



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

April 13, 2018

The Honorable Al Muratsuchi
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 2179
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Assemblymember Muratsuchi:

Re: AB 1782 (Muratsuchi) SUPPORT

I am writing in support of AB 1782, which would designate surfing as the state sport of California.

Surfing was an important part of Hawaiian culture for many hundreds of years before three Hawaiian princes introduced that traditional activity of Hawaiian royalty to California in 1885, where it has been practiced with great enthusiasm ever since.

The three nephews and adopted sons of Her Majesty Queen Kapiolani – Prince Jonah Kuhio Kalanianaʻole, Prince David Laamea Kahalepouli Kawanākoa, and Prince Edward Abnel Keliiahonui – had been attending a military school in California and gave thrilling surfing exhibitions at Santa Cruz during their 1885 summer vacation, according to newspaper accounts from that time and a memorial plaque installed outside the Santa Cruz Surfing Museum.

The plaque recounts that the three Hawaiian princes "started a craze by bringing for the first time the royal Hawaiian sport of surfing to the Pacific Coast of the Americas."

Surfing's popularity in California grew steadily as Californians, including celebrated author Jack London, visited Hawaii in larger numbers, experienced surfing for themselves, and shared their enthusiasm upon their return to California. In 1907, London published a thrilling magazine account of surfing in an essay entitled "A royal sport," which introduced the Hawaiian tradition to a national audience.

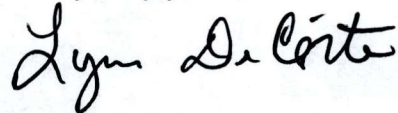
Surfing has since then become an iconic and integral part of California culture, and California surfers now visit Hawaii in great numbers to enjoy legendary surf breaks pioneered by early Hawaiians. Hawaii surfers also travel to California to enjoy the many famous surf breaks

and participate in numerous domestic and international surf events, including the International Surf Festival, the U.S. Open of Surfing, and the Big Wave Surf Contest.

California's deep and historic connection to the sport, culture, and industry of surfing, and its unique coastal geography and legendary surf breaks, make the designation of surfing as California's state sport natural and appropriate.

Thank you for your continued leadership on this issue.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lynn DeCoite". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "L" and a stylized "D".

Lynn DeCoite
Representative, 13th District
Haiku, Hana, Kaupo, Kipahulu, Nahiku, Paia,
Kahoolawe, Lanai, Molokai, Molokini