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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

PROCLAIMING APRIL 30 OF EVERY YEAR AS HAWAIIAN RESTORATION DAY.

1           WHEREAS, in 1991, the General Synod of the United Churches  
2 of Christ, representing over six thousand member churches,  
3 passed a resolution "Recognizing the Rights of Native Hawaiians  
4 to Self-Governance and Self-Determination"; and  
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6           WHEREAS, in 1993, the President of the United Church of  
7 Christ, which sent the first missionaries to Hawaii in 1820,  
8 issued a formal "Apology to Na Kanaka Maoli" and committed the  
9 church to redress the wrongs done to native Hawaiians; and  
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11           WHEREAS, in 1993, the United States Congress adopted Public  
12 Law 103-50 often referred to as the "Apology Bill," which  
13 apologized to native Hawaiians for the illegal overthrow of  
14 Queen Liliuokalani and the Hawaiian Kingdom, which was signed by  
15 President William J. Clinton; and  
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17           WHEREAS, in 1994, the National Council of Churches USA at  
18 its General Assembly of sixty-eight denominations passed a  
19 resolution titled "A Stolen Nation" that called for support of  
20 grass roots efforts of the Kanaka Maoli toward sovereignty and  
21 self-determination; and  
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23           WHEREAS, in the nineteenth century, through a combination  
24 of intrigue, subterfuge, betrayal, and incomparable alliances,  
25 the sons of the missionaries took control of the lands of Hawaii  
26 and seized and operated sugar and pineapple plantations, which  
27 became a thriving export business; and  
28

29           WHEREAS, in 1872, the United States sent its emissary,  
30 General John Schofield, to Hawaii to study the coastline,  
31 waterways, bays, and harbors as a civilian; and  
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1           WHEREAS, in 1881, Secretary of State James Gillespie Blaine  
2 told President Benjamin Harrison that Hawaii was of enough value  
3 to be annexed to the United States; and  
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5           WHEREAS, in May 1882, Lorrin Thurston of the secret  
6 Annexation Club met with President Benjamin Harrison requesting  
7 assistance with an overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom; and  
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9           WHEREAS, B.F. Tracy, Secretary of the Navy, told Thurston,  
10 as authorized by the President that "if conditions in Hawaii  
11 compel you people to act as you have indicated, and you come to  
12 Washington with an annexation proposition, you will find an  
13 exceedingly sympathetic administration here"; and  
14

15           WHEREAS, in November 1892, Secretary of State John W.  
16 Foster wrote to Thurston, stating that the Harrison  
17 administration was willing to put up \$250,000 to buy out Queen  
18 Liliuokalani's claims to Hawaii; and  
19

20           WHEREAS, in January 1893, after years of conspiracy and  
21 deception, with the aid and support of the United States, the  
22 sons of the American missionaries and other business people,  
23 planned and executed the illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian  
24 Kingdom; and  
25

26           WHEREAS, Queen Liliuokalani was the last reigning monarch  
27 of the Hawaiian Kingdom; and  
28

29           WHEREAS, Queen Liliuokalani, who would not shed one drop of  
30 her people's blood to save her nation, was deposed by the  
31 advocates of a Republic for Hawaii in 1893; and  
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33           WHEREAS, Grover Cleveland was both the twenty-second and  
34 the twenty-fourth president of the United States (1885-1889 and  
35 1893-1897); and  
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37           WHEREAS, Cleveland, a distinguished leader, rose to  
38 political prominence through the ranks of Mayor of Buffalo and  
39 Governor of New York before his election to this nation's  
40 highest office; and  
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42           WHEREAS, in March 1893, Grover Cleveland was sworn into  
43 office for his final term as President, three months after the  
44 illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom; and



1  
2 WHEREAS, after President Cleveland, an anti-imperialist,  
3 assumed the presidency, he immediately worked to stop the treaty  
4 of annexation of Hawaii; and  
5

