

MAR 11 2022

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO RENAME THE  
RUSSIAN FORT ELISABETH STATE HISTORICAL PARK IN WAIMEA,  
KAUA'I, AS "PA'ULA'ULA".

1           WHEREAS, King Kaumuali'i was born in 1780 at Pōhaku  
2 Ho'ohānau at Holoholokū, Wailua, Kaua'i, to Kamakahelei and  
3 Kā'eokūlani; and

4  
5           WHEREAS, Pa'ula'ula is the traditional place name for the  
6 eastern bank at the mouth of the Waimea River, and was the  
7 location of the royal compound of Kaumuali'i, the ali'i 'ai moku  
8 of Kaua'i; and

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10          WHEREAS, on January 27, 1779, Georg Anton Schäffer was born  
11 in Münnerstadt, Bavaria; and

12  
13          WHEREAS, Schäffer studied medicine in Gottingen, Germany;  
14 and

15  
16          WHEREAS, by 1808, Schäffer, a German National, travelled to  
17 Moscow to practice medicine; and

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19          WHEREAS, in 1799, the Russian-American Company was  
20 established to engage in the fur-trade, in which Russian  
21 explorers were dominant in Alaska; and

22  
23          WHEREAS, in 1813, in St. Petersburg, Georg Anton Schäffer  
24 joined the Russian-American Company as a medical physician and  
25 sailed to Sitka, Alaska; and

26  
27          WHEREAS, on January 31, 1815, the Russian-American  
28 Company's trade ship Bering was shipwrecked on the beach at



1 Waimea Bay, in front of the royal compound of Kaumuali'i, the  
2 ali'i 'ai moku of Kaua'i; and  
3

4 WHEREAS, Kaumuali'i, the ali'i 'ai moku of Kaua'i,  
5 appropriated the Bering and its cargo; and  
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7 WHEREAS, in December 1815, the Russian-American Company  
8 sent Georg Anton Schäffer on a mission to Kaua'i to recover the  
9 Bering's lost cargo, and instructed him to receive payment for  
10 the cargo, salvage what he could from the vessel, and return  
11 immediately on the ship Otkrytie; and  
12

13 WHEREAS, on July 1, 1816, Schäffer and Kaumuali'i entered  
14 into a secret treaty, which provided for the construction of  
15 forts on the island of Kaua'i, including one in Pa'ula'ula; and  
16

17 WHEREAS, on September 12, 1816, in Pa'ula'ula, Schäffer  
18 began construction of a stronghold, built of lava blocks, to be  
19 named "Fort Elisabeth", after the consort of Emperor Alexander  
20 I; and  
21

22 WHEREAS, the fort at Pa'ula'ula was constructed largely from  
23 a Hawaiian labor force, and with rocks from Waimea River's east  
24 bank, which many Native Hawaiians consider a sacred area; and  
25

26 WHEREAS, in January 1817, Alexander Andreyevich Baranov,  
27 Chief Manager of the Russian-American Company, promptly  
28 repudiated Schäffer and Kaumuali'i's transaction; and  
29

30 WHEREAS, in May 8, 1817, less than one year after  
31 Schäffer's arrival at Kaua'i, Kaumuali'i, the ali'i 'ai moku of  
32 Kaua'i, and thousands of his people ran the Bavarian physician  
33 and his men off of Kaua'i; and  
34

35 WHEREAS, the Russian Emperor informed Charles de  
36 Nesselrode, a Russian Empire diplomat, that acquisition of the  
37 Hawai'i Islands would be useless, that acquisition could lead to  
38 "unpleasantness" in the country's relations with other powers,  
39 and that the Russian-American Company should try to keep  
40 Kaumuali'i's esteem and good will; and  
41



1 WHEREAS, on February 24, 1818, Charles de Nesselrode  
2 informed the Minister of Interior, Kozodavlev, of the Emperor's  
3 decision, which Kozodavlev relayed to the Council of the  
4 Russian-American Company in a letter dated March 13, 1818; and  
5

6 WHEREAS, the Council of the Russian-American Company  
7 decided to:

- 8
- 9 (1) Return to Kaumuali'i the possessions he gave to  
10 Schäffer, with the explanation that the Emperor  
11 already had enough possessions;  
12
  - 13 (2) Ask the Ministry of the Interior to strike a gold  
14 medal inscribed "To Kaumuali'i, King of the Sandwich  
15 Island of Kaua'i, as a mark of Russian friendship", to  
16 be given to him on a ribbon of St. Anna; and  
17
  - 18 (3) To inform Baranov to recall Schäffer as soon as  
19 possible, and to put in the hands of a wiser person  
20 the matter of Russian-American Company trade with the  
21 Sandwich Islands; and  
22

23 WHEREAS, the Russian government informed Schäffer that he  
24 had acted beyond his authority, brought him back to Russia,  
25 removed him from employment, and sent him back to Germany; and  
26

27 WHEREAS, for more than forty years after the departure of  
28 Schäffer, Kaumuali'i, ali'i 'ai moku of Kaua'i, and later his  
29 descendants, occupied the Waimea fort; and  
30

31 WHEREAS, the fort was used as an administrative center,  
32 prison, and a burial ground of the island of Kaua'i; and  
33

34 WHEREAS, the Hawaiian government completed the half-  
35 finished structure and used the fort until 1864, when it was  
36 abandoned and its buildings dismantled to its foundations, with  
37 only its outer walls remaining; and  
38

39 WHEREAS, since the creation of the fort at Pa'ula'ula, no  
40 Russians have ever garrisoned the fort; and  
41



# S.C.R. NO. 119

1           WHEREAS, the iwi of King Kaumuali'i's grandson is buried  
2 within this sacred site, along with six other Hawaiians who died  
3 in battle; and

4  
5           WHEREAS, in 1885, over twenty years after the fort's  
6 deconstruction, George Jackson, a Hawaiian government surveyor,  
7 rendered a map entitled "Plan of Old Russian Fort Waimea,  
8 Kaua'i"; and

9  
10          WHEREAS, the numerous names that have been given to this  
11 enclosure, including "Pa'ula'ula", "Fort Elisabeth", and "stone  
12 fort", reflect its cultural significance and multicultural  
13 history; and

14  
15          WHEREAS, in 1972, the State of Hawai'i acquired the  
16 seventeen-acre property encompassing the fort structure for the  
17 purpose of preserving the site; and

18  
19          WHEREAS, the site, administered as the Russian Fort  
20 Elisabeth State Historical Park, was designated as a National  
21 Historic Landmark in 1962 and listed on the Hawai'i Register of  
22 Historic Places in 1981; and

23  
24          WHEREAS, in 2017, the two hundredth anniversary of the fort  
25 was commemorated with a forum on Kaua'i; and

26  
27          WHEREAS, in March 2018, a working group, composed of  
28 representatives from various cultural and historical  
29 organizations on Kaua'i, government agencies, and the Russian-  
30 American community, formed to discuss the future of the site;  
31 and

32  
33          WHEREAS, Kaua'i community representatives believe the name  
34 "Pa'ula'ula" should be honored by its inclusion in the name of  
35 the site, so that the mo'olelo of this wahi pana is shared and  
36 the 'āina that cares for the iwi kūpuna is honored; and

37  
38          WHEREAS, on Saturday March 20, 2021, an eight-foot-tall  
39 bronze statue of King Kaumuali'i, the ali'i 'ai moku of Kaua'i,  
40 was unveiled at Pa'ula'ula, Waimea, Kaua'i, and symbolized his  
41 return to his ancestral home; and



