

MAR 18 2009

SENATE RESOLUTION

SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO AUTHENTICATE HAWAIIAN HISTORY, INCLUDING
AN APPROPRIATE AND HISTORICALLY ACCURATE RENDERING OF THE
DOCUMENT HELD IN THE RIGHT HAND OF PRESIDENT WILLIAM
MCKINLEY'S STATUE AT MCKINLEY HIGH SCHOOL.

1 WHEREAS, on January 17, 1893, over the protest of Queen
2 Lili'uokalani, head of state of the Hawaiian Kingdom, the
3 diplomatic and military forces of the United States assisted
4 insurrectionists in seizing control of the Hawaiian Kingdom
5 government and establishing a puppet government; and
6

7 WHEREAS, on February 14, 1893 in Washington, D.C., the
8 puppet government signed a treaty of cession of the Hawaiian
9 Kingdom to the United States and United States President
10 Harrison submitted the treaty to the Senate for ratification;
11 and
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13 WHEREAS, on March 11, 1893, newly elected United States
14 President Cleveland received a protest of Queen Lili'uokalani
15 from a Hawaiian Kingdom envoy and withdrew the treaty from the
16 Senate; and
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18 WHEREAS, President Cleveland thereafter appointed former
19 Congressman James Blount as a Special Commissioner to
20 investigate the seizure of the Hawaiian Kingdom and to report
21 his findings to the president; and
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23 WHEREAS, the Presidential investigation concluded that the
24 overthrow of the Hawaiian government was illegal under
25 international law and entered into an agreement with Queen
26 Lili'uokalani that the President would restore the Hawaiian
27 Kingdom government and the Queen would grant amnesty to the
28 insurgents; and
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30 WHEREAS, United States Congress prevented President
31 Cleveland from restoring the Government; and
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1 WHEREAS, Queen Lili'uokalani and Hawaiian nationals, to
2 their detriment, relied on Cleveland's commitment to restore the
3 Hawaiian Kingdom government; and
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5 WHEREAS, the United States House of Representatives
6 subsequently passed a resolution on February 7, 1894 warning
7 other nations "that foreign intervention in the political
8 affairs of the islands will not be regarded with indifference by
9 the Government of the United States"; and
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11 WHEREAS, the United States Senate endorsed this sentiment
12 by passing a resolution on May 31, 1894 "that any intervention
13 in the political affairs of these islands by any other
14 Government will be regarded as an act unfriendly to the United
15 States"; and
16

17 WHEREAS, on June 16, 1897, the newly elected President of
18 the United States, William McKinley signed a second treaty of
19 cession in Washington, D.C., with representatives of the self-
20 proclaimed Republic of Hawai'i, but the proposed treaty remained
21 subject to ratification by the United States Senate; and
22

23 WHEREAS, on June 18, 1897, Queen Lili'uokalani filed a
24 diplomatic protest with the United States State Department in
25 Washington, D.C., stating:
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27 "I, Lili'uokalani of Hawai'i, by the will of God named
28 heir apparent on the tenth day of April, A.D. 1877,
29 and by the grace of God Queen of the Hawaiian Islands
30 on the seventeenth day of January, A.D. 1893, do
31 hereby protest against the ratification of a certain
32 treaty, which, so I am informed, has been signed at
33 Washington by Messrs. Hatch, Thurston, and Kinney,
34 purporting to cede those Islands to the territory and
35 dominion of the United States. I declare such a treaty
36 to be an act of wrong toward the native and part-
37 native people of Hawai'i, an invasion of the rights of
38 the ruling chiefs, in violation of international
39 rights both toward my people and toward friendly
40 nations with whom they have made treaties, the
41 perpetuation of the fraud whereby the constitutional
42 government was overthrown, and, finally, an act of
43 gross injustice to me"; and



1
2 WHEREAS, on July 24, 1897, Hawaiian political organizations
3 also filed protests with the McKinley Administration against the
4 second treaty; and
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6 WHEREAS, in spite of these protests, President McKinley
7 indicated his intent to submit the Treaty of Cession to the
8 United States Senate, which would convene in December of 1897;
9 and
10

11 WHEREAS, in September of 1897, the Men's and Women's
12 Hawaiian Patriotic League (Hui Aloha 'Aina) initiated signature
13 petitions protesting the treaty and deposited the petitions with
14 the United States Senate in December 1897; and
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16 WHEREAS, these protests, along with the formal protests of
17 Queen Lili'uokalani, succeeded in preventing the Senate from
18 ratifying this second attempt to annex the Hawaiian Islands by a
19 treaty of cession; and
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21 WHEREAS, on April 21, 1898, the United States declared war
22 against the Kingdom of Spain, turning Hawai'i into a naval and
23 troop base to commence the war against the Spanish in the
24 Philippines and Guam in the western Pacific Ocean, purportedly
25 to protect the west coast of the United States; and
26

27 WHEREAS, on July 7, 1898, President McKinley signed a joint
28 resolution of annexation passed by the United States House of
29 Representatives and the Senate, purporting to annex the Hawaiian
30 Islands justified as a war necessity; and
31

32 WHEREAS, a joint resolution is not a treaty, but a domestic
33 measure with authority that is limited and applicable only
34 within the territory of the United States; and
35

36 WHEREAS, standing at the front entrance to McKinley High
37 School is a bronze statue of President William McKinley
38 clutching a document inscribed "Treaty of Annexation", a
39 document that historically does not exist; and
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41 WHEREAS, the statue has contributed to misinformation
42 shared with the people of Hawai'i and Native Hawaiians about the
43 history of these Islands and of the relationship of the United



1 States to the Hawaiian Kingdom, leading to the teaching of an
2 incorrect history; and

3
4 WHEREAS, that these inaccuracies, when incorporated into
5 public displays such as statues, are harmful to all, including
6 young people at McKinley High School, because they perpetuate
7 and promote misinformation, leaving Hawai'i's youth unprepared to
8 engage in meaningful dialogue on Hawai'i's history; now,
9 therefore,

10
11 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth
12 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2009,
13 that efforts to promote correct Hawaiian history in the State,
14 including historically accurate renderings, must be supported;
15 and

16
17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the document carried in the
18 statue's hand be removed through recasting; and

19
20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
21 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
22 Education, the Executive Director of the State Foundation on
23 Culture and the Arts, the Comptroller, and the Principal of
24 McKinley High School.

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