6 WHEREAS, the newly sworn President Cleveland challenged the  
7 illegal overthrow of Queen Liliuokalani and sent James Blount to  
8 Hawaii to gather facts and to assist in a just determination of  
9 the involvement of the United States in the overthrow; and  
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11 WHEREAS, upon the counsel of James Blount and Gresham,  
12 President Grover Cleveland determined that the United States was  
13 unjustly and illegally involved in the overthrow; and  
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15 WHEREAS, President Grover Cleveland addressed the United  
16 States Congress and requested that Queen Liliuokalani and the  
17 Hawaiian Kingdom be restored; and  
18

19 WHEREAS, always concerned about the underprivileged,  
20 Cleveland believed his ultimate allegiance was to the nation,  
21 not to a political party, and he acted on his strongly held  
22 beliefs throughout his entire political life; and  
23

24 WHEREAS, this position by President Cleveland reflected his  
25 understanding that imperialism and expansionism were not the  
26 unanimously favored policy; and  
27

28 WHEREAS, President Cleveland was a very spiritual and moral  
29 leader who risked his personal reputation and suffered ridicule  
30 as a result of the unpopular positions he took; and  
31

32 WHEREAS, President Cleveland faced not only tremendously  
33 challenging political, social, and economic circumstances during  
34 his terms of office, but he was also battling cancer and  
35 suffering from ill-health during his last term of office; and  
36

37 WHEREAS, Cleveland spent his last years as a lecturer and  
38 beloved member of the administration at Princeton University;  
39 and  
40

41 WHEREAS, in 1898, John Schofield, retired commanding  
42 General of the United States Army, reported to the United States  
43 Congress that the port of Pu'uoloa - later to become Pearl Harbor



1 - was the best natural harbor in the world for the purposes of a  
2 modern Navy; and

3  
4 WHEREAS, General Schofield told Congress "...we made a  
5 pre-emption which nobody in the world thinks of disputing  
6 provided we perfect our title"; and

7  
8 WHEREAS, President Grover Cleveland was a true friend to  
9 Queen Liliuokalani and the people of the Hawaiian Kingdom; and

10  
11 WHEREAS, today, many people worldwide are recognizing that  
12 the spiritual and moral leadership of President Cleveland was  
13 ahead of his time; and

14  
15 WHEREAS, the people of Hawaii have been supported and  
16 encouraged in the last one hundred fourteen years by the words  
17 and prayers of President Grover Cleveland; and

18  
19 WHEREAS, President Cleveland's legacy and his vision for  
20 justice in Hawaii remain strong in Hawaii with the ancestors and  
21 people of the Queen; and

22  
23 WHEREAS, in a proclamation dated February 25, 1894,  
24 President Cleveland declared that "April 30 [of every year] be  
25 set aside as a day of solemn fasting, and prayer for the  
26 injustice to me [President Grover Cleveland] and my great good  
27 sister [Queen Liliuokalani] for her speedy return to the  
28 throne"; and

29  
30 WHEREAS, the Pacific Justice and Reconciliation Center, the  
31 Hawaii Conference of the United Churches of Christ, and the  
32 United Church of Christ have worked to lift up the life of  
33 President Grover Cleveland, and bring to light the truth of  
34 history; now, therefore,

35  
36 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
37 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
38 Session of 2007, the Senate concurring, that the Legislature and  
39 the Governor are requested to recognize and acknowledge the  
40 historical and educational contributions of President  
41 Cleveland's work for the people of Hawaii and America today and  
42 for the future; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature hereby  
2 proclaims April 30 of each year as a special day of remembrance,  
3 education, and prayer, for people of all faiths, for Grover  
4 Cleveland, a great American who stood for the true values and  
5 principles of the United States Constitution, and for "liberty  
6 and justice for all"; and  
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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
9 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the Mayors  
10 of the respective counties of Hawaii, to the Governor of the  
11 State of New Jersey, the President of the New Jersey Senate, the  
12 Speaker of the New Jersey General Assembly, the Mayor and the  
13 Princeton Township Committee, the Mayor of Caldwell, New Jersey  
14 and the Council of the Borough of Caldwell, and to the General  
15 Minister and President of the United Church of Christ  
16 Headquarters.  
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OFFERED BY:

*Jyla B. Berg*

MAR 09 2007

