

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING MONTH OF THE
HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE

• Mr. AKAKA. Today I wish to speak to the celebration of the Hawaiian language. February is designated as the “Month of the Hawaiian Language” by the State of Hawai‘i. Speakers and students of the language use this time to foster and promote Hawaiian through festivals, spelling bees, and speech and debate competitions where the Hawaiian language is the primary medium.

Since the first official designation in 1994, February has been a celebration of the Hawaiian language in Hawai‘i. However, this modern renaissance happened only after the Hawaiian language came close to extinction, and the people of Hawai‘i fought to preserve it.

In 1896, following the overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawai‘i, English was named as the primary language of instruction in Hawai‘i’s schools. As a result, students who spoke Hawaiian were subject to physical punishment or public humiliation. As Native Hawaiian families struggled to assimilate with the increasing Western presence in Hawai‘i, parents gave children non-Hawaiian first names. Families who carried Hawaiian family names adopted Western surnames to avoid a Hawaiian identity. Parents stopped teaching their children Hawaiian, and maintained English-only households. This was a sad chapter in Hawai‘i’s history, but fortunately, today, thanks to the effort of many Hawai‘i residents, political and community leaders, and educators, the Hawaiian language is thriving.

In 1978, the Hawaiian language, also called ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i by its speakers, was declared one of the two legal languages of the State of Hawai‘i. In 1984, the first Hawaiian language preschool was established, ‘Aha Pūnana Leo. Three years later, Hawaiian language immersion expanded to include kindergarten through grade 12, and today, students can study the Hawaiian language from preschool through their doctorate studies.

Use of the Hawaiian language is not limited to its fluent speakers. Those who live in and visit Hawai‘i use Hawaiian words and phrases in their everyday vocabulary, whether they are Native Hawaiian or not. Towns, roadways, schools, and parks bear Hawaiian names. Island residents commonly give each other directions using the words mauka—meaning towards the mountains, or makai—meaning towards the ocean. A waitress might ask you if you are pau, or done, with your meal before she clears the table. You might tell her it was ‘ono, or delicious.

Some of the more commonly used words, including aloha and mahalo, are known well beyond the shores of Hawai‘i. I probably do not have to explain that mahalo means thank you, or that aloha is a greeting that conveys warmth, love, and affection and is used

to both welcome someone and wish them well.

The Hawaiian language is thriving in our modern society and it remains relevant as technology evolves around us. The iPhone and Google’s homepage are just two instances where the Hawaiian language can be selected as an option in language settings. Developers of the popular website, Wikipedia, borrowed the Hawaiian word wikiwiki, meaning speedy, for its name. Travelers through Honolulu International Airport are greeted every half hour with a public announcement first in Hawaiian, followed by its English translation. Local television reporters and weather forecasters consult with language experts on Hawaiian pronunciation. One of the morning news shows features a segment produced entirely in the Hawaiian language. Cable subscribers receive a channel featuring Hawaiian language reporting.

The Hawaiian language is engrained in our daily lives in Hawai‘i, and is important to all of Hawai‘i’s people. I am extremely grateful for the efforts made by kūpuna, our elders, as well as language and cultural educators, to preserve the Hawaiian language. According to the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo, there are approximately 7,500 people learning the Hawaiian language today, from preschools, institutions of higher education, and community programs. Parents are again raising their children to speak Hawaiian. While there is an increasing interest in the Hawaiian language, this is still just a small percentage of the population of the State of Hawai‘i. I applaud the State for designating February as the “Month of the Hawaiian Language” and bringing awareness to the need to perpetuate our language so that future generations may learn the language of their ancestors.

E ola mau ka ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i! Long live the Hawaiian language.●

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL GIRLS
AND WOMEN IN SPORTS DAY

• Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, today, February 1, I wish to celebrate the 26th annual National Girls and Women in Sports Day, on which we praise the importance of sports participation and athletics in the lives of girls and women everywhere. This year’s celebration has special meaning as it falls on the eve of the 40th anniversary of the passage of title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. For over 40 years, this historic law has furthered gender equality in sports participation in schools so that young women, including my three daughters, Caroline, Halina and Anne who all play soccer, may enjoy the benefits that come along with sports participation.

