



BEFORE THE SENATE LABOR, CULTURE AND THE ARTS COMMITTEE

February 11, 2020

Senate Bill 3096

Relating to State Holidays

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara, and Members of the Committee,

Ka Lāhui Hawai'i Political Action Committee (KPAC) submits the following testimony in SUPPORT of Senate Bill 3096 "reestablishing" Lā Kū'oko'a, Hawaiian Recognition Day, as a State Holiday.

Ka Lāhui Hawai'i Political Action Committee (KPAC) sees this as a step in the right direction by the State of Hawai'i toward Kanaka Maoli self-determination and sovereignty. The creation of Lā Kū'oko'a as a "State Holiday" would help raise awareness in Hawai'i and abroad regarding the true history of Hawai'i. It is a history about a proud and friendly Hawaiian Nation that was wrongfully overthrown, and a history that for many generations have not been taught in Hawai'i schools.

We ask for the following amendment of the bill that Lā Kū'oko'a be called "Hawaiian Independence Day" instead of Hawaiian Recognition Day in keeping with the true spirit of the original Holiday which was the recognition of the independence of the Hawaiian Kingdom.

Respectfully submitted,

M. Healani Sonoda-Pale

Chair, Ka Lāhui Hawai'i - Komike Kalai'āina