

MAR 03 2011

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO SUPPORT LEGISLATION THAT REDESIGNATES  
DISCOVERERS' DAY IN HAWAII TO INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY.

1           WHEREAS, the basic concept of discovery established  
2 Christian dominion over non-Christian nations and peoples and  
3 allowed for the colonization and seizure of their lands; and  
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5           WHEREAS, on January 8, 1455, the papal bull Romanus  
6 Pontifex was issued by Pope Nicolas V to King Alfonso V of  
7 Portugal, establishing Christian dominion throughout Africa,  
8 based upon the concept of discovery; and  
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10           WHEREAS, on October 12, 1492, Christopher Columbus did not  
11 discover America because it had been previously inhabited by  
12 indigenous people for thousands of years and because after four  
13 voyages to the Caribbean, Columbus believed until his death in  
14 1506 that he had landed in Asia; and  
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16           WHEREAS, in his famous letter to the Spanish Crown in 1493,  
17 Christopher Columbus was the first to suggest the enslavement of  
18 the native inhabitants that he had encountered; and  
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20           WHEREAS, on May 4, 1493, the papal bull Inter Caetera was  
21 issued by Pope Alexander VI to King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella  
22 of Spain establishing Christian dominion in the Americas and  
23 everywhere one hundred leagues west of the Azores and Cape Verde  
24 Islands, based upon the concept of discovery; and  
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26           WHEREAS, as the governor of Espanola, known today as Haiti  
27 and the Dominican Republic, Christopher Columbus in the 1490s  
28 imposed an institutional system of forced labor that killed many  
29 of the area's native inhabitants; and  
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1           WHEREAS, on January 19, 1778, British captain James Cook  
2 did not discover the Hawaiian Islands, or Ka Paeaina, because  
3 the islands had been inhabited by the native Hawaiian people, or  
4 Kanaka Maoli, for hundreds of years prior to Cook's arrival; and  
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6           WHEREAS, as a result of the crusading concept of discovery  
7 and European colonization of native lands, indigenous people  
8 perished worldwide; and  
9

10          WHEREAS, the use of the name Discoverers' Day to recognize  
11 the first arrival of non-Polynesians to Hawaii is problematic  
12 because of the inhumane nature of the concept of discovery; and  
13

14          WHEREAS, in the July 1990 Declaration of Quito, Ecuador, in  
15 which representatives from one hundred twenty Indian nations met  
16 at a continental gathering to mark five hundred years of Indian  
17 resistance, indigenous people mobilized and declared their  
18 opposition to the 1992 quincentennial celebration of the  
19 European arrival in the Americas and reaffirmed their  
20 continental unity and struggle toward their liberation; and  
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22          WHEREAS, in 1992, the city of Berkeley, California  
23 abolished Columbus Day, renaming it Indigenous Peoples' Day to  
24 protest the European colonization of North America and call  
25 attention to the plight of Native American people; and  
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27          WHEREAS, since 1992, an increasing number of American  
28 states, cities, local governments, and institutions have renamed  
29 or abolished Columbus Day; and  
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31          WHEREAS, the recognition of Discoverers' Day in Hawaii is  
32 synonymous with Columbus Day because of the inhumane nature of  
33 the concept of discovery; and  
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35          WHEREAS, Indigenous Peoples' Day and Native American Day  
36 are two of the most prominent names now used to recognize the  
37 day; and  
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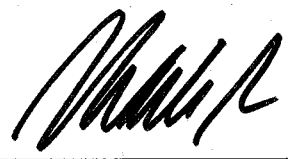
39          WHEREAS, beginning on October 12, 1997, indigenous peoples  
40 and supporters have gathered annually in Hawaii to call public  
41 attention to this issue; and



1  
2 WHEREAS, beginning in October 2002, indigenous peoples and  
3 supporters have been calling Discoverers' Day in Hawaii,  
4 Indigenous Peoples' Day in solidarity with indigenous people  
5 worldwide, to celebrate indigenous survival, pride, and culture,  
6 and to call public attention to this issue; now, therefore,  
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8 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-sixth  
9 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2011, the  
10 House of Representatives concurring, that the Governor is  
11 respectfully requested to support legislation that redesignates  
12 the second Monday in October as Indigenous Peoples' Day, in  
13 recognition of the countless numbers of indigenous people  
14 worldwide who perished as a result of the indigenous-European  
15 clash of civilizations and of those indigenous people who have  
16 endured and survived over the past five hundred years and who  
17 wish to celebrate their continuity and breath of life, educate  
18 the general public about this issue, and create a more peaceful  
19 world; and  
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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
22 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the  
23 President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of  
24 Representatives.  
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OFFERED BY:  \_\_\_\_\_