Studies show that participation in sports has a positive influence on the intellectual, physical and psychological health of young girls. According to the National Federation of State High School Associations, by a 3-1

ratio, female athletes do better in school, do not drop out, and have a better chance to get through college. Additionally, a study from the Women’s Sports Foundation showed that high school athletes are less likely to smoke cigarettes or use drugs than their non-athlete peers. Sports participation is also linked to lower rates of pregnancy in adolescent female athletes. With these statistics in mind, it is not surprising that a study from the Oppenheimer/MassMutual Financial Group shows that of 401 executive business women surveyed, 82 percent reported playing organized sports while growing up, including school teams, intramurals, and recreational leagues.

In my home State of Colorado, we are ahead of the curve with regard to the participation of girls and women in sports. The U.S. Olympic Training Center, located in Colorado Springs, was created by an act of Congress in 1978, just a few years after title IX was passed. It is encouraging to know that women like Gold Medal Winner Lindsey Vonn, now make up nearly half of all U.S. Olympians competing at the games, representing more than 48 percent of the 2008 team. Colorado also supports the success of Paralympians such as Sarah Will, who after a skiing accident that left her paralyzed from the waist down, went on to help found the Vail Monoski Camp and won 12 gold Paralympic medals from 1992 to 2002.

Colorado is also a vanguard in providing early education and sports opportunities for women. The flagship all girls school, GALS, Girls Athletic Leadership Schools, has opened its first public charter school in Denver, CO. The school practices active learning that engages students in health and wellness activities in the belief that these are key contributing factors in optimizing academic achievement and self-development. There are also groups such as the Colorado Women’s Sports Fund Association that work towards increasing the number of girls and women who participate in athletics and reducing and eliminating barriers that prevent participation.

Despite the vast improvements with regard to sports participation for girls and women, inequalities and disparities still remain. According to the National Federation of State High School Associations, schools are still providing 1.3 million fewer chances for girls to play sports in high school than boys. These numbers have an even greater impact on Latinas and African-American young women. The Women’s Sports Foundation shows that less than two-thirds of these girls play sports while more than three-quarters of Caucasian girls do. And three-quarters of boys from immigrant families are involved in athletics, while less than half of girls from immigrant families are.

Mr. President, we have work to do. Part of our job is to promote the importance of this national effort to grow the rates of female athletes. Please

join me in celebrating National Girls and Women in Sports Day by supporting efforts to expand equality in sports participation and education for women and girls around the country.●

TRIBUTE TO JACK KING

● Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, on behalf of myself and Senator BOXER, I join my colleagues in the House of Representatives, including Mr. COSTA, Mr. LUNGREN, Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. FARR, Mr. DENHAM, Ms. RICHARDSON, Mr. BACA, Mr. HERGER, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. FILNER, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. NUNES, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. THOMPSON, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. LEE, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. CHU, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. LINDA SANCHEZ, Mr. BECERRA, Ms. HAHN, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. HONDA, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, and Mr. CALVERT, to pay tribute to Mr. Jack King on the occasion of his retirement from the California Farm Bureau Federation. For more than 35 years, Jack King has worked on behalf of our Nation's farmers and ranchers to ensure that they have a voice in our Nation's capital. His passion for agriculture has made him a strong and effective advocate for the American Farm Bureau Federation and the California Farm Bureau Federation.

Growing up on a dairy farm in Wisconsin taught Jack the value of hard work, and the important role agriculture plays in America—specifically when it comes to feeding and clothing our families and supporting our economy. Upon graduating from the University of Wisconsin, Jack began his career in agriculture with the university's cooperative extension office. Jack then went on to work for the Wisconsin Council of Agricultural Cooperatives and the Wisconsin Council of Agriculture. In 1973, Jack ventured west and joined the California Farm Bureau Federation as assistant manager of the information division.

Jack expanded his work with the Farm Bureau, and in 1985, he became news services director for the American Farm Bureau Federation. Based in Illinois, Jack managed internal and external communications and often worked in conjunction with the Washington, D.C. office to ensure that legislators were connected with farmers and ranchers. In 1994, Jack returned to California to serve as manager of the California Farm Bureau Federation's National Affairs Division. He served as a direct link between farmers, ranchers, and Members of Congress.

Jack's tremendous contributions and dedication can be measured in a number of ways. Notably, Jack made approximately 200 trips to Washington, D.C. His deep commitment was based in his belief that legislators needed to hear directly from farmers and ranchers in order to understand their contributions and the difficulties they face. Specifically, Jack has been dedicated to working on comprehensive immigration reform, natural resource regulations, and renewable energy.

Of course none of these accomplishments would be possible without the

love and support of Jack's wife, Mary Ann; their sons, Carl, David and Bryan; and two grandchildren.

