

BILL021(25)
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 241

COUNCIL

COUNCIL Meeting

Meeting Date: Apr 16, 2025 @ 10:00 AM

Support: 0

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 2

Name: John Miller	Email: dana86@hawaiiantel.net	Zip: 96734
Representing: Self	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: Apr 15, 2025 @ 04:05 PM
Testimony: I'm proposing a Task Force to address HPD Vacancies, bringing together community leaders, law enforcement professionals, and stakeholders to craft a written plan—with budget numbers. Community leaders and school guidance counselors etc.. should be hyping this critical need. As well I think there should two types of officers. Civil officers for domestic low level issues and regular, as now, for breaking the law.		
Name: Regina(Nani) Peterson	Email: oleloola@gmail.com	Zip: 96792
Representing: Self	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: Apr 16, 2025 @ 09:42 AM

Testimony Before the City and County of Honolulu

Submitted by: Regina N. Peterson

Date: 4/16/25

Aloha nui me ka ha'aha'a,

I write to you as a **Kānaka 'Ōiwi**, born of this land, molded by its winds, and guided by the voices of my ancestors. I do not write in bitterness. I write from a place of deep conviction and spiritual kuleana to speak the truth with grace, but also with the unwavering force of our rightful identity.

Our Queen Lili'uokalani once said,

"The perpetuation of injustice does not secure peace. Peace can only be found through justice."

So I speak today in the name of **justice**, and in defense of the **truth** that cannot be erased no matter how many laws, citations, or windows are shattered.

On the morning of **March 19**, at approximately **8:30 a.m.**, I was stopped by **Officer Smith**. I was driving with "**Private Traveler**" plates a lawful and peaceful expression of my belief in the continued existence of the **Hawaiian Kingdom**. As a subject of this living nation, I responded to the officer in '**Ōlelo Hawai'i**', the sacred and official language of this land. When asked for my ID and Social Security Number, I again answered in our tongue and supplied him with what was asked of.

The officer responded not with aloha or respect, but with threats:

"You don't wanna give me information, I can arrest you."

"You gonna play this game, I can arrest you for driving without a license."

These quotes, and more from Other officers, were not the words of someone honoring the **Aloha Spirit Law (HRS §5-7.5)** which calls for kindness, unity, patience, and respect. These were the words of someone attempting to instill fear, rather than build understanding.

On **April 2, 2025**, I experienced an even more traumatic encounter. **Officer Kenji K. Chan**, alongside another officer, lay in wait near my home. After passing one officer stage not too far from my home, I noticed I was being followed, now by both. Once the officers lights and sirens activated, I calmly pulled into the **Jack in the Box parking lot** a safe, public space to ask what this stop was for. As I entered, another officer entered from **Farrington Highway**, boxing me in, criminalizing my presence on my own land.

With aloha, I greeted them again in '**Ōlelo Hawai'i**', as is my right. But instead of aloha in return, I was met with violence:

My driver's side window was shattered while I sat in the vehicle, hit in the face by him,

with his baton, and I was forcefully yanked from my car. I was treated as a threat, though I was peaceful. I was not belligerent. I was not armed. I was not unlawful. I was simply Kanaka 'Ōiwi and unafraid to be so.

This is not an isolated incident. This is part of a greater pattern of the continued refusal to see us, hear us, and honor the truth of our existence.

We are not lost. We are not defeated.

As **Haunani-Kay Trask** so powerfully declared:

“We are not American. We will never be American. We will die as Hawaiians.”

We do not seek to be absorbed into the systems that have marginalized us. We seek recognition of what has always been true: **We are a nation that never surrendered.**

Our Queen never relinquished her people. And we, her people, have never relinquished her.

I therefore demand the following with the strength of our kūpuna behind me:

1. A **full investigation** into Officers Smith and Chan, including public review of body cam footage and internal reports.
2. **Mandatory, culturally grounded education** for all officers, taught by **kānaka 'ōiwi scholars and cultural practitioners**, rooted in **'ike kūpuna**, not watered-down narratives.
3. **Legal recognition of Hawaiian Kingdom “Private Traveler” plates and IDs**, with **ALL associated fees waived**, as an act of restorative justice and cultural respect.
4. **Required paid classes for all officers**, taught by kānaka 'ōiwi, in **'Ōlelo Hawai'i** and the true history of the **illegal overthrow** of our nation.
5. **City and County legislative support** for implementing reforms in accordance with **Public Law 103-150 (The Apology Resolution)** and **UN international laws of occupation**.
6. A permanent seat at the table for our people: **Two respected kānaka 'ōiwi(Kāne/Wahine) from each island**, elected by kānaka, to hold voice and vote in all reform discussions present and future.

Allocation of a significant portion of the State's \$5 billion+ annual budget toward:

- The creation of an **independent Kānaka 'Ōiwi Department of Identification and Travel**, rooted in the Hawaiian Kingdom not governed by the State of Hawai'i, the United

States, or its municipalities.

- The establishment of a **Kānaka ‘Ōiwi Sovereign Insurance Company**, grounded in the values of kuleana, ‘ohana, and lōkahi, serving our lāhui outside colonial corporate systems.

These are not radical requests. These are the minimum steps to restore **pono**.

At the very least, at this moment, give us back our identity through true education, legal recognition, cultural restoration, and lived respect. First by allowing us to travel and use our Kingdom ID’s without harassment or trouble. We do not ask for privilege. We demand justice. We do not seek vengeance. We seek **peace with truth**.

After **132 years**, we kānaka ‘ōiwi are **still here**. We will **always be here**. This is our home. This is our kingdom. And this is our time to rise not in violence, but in honor.

Let us never forget the words passed down from our ancestors:

“E iho ana o luna, e pi‘i ana o lalo.”

That which is above shall come down, and that which is below shall rise up.

Let the truth rise. Let justice rise. Let aloha rise with courage, with clarity, and with conviction.

Me ka ‘oia‘i‘o, me ke aloha ‘āina,

Regina n. Peterson