

MAR 12 2007

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE HAWAII TOURISM AUTHORITY TO ENCOURAGE THE USE OF
THE NAME "MOKOLI'I ISLET" AND DISCOURAGE THE USE OF ITS
POPULAR NAME "CHINAMAN'S HAT".

1 WHEREAS, one of the most popular attractions and landmarks
2 for tourists and residents alike is Mokoli'i Islet, which lies
3 off Kualoa Regional Park in Kaneohe; and
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5 WHEREAS, despite its popularity, few people would recognize
6 the name Mokoli'i because the offshore islet is known - and
7 promoted in countless published, website, and other descriptions
8 - as Chinaman's Hat; and
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10 WHEREAS, the islet has long been nicknamed Chinaman's Hat
11 simply because of its shape, which resembles an old-style
12 Chinese laborer's hat; and
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14 WHEREAS, the name Mokoli'i, on the other hand, comes from
15 part of the Pele legend: After Pele traveled across the Islands
16 and finally made her home on the Island of Hawaii, she still
17 wandered in her dreams as a spirit. During one of these
18 travels, she found a handsome prince, Lohi'au, on Kaua'i and
19 wanted to meet him. She asked each of her sisters to go to
20 Kaua'i and bring him back, but they refused, foreseeing the
21 dangers of the trip. Finally the youngest of the girls, Hi'iaka,
22 agreed. On O'ahu, as Hi'iaka followed the trail on the shore of
23 Kane'ohe Bay, she was confronted by a mo'o, a large dragon-like
24 creature. Using her supernatural power, Hi'iaka killed the
25 mo'o, cut off his tail, and threw it into the ocean, where it
26 became an island called Mokoli'i, or "little dragon"; and
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28 WHEREAS, in addition to no historical or cultural reason
29 for the name Chinaman's Hat, the name is also offensive to many
30 people of Chinese ancestry, who perceive it as insulting and
31 preserving stereotypes; now, therefore,
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33 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
34 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007,
35 that the Hawaii Tourism Authority is requested to encourage the



1 use of the proper name of this popular destination - Mokoli'i
2 Islet and discourage the use and publication of the name
3 "Chinaman's Hat"; and
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
6 Resolution be transmitted to the Executive Director of the
7 Hawaii Tourism Authority.
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