

MAR 09 2018

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# 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, Ho'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.  
6  
7  
8

OFFERED BY:

*Nike Gobbold*

*Diana [unclear]*

*Clarena [unclear]*

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*Ann D. M.*  
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*Bruce [unclear]*

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