

MAR 09 2018

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL
RESOURCES TO RENAME THE MAUNA KEA RECREATION AREA IN THE
COUNTY OF HAWAI'I 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 Hawai'i and worked for the federal government, first on O'ahu and
15 then on the island of Hawai'i at the United States Army Garrison
16 Hawai'i Pōhakuloa 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 Hawai'i"; 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
31 community that focused on supporting residents to secure land
32 rights and build safe affordable homes in the village; and
33



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

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

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

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

24 WHEREAS, Gilbert Kahele worked to support those
25 underrepresented in the political realm as a member of the
26 Hawai'i State Senate for District 1, advocating tirelessly for
27 affordable housing, Hawaii's underprivileged rural children,
28 Hawaiian homestead lands, and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs as
29 the Chair of the Senate Committee on Tourism and International
30 Affairs, Vice Chair of the Senate Committee on Higher Education
31 and the Arts, and Member of the Senate Committee on Judiciary
32 and Labor; and
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34 WHEREAS, in 2011, working collaboratively with former
35 Governor Neil Abercrombie, former State Senator Malama Solomon,
36 and former Hawai'i County Mayor William Kenoi, Gilbert Kahele
37 championed the effort to transfer management and maintenance of
38 Mauna Kea State Recreation Area to the County of Hawai'i; and
39



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

5 WHEREAS, Gilbert Kahele always envisioned that the Mauna
6 Kea Recreation Area would be a special place in the center, or
7 "piko", of the island when families could gather, children could
8 play, people could meet to conduct business, and visitors could
9 experience the serenity and beauty of Mauna Kea; and
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11 WHEREAS, Gilbert Kahele also advocated for clean and
12 operating restrooms, remodeled cabins, a community kitchen, and
13 a future restaurant, as well as a gas station and convenience
14 store for island residents and visitors traversing across the
15 island via the Daniel K. Inouye Saddle Road Highway; and
16

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

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

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

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

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
39 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor,
40 Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, Director
41 of Transportation, Administrator of the Department of Land and
42 Natural Resources Division of Forestry and Wildlife, Chair of



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1 the Hawai'i County Council, Mayor of the County of Hawai'i, and
2 Director of the County of Hawai'i Parks and Recreation.

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OFFERED BY:



















