
SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO SUPPORT LEGISLATION THAT REDESIGNATES
DISCOVERERS' DAY IN HAWAII AS 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 and south of the Azores and
24 Cape Verde Islands, based upon the concept of discovery; and
25

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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31 WHEREAS, on January 19, 1778, British captain James Cook
32 did not discover the Hawaiian Islands, or Ka Paeaina, because
33 the islands had been inhabited by the native Hawaiian people, or
34 Kanaka Maoli, for hundreds of years prior to Cook's arrival; and
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1 WHEREAS, as a result of the crusading concept of discovery
2 and European colonization of native lands, indigenous people
3 perished worldwide; and
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5 WHEREAS, the use of the name Discoverers' Day to recognize
6 the first arrival of non-Polynesians to Hawaii is problematic
7 because of the inhumane nature of the concept of discovery; and
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9 WHEREAS, in the July 1990 Declaration of Quito, Ecuador, in
10 which representatives from one hundred twenty Indian nations met
11 at a continental gathering to mark five hundred years of Indian
12 resistance, indigenous people mobilized and declared their
13 opposition to the 1992 quincentennial celebration of the
14 European arrival in the Americas and reaffirmed their
15 continental unity and struggle toward their liberation; and
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17 WHEREAS, in 1992, the city of Berkeley, California
18 abolished Columbus Day, renaming it Indigenous Peoples Day to
19 protest the European colonization of North America and call
20 attention to the plight of Native American people; and
21

22 WHEREAS, since 1992, an increasing number of American
23 states, cities, local governments, and institutions have renamed
24 or abolished Columbus Day; and
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26 WHEREAS, the recognition of Discoverers' Day in Hawaii is
27 synonymous with Columbus Day because of the inhumane nature of
28 the concept of discovery; and
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30 WHEREAS, Indigenous Peoples Day and Native American Day are
31 two of the most prominent names now used to recognize the day;
32 and
33

34 WHEREAS, beginning on October 12, 1997, indigenous peoples
35 and supporters have gathered annually in Hawaii to call public
36 attention to this issue; and
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38 WHEREAS, beginning in October 2002, some indigenous peoples
39 and supporters in Hawaii have been referring to Discoverers' Day
40 as Indigenous Peoples Day in solidarity with indigenous people
41 worldwide, to celebrate the survival, pride, and culture of
42 indigenous people, and to call public attention to this issue;
43 now, therefore,
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1 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-sixth
2 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2011,
3 that the Governor is respectfully requested to support
4 legislation that redesignates the second Monday in October as
5 Indigenous Peoples Day, in recognition of the countless numbers
6 of indigenous people worldwide who perished as a result of the
7 indigenous-European clash of civilizations and of those
8 indigenous people who have endured and survived over the past
9 five hundred years and who wish to celebrate their continuity
10 and breath of life, educate the general public about this issue,
11 and create a more peaceful world; and
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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
14 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, President of the
15 Senate, and Speaker of the House of Representatives.
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