HOUSE RESOLUTION


WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii was once the Kingdom of Hawaii, with a monarchy that was afforded full diplomatic recognition by the United States; and

WHEREAS, on January 17, 1893, the government of the Kingdom of Hawaii was overthrown by a group of American citizens, who acted with the support of United States Minister John Stephens and a contingent of United States Marines from the U.S.S. Boston; and

WHEREAS, Native Hawaiians are a distinct indigenous population with their own culture, identity, and assets set aside for their benefit; and

WHEREAS, the long-range economic and social changes in Hawaii over the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries have been devastating to the health and well-being of Native Hawaiians; and

WHEREAS, the Native Hawaiian people are determined to preserve, develop, and transmit to future generations, in accordance with their own spiritual and traditional beliefs, their customs, practices, language, social institutions, ancestral territory, and cultural identity; and

WHEREAS, the United States exempted the land from then-existing public land laws of the United States by mandating that the revenue and proceeds from that land be used solely for the benefit of the inhabitants of the Hawaiian Islands for education and other public purposes, thereby establishing a special trust relationship between the United States and the inhabitants of Hawaii; and

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WHEREAS, in furtherance of the trust responsibility for the
betterment of the conditions of Native Hawaiians, the United
States has established a program for the provision of
comprehensive health promotion and disease prevention services
to maintain and improve the health status of the Hawaiian
people; and

WHEREAS, that program is conducted by the Native Hawaiian
Health Care Systems and Papa Ola Lokahi; and

WHEREAS, health initiatives implemented by those and other
health institutions and agencies using federal assistance have
been responsible for reducing the century-old morbidity and
mortality rates of Native Hawaiian people by:

(1) Providing comprehensive disease prevention;

(2) Providing health promotion activities; and

(3) Increasing the number of Native Hawaiians in the
health and allied health professions; and

WHEREAS, those accomplishments have been achieved through
implementation of the Native Hawaiian Health Care Act of 1988;
and

WHEREAS, the historical and unique legal relationship
between the United States and Native Hawaiians has been
consistently recognized and affirmed by Congress through the
enactment of more than one hundred sixty federal laws that
extend to the Native Hawaiian people the same rights and
privileges accorded to American Indian, Alaska Native, Eskimo,
and Aleut communities; and

WHEREAS, the unmet health needs of the Native Hawaiian
people remain severe and the health status of the Native
Hawaiian people continues to be far below that of the general
population of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the cancer mortality rate of Native Hawaiians is
fifty per cent higher than the rate for the total population in
Hawaii; and
WHEREAS, the prevalence of diabetes for Native Hawaiians is 12.7 per cent, which is eighty-seven per cent higher than the total rate for the total population in Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, the current prevalence of asthma in Native Hawaiian adults is 12.8 per cent, which is seventy-one per cent higher than the rate for the total population in Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, the mortality rate for Native Hawaiians as a result of heart disease is eighty-six per cent higher than the rate for the total population in Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, Native Hawaiians have the lowest life expectancy of all population groups in Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, the prevalence of obesity among Native Hawaiians is one hundred nineteen per cent higher than the rate for the total population in Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, Native Hawaiian physicians make up only four per cent of the total physician workforce in Hawaii; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2010, that the United States Congress and the President of the United States are urged to support the reauthorization of the Native Hawaiian Health Care Improvement Act of 2009; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the members of Hawaii's congressional delegation, the Chair of the National Caucus of Native American State Legislators, and the Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

OFFERED BY: [Signature]

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