We ask our colleagues to join us in recognizing Jack King's enthusiasm and work ethic. His devotion and loyalty to our Nation's farmers and ranchers make him a source of pride for our community, State and Nation. We thank Jack for his work on behalf of farmers and ranchers in California and all across the country, and wish him well in retirement.●

RECOGNIZING BULL JAGGER BREWING COMPANY

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, I have heard time and again how difficult it is to start a business in our current economy. As the new year begins, I find it especially critical to honor those entrepreneurs, who in spite of these challenging times, are surmounting all obstacles to pursue the American dream of starting a small business. With this in mind, today I wish to commend and recognize the most recent addition to the renowned brewing family, the Bull Jagger Brewing Company of Portland, ME.

Bull Jagger opened in the fall of 2011 with two employees and a dream to produce high-quality lager. In a 1,500-square-foot space in Portland's Riverside Industrial Park, the two owners, Tom Bull and Allan Jagger, have begun producing the Portland Lager. In their small facility, they currently produce about eight barrels a week which makes approximately 1,800 bottles of the refreshing beverage. Their lager debuted at the Portland Harvest on the Harbor in October of 2011 to rave reviews.

This success is truly exceptional as only a few years ago, Tom Bull, a Bath native who has worked at local companies such as Gritty McDuff's and the former Stone Coast Brewing, was developing his own homemade beer and dreaming of opening a micro-lager business. Fortunately, after meeting through mutual friends and tasting Tom's homebrew, local businessman Allan Jagger was convinced that Tom's dream was worth pursuing. Together as partners, they decided to turn their aspirations into reality and venture into Maine's micro-brew market.

Across the State, both Tom and Allan found that Maine's micro-brew market lacked one particular beer variety—a micro-brew lager. While larger breweries all produce lagers, most micro-breweries shy away from lagers because of the increased length of brewing time in comparison to ales. Typically, lager has to sit in a cold cellar for several weeks to allow proper fermentation to occur. While this may have deterred other micro-breweries in the past, Bull Jagger believed their lager would be worth the wait, and they were certainly right. In true lager fashion, this small brewery allows their lager to ferment over 6 weeks, which is approximately a month longer

than traditional ales. This may have diminished the speed with which the product leaves the factory, but it certainly has not slowed down the consumption, as sales are continuing to grow.

As a new small business that has already distinguished itself in Maine's prominent micro-brew market, Bull Jagger is looking forward to producing additional varieties, including a Pilsner beer, in the near future. This small firm's attention to detail and initial success demonstrates the remarkable quality of their product. I am proud to extend my congratulations to Tom Bull and Allan Jagger for their tremendous efforts, and offer my best wishes for the continued success of Bull Jagger Brewing Company.●

TRIBUTE TO ERICA MARIE D'AQUIN

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, today I recognize Ms. Erica Marie d'Aquin, a bright and talented young Louisianian.

Each year since 1743, the carnival celebration known as Mardi Gras, French for Fat Tuesday, has been celebrated by the people of New Orleans. The season officially begins on January 6, the Twelfth Night of Christmas and the Feast of the Epiphany. Also recognized in many countries around the world with large Roman Catholic populations, Mardi Gras is the final blow out party prior to the ritual fasting of the Lenten Season, which begins on Ash Wednesday.

Over the many decades that New Orleanians have celebrated Mardi Gras, "krewes", or private Mardi Gras social organizations, have also contributed to the merriment and glee surrounding the festive season. In Greek mythology, Endymion was known for his everlasting youth and beauty. In 1966, the Krewe of Endymion was established and has annually paraded through the streets of New Orleans. Today, Endymion is known for being the largest parade in New Orleans, both for the number of members—2300—and also for the number of floats. This krewe has meant a lot to me since I had one of my first jobs as a high school student painting Endymion's floats—white primer only, as I wasn't trusted with colors.

During this, the Krewe of Endymion's 46th year, Ms. Erica Marie d'Aquin will reign as queen. Ms. d'Aquin is a senior at Archbishop Chapelle High School and is on the distinguished honor roll. She is a member of the National Art Honor Society, is a member of the pro-life club, has a fond love for art, and is very active in the Chapelle Animal Rescue Effort to promote the awareness of issues affecting animals. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Daryl d'Aquin and the granddaughter Mr. and Mrs. Edmond J. Muniz, the founder and captain of the Krewe of Endymion.