

MAR 09 2018

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL
RESOURCES TO RENAME THE MAUNA KEA RECREATION AREA IN THE
COUNTY OF HAWAII AS THE GILBERT KAHELE RECREATION AREA.

1 WHEREAS, born in Kalihi just south of the Hawaiian fishing
2 village of Miloli'i in 1942, Gilbert Kahele was raised in
3 Miloli'i and attended Hilo High School, graduating in 1960; and
4

5 WHEREAS, Gilbert Kahele would then serve his country in the
6 United States Marine Corps, receiving an honorable discharge as
7 a Corporal (Marine non-commissioned officer); and
8

9 WHEREAS, Gilbert Kahele received an Associate's degree as a
10 refrigeration mechanic from Laney College in Northern
11 California; and
12

13 WHEREAS, after graduation, Gilbert Kahele returned to
14 Hawaii and worked for the federal government, first on O'ahu and
15 then on the island of Hawaii at the United States Army Garrison,
16 Hawaii Pōhakuoloa Training Area; and
17

18 WHEREAS, in 1980, Gilbert Kahele co-founded and served as
19 President of Pa'a Pono Miloli'i, a community-based organization
20 whose purpose was to preserve and protect the cultural,
21 historical, environmental, and archaeological life and heritage
22 within the ahupua'a of Pāpā, Hō'ōpūloa, Miloli'i, Omoka'a, Kalihi,
23 Honomalino, Okoe, and Kapu'a; and
24

25 WHEREAS, Pa'a Pono Miloli'i's core mission is to improve the
26 quality of life for the residents of the "Last Hawaiian Fishing
27 Village in the State of Hawaii"; and
28

29 WHEREAS, as President of Pa'a Pono Miloli'i, Gilbert
30 Kahele's first major effort was to create a master plan for the



1 community that focused on supporting residents to secure land
2 rights and build safe affordable homes in the village; and
3

4 WHEREAS, in 1984, working directly with the Office of
5 Hawaiian Affairs, Department of Land and Natural Resources, and
6 legislative and executive branches of the State of Hawai'i,
7 Gilbert Kahele was instrumental in passing a law which provided
8 homes to the descendants of the 1926 Ho'öpūloa lava flow from
9 Mauna Loa that destroyed the fishing village of Ho'öpūloa; and
10

11 WHEREAS, for twenty-five years, Gilbert Kahele worked at
12 Pōhakuloa Training Area and would spend countless days at the
13 then named Mauna Kea State Recreation Area advocating for its
14 maintenance, repair, and upkeep; and
15

16 WHEREAS, through the years, due to lack of adequate funding
17 and neglect, the Mauna Kea State Recreation Area fell into a
18 total state of disrepair, as the cabins were closed, bathrooms
19 were not working, and the United States of America and State of
20 Hawai'i flags stopped flying; and
21

22 WHEREAS, after twenty-eight years of service, Gilbert
23 Kahele subsequently retired from his civilian position as
24 Director of the Public Works Division at Pōhakuloa Training Area
25 in 2000; and
26

27 WHEREAS, Gilbert Kahele worked to support those
28 underrepresented in the political realm as a member of the
29 Hawai'i State Senate for District 1, advocating tirelessly for
30 affordable housing, Hawaii's underprivileged rural children,
31 Hawaiian homestead lands, and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs as
32 the Chair of the Senate Committee on Tourism and International
33 Affairs, Vice Chair of the Senate Committee on Higher Education
34 and the Arts, and Member of the Senate Committee on Judiciary
35 and Labor; and
36

37 WHEREAS, in 2011, working collaboratively with former
38 Governor Neil Abercrombie, former State Senator Malama Solomon,
39 and former Hawai'i County Mayor William Kenoi, Gilbert Kahele
40 championed the effort to transfer management and maintenance of
41 Mauna Kea State Recreation Area to the County of Hawai'i; and



1
2 WHEREAS, now known as the Mauna Kea Recreation Area, this
3 area is identified as tax map key 4-4-16:03 and is approximately
4 20.5 acres; and
5

