

MAR 06 2020

## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE STATE FOUNDATION ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS TO  
DEVELOP A PLAN TO RECOGNIZE, HONOR, AND MEMORIALIZE THE  
LEGACY OF MARY KAWENA PŪKU'I IN PERPETUATING THE HAWAIIAN  
CULTURE.

1 WHEREAS, Mary Kawena Pūku'i, born in 1895 as Mary Abigail  
2 Ka-wena-'ula-o-ka-lani-a-Hi'iaka-i-ka-poli-o-Pele-ka-wahine-'ai-  
3 honua (The rosy glow in the sky made by Hi'iaka who was raised in  
4 the bosom of Pele, the earth consuming woman) Na-lei-lehua-a-  
5 Pele (Pele's lehua leis) Wiggin, in rural Ka'u on the island of  
6 Hawaii grew up bilingual and bicultural, with a Hawaiian mother,  
7 who spoke only Hawaiian, and a Salem, Massachusetts, native  
8 father who spoke to her in English, although he spoke fluent  
9 Hawaiian; and

10  
11 WHEREAS, Mary Kawena Pūku'i's lifelong desire to understand  
12 and preserve her Hawaiian culture can be attributed to her  
13 grandmother, Po'ai, who had been a dancer in the Queen Emma  
14 Court, and with whom young Mary Kawena Pūku'i spent the first six  
15 years of her life, as was customary; and

16  
17 WHEREAS, by her early teens Mary Kawena Pūku'i was  
18 collecting stories, legends, and traditions given to her by  
19 family and friends; and

20  
21 WHEREAS, through her recognized language and writing  
22 skills, Mary Kawena Pūku'i found herself at the Bishop Museum,  
23 where she would spend some fifty years working closely with its  
24 staff, including anthropologists, ethnologists, and biologists,  
25 and co-wrote the Hawaiian-English Dictionary to assist them; and

26  
27 WHEREAS, Mary Kawena Pūku'i's published work spanned over  
28 fifty years and significantly contributed to the fields of



1 Hawaiian language and Hawaiian studies, which might have  
2 remained lost or been translated much later; and  
3

4 WHEREAS, at the beginning of the twentieth century,  
5 Hawaiian culture was largely repressed in favor of Western  
6 education; however, its resurgence in the "Hawaiian Renaissance"  
7 movement of the 1960s to 1970s resulted in Hawaiian culture  
8 being fully integrated into today's Hawaii; and  
9

10 WHEREAS, had it not been for Mary Kawena Pūku'i's dedication  
11 and diligence in preserving the knowledge and culture of the  
12 Hawaiian people, the resurgence of the Hawaiian culture would  
13 have failed or faltered to the loss and misfortune of the whole  
14 State of Hawaii; and  
15

16 WHEREAS, the legacy of Mary Kawena Pukui in perpetuating  
17 the Hawaiian culture must be recognized, honored, and  
18 memorialized; now, therefore,  
19

20 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature  
21 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2020, the House of  
22 Representatives concurring, that the State Foundation on Culture  
23 and the Arts is requested to develop a plan to recognize, honor,  
24 and memorialize the legacy of Mary Kawena Pūku'i in perpetuating  
25 the Hawaiian culture by:  
26

27 (1) Using funds in the Works of Art Special Fund for the  
28 development and implementation of a plan to recognize,  
29 honor, and memorialize Mary Kawena Pūku'i;  
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31 (2) Determining a memorial befitting Mary Kawena Pūku'i's  
32 legacy, such as a monument or statue in her likeness  
33 in a setting that reflects her legacy of perpetuating  
34 the Hawaiian culture and history that will survive for  
35 generations to come;  
36

37 (3) Determining an appropriate site for the memorial where  
38 residents and visitors can admire, understand, and  
39 appreciate Mary Kawena Pūku'i's contribution in  
40 perpetuating Hawaiian culture and history; and  
41



(4) Identifying any legal, financial, or cultural impediments to recognize, honor, and memorialize Mary Kawena Pūku'i and proposals to address those impediments, including proposed legislation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Executive Director of the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts may create a working group to support and assist in the development and implementation of the plan as requested by this measure; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Executive Director of the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts is requested to submit a report on its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, regarding the development and implementation of a plan as requested by this measure to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2021; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Chairperson of the Hawaiian Homes Commission, Executive Director of the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts, and President of The Mary Kawena Pūku'i Cultural Preservation Society.

OFFERED BY:

*[Handwritten signatures and initials]*

*Kaia Egoh*  
*Ron & Ash*  
*Mc*  
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