for these positions and celebration activities from the collections of fees, public contributions and private donations. These funds are held in a trust fund under DAGS. The commission has been extremely fortunate to receive an annual grant appropriation from the Hawaii Tourism Authority in which a portion of the funds are used for the salaries and fringe benefits for these positions. This trust fund had a substantial balance; however, over time the corpus of fund slowly diminished. This fund provided a safeguard for our staff to ensure payroll is made between each HTA grant cycle.

They're a number of factors for the diminished funds, the economy, the higher costs/expenses for celebration events, lack of funding resources, etc...; unfortunately, we've been just advised that the trust fund balance is now at zero. This is the biggest challenge the commission is facing and one of several issues that I am trying to resolve since being named as the chair in November. Adding "State" funds is just option to help resolve an important need for the commission. The commission cannot survive without its staff and since these positions are exempt state employees; the staff cannot work without a salary. It is my hope that this legislative body can assist the commission in seeking funding alternatives for these positions.

On a side note, one factor that cannot be ignored is the composition of the commission. Again from my point of view, once general funding was eliminated, either the State or maybe the Commission should have looked at the composition of the commission and make changes to bring on individuals with business, philanthropy, marketing, fund-raising and banking background. This simple change could have cultivated or build, over the last 10+ years, a strong and solid financial base for the commission.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support for this measure.



## **Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs**

P. O. Box 1135  
Honolulu, Hawai`i 96807

### **JOINT SENATE COMMITTEES ON TOURISM AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE ARTS**

### **SENATE BILL 235 RELATING TO THE KING KAMEHAMEHA DAY CELEBRATION COMMISSION**

Monday, February 11, 2013; 2:45pm; Room 224

Aloha Chairman Galuteria and Chairman Wakai of the joint committees meeting on Senate Bill 235. I am Soulee Stroud president of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs in support of this bill to amend Section 8-5 of Hawaii Revised Statutes with relation to the King Kamehameha Day Celebration Commission.

A member of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs(AHCC) appointed by our Board of Director has served on this commission for many years. Although there has not been an opportunity to confer with the current AHCC Directors, the amendments offered in SB235 appear to support the work of the commission.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.  
Contact: [jalna.keala2@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:jalna.keala2@hawaiiantel.net)



# HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS CAUCUS

## DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII

1050 ALA MOANA BLVD D-2150, HONOLULU, HI 96814

WWW.HAWAIIANAFFAIRSCAUCUS.WEBLY.COM

### LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY

SENATE COMMITTEES ON TOURISM AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS &  
TECHNOLOGY AND THE ARTS  
HEARING: RM. 225 02/11/2013 2:45 PM

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#### **SB 235 – RELATING TO THE KING KAMEHAMEHA CELEBRATION COMMISSION POSITION: SUPPORT**

Aloha mai kākou

The Hawaiian Affairs Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urges your committees to fully **SUPPORT** the provisions of SB 235, which seeks to: 1) add as a member, a representative of the Daughters of Hawai'i; 2) change the representation of the appointed, non-organization representatives on the commission from residents of the islands of Kauai, Maui, Molokai and Hawaii to residents of the counties of Kauai, Maui, and Hawaii; repeals the commission's authority to appoint an arts program specialist, and instead authorizes the commission the authority to appoint an executive director; and requires the executive director and clerk typist salaries to be provided, in part, by the State.

The King Kamehameha Celebration is one of three signature events of this state and one of two state recognized ali'i celebrations, the other being Prince Kūhio. As such, the celebration is a visitor attraction, and more importantly honors the legacy of this King and the culture of the Native Hawaiian.

The changes proposed by this bill will enhance the management and effectiveness of the Commission as it fulfills the kuleana assigned to it by the State of Hawaii.

For these reasons, the Hawaiian Affairs Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i stands in strong support of this bill.

'O ia iholā nō me ke aloha.

**SB235**

Submitted on: 2/8/2013

Testimony for THA/TEC on Feb 11, 2013 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
John Aeto	The Kalaimoku Group	Support	No

Comments: On behalf of The Kalaimoku group, owners and publishers of Mana magazine - that we voice our full support for full funding of the Kamehameha Celebration

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**SB235**

Submitted on: 2/8/2013

Testimony for THA/TEC on Feb 11, 2013 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Laurence Todd	Malama Lio - The Hawaii Horse Journal	Support	No

Comments: Malama Lio - The Hawaii Horse Journal supports the passing of this bill. It's obvious in its nature and of extreme importance to the history and culture of Hawaii. Pass this bill so we can all celebrate. Laurence Todd Publisher/Editor Malama Lio - The Hawaii Horse Journal

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1288 Kapiolani Blvd, Apt 1905  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814  
February 10, 2013

LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 235  
RELATING TO THE KING KAMEHAMEHA CELEBRATION COMMISSION

Senator Brickwood Galluteria, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S. C. Keith-Agaran  
Members of the Senate Committee on Tourism and Hawaiian Affairs

Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair  
Senator Clarence Nishihara  
Members of the Senate Committee on Technology and the Arts

Hearing February 11, 2013, 2:45 p.m., Conference Room 225

Aloha mai kākou

I am writing in support of SB 235, which seeks to: 1) add as a member, a representative of the Daughters of Hawai'i; 2) change the representation of the appointed, non-organization representatives on the commission from residents of the islands of Kauai, Maui, Molokai and Hawaii to residents of the counties of Kauai, Maui, and Hawaii; repeals the commission's authority to appoint an arts program specialist, and instead authorizes the commission the authority to appoint an executive director; and requires the executive director and clerk typist salaries to be provided, in part, by the State.