6 WHEREAS, Gilbert Kahele always envisioned that the Mauna
7 Kea Recreation Area would be a special place in the center, or
8 "piko", of the island when families could gather, children could
9 play, people could meet to conduct business, and visitors could
10 experience the serenity and beauty of Mauna Kea; and
11

12 WHEREAS, Gilbert Kahele also advocated for clean and
13 operating restrooms, remodeled cabins, a community kitchen, and
14 a future restaurant, as well as a gas station and convenience
15 store for island residents and visitors traversing across the
16 island via the Daniel K. Inouye Saddle Road Highway; and
17

18 WHEREAS, it is imperative that the State of Hawai'i
19 recognize and honor its most distinguished public servants in a
20 tangible, permanent manner that is a constant reminder of their
21 sacrifice, dedication, and service; now, therefore,
22

23 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth
24 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2018, the
25 House of Representatives concurring, that the Chairperson of the
26 Board of Land and Natural Resources is requested to rename the
27 Mauna Kea Recreation Area in the County of Hawai'i as the
28 "Gilbert Kahele Recreation Area"; and
29

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and
31 Natural Resources and Department of Transportation are requested
32 to erect and maintain the appropriate signage for the Gilbert
33 Kahele Recreation Area; and
34

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the renaming and designation of
36 the Mauna Kea Recreation Area as the Gilbert Kahele Recreation
37 Area do not adversely impact any state or federal funding for
38 the recreation area; and
39

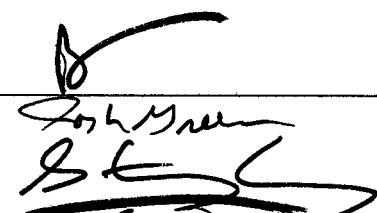




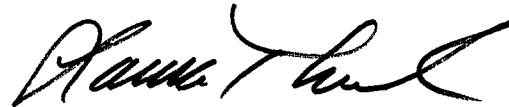
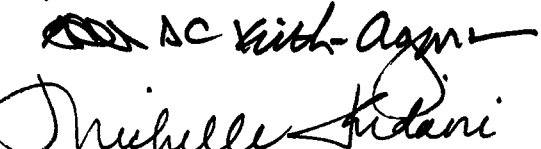
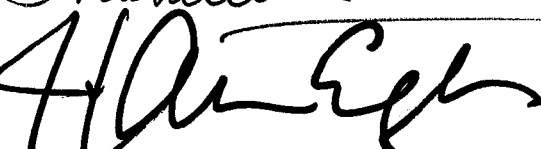
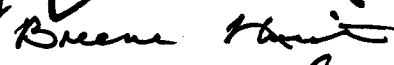

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
41 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Lieutenant
42 Governor, Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural


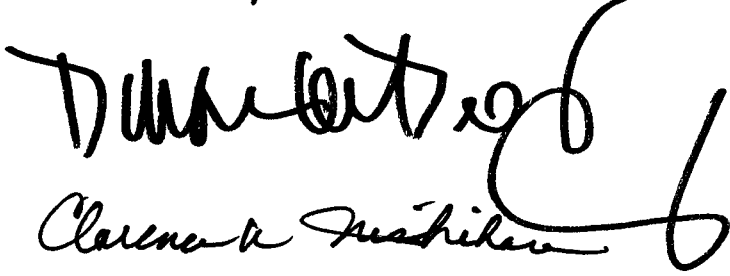




1 Resources, Director of Transportation, Administrator of the
2 Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of Forestry
3 and Wildlife, Chair of the Hawai'i County Council, Mayor of the
4 County of Hawai'i, and Director of the County of Hawai'i Parks
5 and Recreation.

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8

OFFERED BY:


 Josh Green


 [unclear]

 [unclear]

 [unclear]

 [unclear] DC with Agm

 Michelle Tidani

 [unclear]

 [unclear]

 [unclear]


 Mike Gabbard

 [unclear]

 Clarence A. Masiha

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