

MAR 14 2007

SENATE CONCURRENT 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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1 WHEREAS, unlike other indigenous populations however,
2 Native Hawaiians do not have control over their own land,
3 resources, or other assets; and
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5 WHEREAS, on January 17, 2007, Hawai'i's congressional
6 delegation reintroduced legislation that would clarify the legal
7 and political relationship between Native Hawaiians and the
8 United States; and
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10 WHEREAS, United States Senators Daniel K. Akaka and Daniel
11 K. Inouye introduced the Native Hawaiian Government
12 Reorganization Act of 2007, S. 310 in the Senate and United
13 States Representatives Neil Abercrombie and Mazie Hirono
14 introduced the companion measure, H.R. 505 in the House of
15 Representatives; and
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17 WHEREAS, the measure aims to extend the federal policy of
18 self-determination and self-governance to Native Hawaiians who
19 are Hawai'i's aboriginal, indigenous, native people recognized
20 by the United States Congress as the original inhabitants of the
21 lands that later became part of the United States; and
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23 WHEREAS, Native Hawaiians also had exercised sovereignty in
24 areas that later became part of the United States, thereby
25 establishing parity in federal policies toward the political
26 status of Native Hawaiians, Alaska Natives, and American
27 Indians; and
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29 WHEREAS, while the United States Congress has traditionally
30 treated Native Hawaiians in a manner parallel to American
31 Indians and Alaska Natives, the federal policy of self-
32 governance and self-determination has not been formally extended
33 to Native Hawaiians; and
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35 WHEREAS, the Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act
36 of 2007 would remedy this discrepancy and extend to Native
37 Hawaiians the policy of self-governance and self-determination
38 currently practiced by American Indians and Alaska Natives; and
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40 WHEREAS, the Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act
41 of 2007 establishes a process for the reorganization of a Native
42 Hawaiian governing entity for the purposes of federal
43 recognition; and



1 WHEREAS, the Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act
2 of 2007 does not itself extend federal recognition; rather, it
3 simply authorizes the process for federal recognition; and
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5 WHEREAS, the federal government already treats Native
6 Hawaiians as an aboriginal, indigenous, native population in
7 many respects and the United States Congress has enacted more
8 than one hundred fifty federal measures relative to Native
9 Hawaiians; and
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11 WHEREAS, these federal laws mandate the provision of health
12 care, education, job training, the preservation of native
13 languages, the protection of Native Hawaiian graves, and the
14 repatriation of Native Hawaiian human remains; and
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16 WHEREAS, consequently, recognition would not necessitate
17 new programs nor would it impact existing programs for American
18 Indians and Alaska Natives; recognition would simply give Native
19 Hawaiians a voice in matters affecting their destiny; and
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21 WHEREAS, programs and services benefiting Native Hawaiians
22 are now in jeopardy because of legal challenges, as the number
23 of lawsuits filed has increased ten-fold and plaintiffs have
24 been persistent in advancing their cases; and
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26 WHEREAS, funding for programs, services, and entitlements
27 that benefit and improve the lives of Native Hawaiians are now
28 in danger of reduction or elimination; and
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30 WHEREAS, the Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act
31 of 2007, S. 310 in the U.S. Senate and H.R. 505 in the U.S.
32 House of Representatives, has not yet received a full discussion
33 and vote in Congress; and
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35 WHEREAS, the Hawai'i State Legislature has supported the
36 Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act in the past and in
37 2005 adopted House Concurrent Resolution No. 56, S.D. 1,
38 supporting the passage of the Native Hawaiian Government
39 Reorganization Act; and
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41 WHEREAS, the Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of
42 Hawai'i believes that the United States Congress and the
43 President of the United States should favorably consider the
44 Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act of 2007 to



S.C.R. NO. 90

1 facilitate formal federal recognition of Native Hawaiians as
 2 indigenous people and ensure self-governance and redress; now,
 3 therefore,
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5 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
 6 Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2007,
 7 the House of Representatives concurring, that the United States
 8 Congress and the President of the United States are respectfully
 9 urged to support the enactment of the Native Hawaiian Government
 10 Reorganization Act of 2007; and
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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 13 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the
 14 United States, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate,
 15 the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives,
 16 members of Hawai'i's congressional delegation, the Governor, and
 17 the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Office of
 18 Hawaiian Affairs.
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OFFERED BY:



 By Request