These provisions of the bill are merited in recognition of the growth of the celebration since 1871 when King Kamehameha proclaimed June 11<sup>th</sup> to be King Kamehameha Day in honor of his Great Grandfather Kamehameha the Great who united the Hawaiian Islands in 1810 and since 1872, several days in June are set aside to celebrate with floral parades, concerts, arts and crafts and feasting on all of the Hawaiian Islands.

From its humble beginnings with horse and foot races at Kapiolani Park through current day festivities on all of the islands, the celebrations of King Kamehameha have grown. The King Kamehameha Celebration is a signature event for Hawai'i. Today, parades and cultural activities on Hawaii, Maui, and Kauai are attended by thousands of visitors.

Since joining the commission in April 2012, I have observed the organization and planning needs of the Commission. The Arts Program Specialist is a misnomer since the work that this person does is comparable to that of an Executive Director. Changing the representation of the neighbor islands to residents of the counties of Kauai, Maui and Hawai'i also make sense and brings into conformance actual practices. Adding the Daughters of Hawai'i would enhance the involvement of a key Hawaiian Society involvement in the celebration. The Chair of the KKCC can expound on our reasons for advocating these changes.

**Funding by the state is critical to the continuance of this event and recognizes the state's commitment to this event when it created it. Further, the celebration provides that cultural component that visitors look for when visiting Hawai'i and thus helps to build the state's economy. Compared to the benefits that the State reaps from this event, the request for funding is small.**

Accordingly, urge your committees to pass this bill.

Me kealoha pumehana

LEIMOMI KHAN

Commissioner

Representative of Hale O Na Ali'i O Hawai'i, 'Ahahui Po'o

King Kamehameha Celebration Commission

Lu Faborito, Olelo Kakau, Secretary  
Makaha Hawaiian Civic Club  
LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY

Senator Brickwood Galluteria, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S. C. Keith-Agaran  
Members of the Senate Committee on Tourism and Hawaiian Affairs

Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair  
Senator Clarence Nishihara  
Members of the Senate Committee on Technology and the Arts

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Measure: Senate Bill 235, Relating to the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission  
Position: Support.

Aloha mai kākou

{Lu Faborito, 'Makaha Hawaiian Civic Club) ask your committees to fully support the provisions of SB 235, which seeks to: 1) add as a member, a representative of the Daughter's of Hawai'i and Mamakakaua; 2) change the representation of the appointed, non-organization representatives on the commission from residents of the islands of Kauai, Maui, Molokai and Hawaii to residents of the counties of Kauai, Maui, and Hawaii; repeals the commission's authority to appoint an arts program specialist, and instead authorizes the commission the authority to appoint an executive director; and requires the executive director and clerk typist salaries to be provided, in part, by the State and other sources of donations to support the event.

The King Kamehameha Celebration is one of three signature events of this state and one of two state recognized ali'i celebrations which also result in state holidays. The celebration is a visitor attraction, and more importantly honors the legacy of this King and the culture of the Native Hawaiians.

The changes proposed by this bill will enhance the management and effectiveness of the Commission as it fulfills the kuleana assigned to it by the State of Hawaii.

**SB235**

Submitted on: 2/7/2013

Testimony for THA/TEC on Feb 11, 2013 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Troy Abraham	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**SB235**

Submitted on: 2/11/2013

Testimony for THA/TEC on Feb 11, 2013 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
jeanette nahinu	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB235

Senator Brickwood Galluteria, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S. C. Keith-Agaran  
Members of the Senate Committee on Tourism and Hawaiian Affairs

Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair  
Senator Clarence Nishihara  
Members of the Senate Committee on Technology and the Arts

Measure: Senate Bill 235, Relating to the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission

Position: Support

From: Kamakana M. Aquino

Aloha mai kākou

My name is Kamakana M. Aquino and I am the representative for the Waimānalo Hawaiian Homes Association on the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission. I strongly support the passage of SB 235 and urge your committees to fully support the provisions of SB 235, which seeks to: 1) add as a member, a representative of the Daughters of Hawai‘i; 2) change the representation of the appointed, non-organization representatives on the commission from residents of the islands of Kaua‘i, Maui, Moloka‘i and Hawai‘i to residents of the counties of Kaua‘i, Maui, and Hawai‘i; 3) repeals the commission’s authority to appoint an arts program specialist, and instead authorizes the commission the authority to appoint an executive director; and 4) requires the executive director and clerk typist salaries to be provided, in part, by the State.

The King Kamehameha Celebration is one of three signature events of this state and one of two state recognized ali‘i celebrations, the other being Prince Kūhio. As such, the celebration is a visitor attraction, and more importantly honors the legacy of this King and the culture of the Native Hawaiian.

The changes proposed by this bill will enhance the management and effectiveness of the Commission as it fulfills the kuleana assigned to it by the State of Hawai‘i.

‘O ia ihola nō me ke aloha.