Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Espero, and members of the Committee, thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2909. My name is Kippen de Alba Chu, Chairperson for the Commission.

Act 140, which passed last year, created the 50th Anniversary of Statehood Commission to develop and plan events to commemorate Hawaii's entry into the United States of America. This funding measure before you would allow the Commission to carry out its duties and functions pursuant to Act 140, with the bulk of the funds going towards celebratory events in August 2009.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in support of this measure.