

MAR 8 - 2019

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL
RESOURCES TO RENAME THE RUSSIAN FORT ELIZABETH STATE
HISTORICAL PARK IN WAIMEA, KAUA'I, TO PĀ'ULA'ULA.

1 WHEREAS, King Kaumuali'i was born in 1780 at Pōhaku
2 Ho'ohānau at Holoholokū, Wailua, Kaua'i, to Kamakahahelei and
3 Kā'eokūlani; and
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5 WHEREAS, Pā'ula'ula is the traditional place name for the
6 eastern bank at the mouth of the Waimea River where Kaumuali'i
7 had his royal compound, including a heiau; and
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9 WHEREAS, in 1815, the Russian-American Company ship *Bering*
10 was shipwrecked on the beach in Waimea, Kaua'i; and
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12 WHEREAS, in December 1815, the Russian-American Company
13 sent Georg Anton Schäffer to Kaua'i to recover the cargo from the
14 *Bering*; and
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16 WHEREAS, an alliance was created between Schäffer and
17 Kaumuali'i for the construction of a fort at Pā'ula'ula using the
18 rock from the heiau and a largely Hawaiian labor force; however,
19 the Russians were expelled from Kaua'i in 1817; and
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21 WHEREAS, the Hawaiian government completed the half-
22 finished structure and used the fort until 1864; and
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24 WHEREAS, many names have been given to this enclosure,
25 which reflect its cultural significance and multicultural
26 history, such as Pā'ula'ula, Fort Elizabeth, stone fort, and my
27 fort; and
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29 WHEREAS, Pā'ula'ula is a term applied to the fort by
30 Kahopuhopula, a Hawaiian testifying before a Land Commission



1 hearing and there are two other heiau in Waimea, Kaua'i known as
2 Kapā'ula; and

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4 WHEREAS, in 1972, the State of Hawai'i acquired the
5 seventeen-acre property encompassing the fort structure to
6 preserve the site; and

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8 WHEREAS, the site, administered as the Russian Fort
9 Elizabeth State Historical Park, was designated a National
10 Historic Landmark in 1962 and listed on the Hawai'i Register of
11 Historic Places in 1981; and

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13 WHEREAS, the two hundredth anniversary of the fort was
14 commemorated with a forum on Kaua'i in 2017; and

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16 WHEREAS, in March 2018, a working group, consisting of
17 representatives from various cultural and historical
18 organizations on Kaua'i, government agencies, and the Russian-
19 American community, formed to discuss the future of the site;
20 and

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22 WHEREAS, the working group's objectives include recognizing
23 and sharing the Hawaiian history of the site as part of the
24 larger history of Waimea and Kaua'i and reaching out to the
25 community to discuss proposed name changes for the Russian Fort
26 Elizabeth State Historical Park; and

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28 WHEREAS, this body supports the Kaua'i community
29 representatives, who believe the name Pā'ula'ula should be
30 included and honored, so that the mo'olelo of this wahi pana is
31 shared and the 'āina that cares for the iwi kupuna is honored;
32 and

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34 WHEREAS, Hawai'i's place names should reflect the State's
35 cultural heritage and its historical and geographical integrity;
36 now, therefore,

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38 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
39 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2019, the House of
40 Representatives concurring, that the Chairperson of the Board of
41 Land and Natural Resources is urged to rename the Russian Fort



1 Elizabeth State Historical Park in Waimea, Kaua'i, to Pā'ula'ula;
2 and
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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chairperson is also urged
5 to develop new interpretive signs, brochures, and websites for
6 the site that are available in Hawaiian and English and
7 primarily reflect the 'āina of Kaua'i's ali'i nui, as well as the
8 rich multicultural history of the site; and
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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and
11 Natural Resources' Division of State Parks is urged to
12 collaborate with the National Park Service to update the
13 National Historic Landmark designation of the site and
14 incorporate its Hawaiian place name, its multicultural history,
15 and recent research findings by Hawaiian, American, and Russian
16 scholars; and
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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
19 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Secretary of the
20 Interior; National Park Service Director; Governor; Chairperson
21 of the Board of Land and Natural Resources; Chair of the Board
22 of Trustees, Office of Hawaiian Affairs; and Mayors of the City
23 and County of Honolulu and Counties of Maui, Kaua'i, and Hawai'i.
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OFFERED BY:

