
HOUSE RESOLUTION

SUPPORTING THE ENACTMENT OF THE NATIVE HAWAIIAN GOVERNMENT
REORGANIZATION ACT, ALSO KNOWN AS THE AKAKA BILL.

1 WHEREAS, the State of Hawai'i was once the Kingdom of
2 Hawai'i, with a monarchy that was afforded full diplomatic
3 recognition by the United States; and
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5 WHEREAS, on January 17, 1893, the government of the Kingdom
6 of Hawai'i was overthrown by a group of American citizens who
7 acted with the support of the United States Minister, John
8 Stephens, and a contingent of United States Marines from the
9 U.S.S. Boston; and
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11 WHEREAS, despite the overthrow of their kingdom, the Native
12 Hawaiian people never willingly relinquished their inherent
13 claims to sovereignty and, to this day, they retain their unique
14 identity through their distinct cultural, social, and political
15 traditions and institutions; and
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17 WHEREAS, following annexation, the conditions of Native
18 Hawaiians in the Territory of Hawai'i declined to such an extent
19 that the United States Congress passed a law to set aside more
20 than two hundred thousand acres of land to address these
21 problems; and
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23 WHEREAS, when Hawai'i achieved statehood, these lands were
24 included in a public trust, and the federal government
25 transferred administrative responsibility for the public trust
26 to the government of the State of Hawai'i; and
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28 WHEREAS, Native Hawaiians are a distinct indigenous
29 population with their own culture, identity, and assets set
30 aside for their benefit; and
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32 WHEREAS, unlike other indigenous populations however,
33 Native Hawaiians do not have control over their own land,
34 resources, or other assets; and
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1 WHEREAS, on January 17, 2007, Hawai'i's congressional
2 delegation reintroduced legislation that would clarify the legal
3 and political relationship between Native Hawaiians and the
4 United States; and

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6 WHEREAS, United States Senators Daniel K. Akaka and Daniel
7 K. Inouye introduced the Native Hawaiian Government
8 Reorganization Act of 2007, S. 310 in the Senate and United
9 States Representatives Neil Abercrombie and Mazie Hirono
10 introduced the companion measure, H.R. 505 in the House of
11 Representatives; and

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13 WHEREAS, the measure aims to extend the federal policy of
14 self-determination and self-governance to Native Hawaiians who
15 are Hawai'i's aboriginal, indigenous, native people recognized
16 by the United States Congress as the original inhabitants of the
17 lands that later became part of the United States; and

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19 WHEREAS, Native Hawaiians also had exercised sovereignty in
20 areas that later became part of the United States, thereby
21 establishing parity in federal policies toward the political
22 status of Native Hawaiians, Alaska Natives, and American
23 Indians; and

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25 WHEREAS, while the United States Congress has traditionally
26 treated Native Hawaiians in a manner parallel to American
27 Indians and Alaska Natives, the federal policy of self-
28 governance and self-determination has not been formally extended
29 to Native Hawaiians; and

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31 WHEREAS, the Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act
32 of 2007 would remedy this discrepancy and extend to Native
33 Hawaiians the policy of self-governance and self-determination
34 currently practiced by American Indians and Alaska Natives; and

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36 WHEREAS, the Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act
37 of 2007 establishes a process for the reorganization of a Native
38 Hawaiian governing entity for the purposes of federal
39 recognition; and

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41 WHEREAS, the Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act
42 of 2007 does not itself extend federal recognition; rather, it
43 simply authorizes the process for federal recognition; and
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1 WHEREAS, the federal government already treats Native
2 Hawaiians as an aboriginal, indigenous, native population in
3 many respects and the United States Congress has enacted more
4 than one hundred fifty federal measures relative to Native
5 Hawaiians; and

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7 WHEREAS, these federal laws mandate the provision of health
8 care, education, job training, the preservation of native
9 languages, the protection of Native Hawaiian graves, and the
10 repatriation of Native Hawaiian human remains; and

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12 WHEREAS, consequently, recognition would not necessitate
13 new programs nor would it impact existing programs for American
14 Indians and Alaska Natives; recognition would simply give Native
15 Hawaiians a voice in matters affecting their destiny; and

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17 WHEREAS, programs and services benefiting Native Hawaiians
18 are now in jeopardy because of legal challenges, as the number
19 of lawsuits filed has increased ten-fold and plaintiffs have
20 been persistent in advancing their cases; and

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22 WHEREAS, funding for programs, services, and entitlements
23 that benefit and improve the lives of Native Hawaiians are now
24 in danger of reduction or elimination; and

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26 WHEREAS, the Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act
27 of 2007, S. 310 in the U.S. Senate and H.R. 505 in the U.S.
28 House of Representatives, has not yet received a full discussion
29 and vote in Congress; and

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31 WHEREAS, the Hawai'i State Legislature has supported the
32 Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act in the past and in
33 2005 adopted House Concurrent Resolution No. 56, S.D. 1,
34 supporting the passage of the Native Hawaiian Government
35 Reorganization Act; and

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37 WHEREAS, the Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of
38 Hawai'i believes that the United States Congress and the
39 President of the United States should favorably consider the
40 Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act of 2007 to
41 facilitate formal federal recognition of Native Hawaiians as
42 indigenous people and ensure self-governance and redress; now,
43 therefore,



H.R. NO. 74

1 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
2 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular
3 Session of 2007, that the United States Congress and the
4 President of the United States are respectfully urged to support
5 the enactment of the Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization
6 Act of 2007; and

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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
9 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States,
10 the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, the Speaker of
11 the United States House of Representatives, members of Hawai'i's
12 congressional delegation, the Governor, and the Chairperson of
13 the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

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OFFERED BY: Calvin K. King

BY REQUEST

MAR 12 2007