

MAR 18 2009

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO AUTHENTICATE HAWAIIAN HISTORY, INCLUDING AN APPROPRIATE AND HISTORICALLY ACCURATE RENDERING OF THE DOCUMENT HELD IN THE RIGHT HAND OF PRESIDENT WILLIAM MCKINLEY'S STATUE AT MCKINLEY HIGH SCHOOL.

1 WHEREAS, on January 17, 1893, over the protest of Queen
2 Lili'uokalani, head of state of the Hawaiian Kingdom, the
3 diplomatic and military forces of the United States assisted
4 insurrectionists in seizing control of the Hawaiian Kingdom
5 government and establishing a puppet government; and
6

7 WHEREAS, on February 14, 1893 in Washington, D.C., the
8 puppet government signed a treaty of cession of the Hawaiian
9 Kingdom to the United States and United States President
10 Harrison submitted the treaty to the Senate for ratification;
11 and
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13 WHEREAS, on March 11, 1893, newly elected United States
14 President Cleveland received a protest of Queen Lili'uokalani
15 from a Hawaiian Kingdom envoy and withdrew the treaty from the
16 Senate; and
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18 WHEREAS, President Cleveland thereafter appointed former
19 Congressman James Blount as a Special Commissioner to
20 investigate the seizure of the Hawaiian Kingdom and to report
21 his findings to the president; and
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23 WHEREAS, the Presidential investigation concluded that the
24 overthrow of the Hawaiian government was illegal under
25 international law and entered into an agreement with Queen
26 Lili'uokalani that the President would restore the Hawaiian
27 Kingdom government and the Queen would grant amnesty to the
28 insurgents; and
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30 WHEREAS, United States Congress prevented President
31 Cleveland from restoring the Government; and



1
2 WHEREAS, Queen Lili'uokalani and Hawaiian nationals, to
3 their detriment, relied on Cleveland's commitment to restore the
4 Hawaiian Kingdom government; and

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6 WHEREAS, the United States House of Representatives
7 subsequently passed a resolution on February 7, 1894 warning
8 other nations "that foreign intervention in the political
9 affairs of the islands will not be regarded with indifference by
10 the Government of the United States"; and

11
12 WHEREAS, the United States Senate endorsed this sentiment
13 by passing a resolution on May 31, 1894 "that any intervention
14 in the political affairs of these islands by any other
15 Government will be regarded as an act unfriendly to the United
16 States"; and

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18 WHEREAS, on June 16, 1897, the newly elected President of
19 the United States, William McKinley signed a second treaty of
20 cession in Washington, D.C., with representatives of the *self-*
21 *proclaimed* Republic of Hawai'i, but the proposed treaty remained
22 subject to ratification by the United States Senate; and

23
24 WHEREAS, on June 18, 1897, Queen Lili'uokalani filed a
25 diplomatic protest with the United States State Department in
26 Washington, D.C., stating:

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28 "I, Lili'uokalani of Hawai'i, by the will of God named
29 heir apparent on the tenth day of April, A.D. 1877,
30 and by the grace of God Queen of the Hawaiian Islands
31 on the seventeenth day of January, A.D. 1893, do
32 hereby protest against the ratification of a certain
33 treaty, which, so I am informed, has been signed at
34 Washington by Messrs. Hatch, Thurston, and Kinney,
35 purporting to cede those Islands to the territory and
36 dominion of the United States. I declare such a treaty
37 to be an act of wrong toward the native and part-
38 native people of Hawai'i, an invasion of the rights of
39 the ruling chiefs, in violation of international
40 rights both toward my people and toward friendly
41 nations with whom they have made treaties, the
42 perpetuation of the fraud whereby the constitutional



1 government was overthrown, and, finally, an act of
2 gross injustice to me"; and
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4 WHEREAS, on July 24, 1897, Hawaiian political organizations
5 also filed protests with the McKinley Administration against the
6 second treaty; and
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8 WHEREAS, in spite of these protests, President McKinley
9 indicated his intent to submit the Treaty of Cession to the
10 United States Senate, which would convene in December of 1897;
11 and
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13 WHEREAS, in September of 1897, the Men's and Women's
14 Hawaiian Patriotic League (Hui Aloha 'Aina) initiated signature
15 petitions protesting the treaty and deposited the petitions with
16 the United States Senate in December 1897; and
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18 WHEREAS, these protests, along with the formal protests of
19 Queen Lili'uokalani, succeeded in preventing the Senate from
20 ratifying this second attempt to annex the Hawaiian Islands by a
21 treaty of cession; and
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23 WHEREAS, on April 21, 1898, the United States declared war
24 against the Kingdom of Spain, turning Hawai'i into a naval and
25 troop base to commence the war against the Spanish in the
26 Philippines and Guam in the western Pacific Ocean, purportedly
27 to protect the west coast of the United States; and
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29 WHEREAS, on July 7, 1898, President McKinley signed a joint
30 resolution of annexation passed by the United States House of
31 Representatives and the Senate, purporting to annex the Hawaiian
32 Islands justified as a war necessity; and
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34 WHEREAS, a joint resolution is not a treaty, but a domestic
35 measure with authority that is limited and applicable only
36 within the territory of the United States; and
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38 WHEREAS, standing at the front entrance to McKinley High
39 School is a bronze statue of President William McKinley
40 clutching a document inscribed "Treaty of Annexation", a
41 document that historically does not exist; and
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1 WHEREAS, the statue has contributed to misinformation
 2 shared with the people of Hawai'i and Native Hawaiians about the
 3 history of these Islands and of the relationship of the United
 4 States to the Hawaiian Kingdom, leading to the teaching of an
 5 incorrect history; and

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 7 WHEREAS, that these inaccuracies, when incorporated into
 8 public displays such as statues, are harmful to all, including
 9 young people at McKinley High School, because they perpetuate
 10 and promote misinformation, leaving Hawai'i's youth unprepared to
 11 engage in meaningful dialogue on Hawai'i's history; now,
 12 therefore,

13
 14 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth
 15 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2009, the
 16 House of Representatives concurring, that efforts to promote
 17 correct Hawaiian history in the State, including historically
 18 accurate renderings, must be supported; and

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 20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the document carried in the
 21 statue's hand be removed through recasting; and

22
 23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 24 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
 25 Board of Education, the Executive Director of the State
 26 Foundation on Culture and the Arts, the Comptroller, and the
 27 Principal of McKinley High School.

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