

MAR 10 2022

SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO
CHANGE THE NAME OF PRESIDENT WILLIAM MCKINLEY HIGH SCHOOL
BACK TO HONOLULU HIGH SCHOOL AND REMOVE THE STATUE OF
PRESIDENT MCKINLEY FROM THE SCHOOL PREMISES.

1 WHEREAS, what is currently named President William McKinley
2 High School was previously named Honolulu High School, which was
3 established in the Hawaiian Kingdom in 1865 and is one of the
4 oldest secondary schools in the Hawaiian islands; and

5
6 WHEREAS, the name of Honolulu High School was changed to
7 President William McKinley High School in 1907 as a key
8 component of the political indoctrination strategy to
9 deliberately convince the people living in the Hawaiian islands
10 that they are American; and

11
12 WHEREAS, when the statue of William McKinley was erected in
13 1911, several years after the renaming of the school, it was not
14 to honor the President of the United States, but rather as a
15 symbol to perpetuate the subjugation of Native Hawaiians and
16 reinforce the lie that the Hawaiian islands belong to the United
17 States of America; and

18
19 WHEREAS, the name of the school and the statue of William
20 McKinley holding the fabricated "Annexation Treaty" perpetuates
21 the allegation that people in the Hawaiian islands wanted to
22 become Americans, even though eighty percent of the adult
23 population signed the Kū'e Petitions against annexation in 1897;
24 and

25
26 WHEREAS, on July 6, 1898, President McKinley committed
27 fraud to continue the occupation of the Hawaiian islands by the
28 United States by signing a Joint Resolution of Congress,
29 entitled the "Newlands Resolution" that purported the annexation
30 of Hawai'i; and

31



1 WHEREAS, the Newlands Resolution illegitimately claimed
2 United States annexation of the Hawaiian islands, even though
3 such a document does not have any power or legitimacy to annex
4 an internationally recognized nation with official treaties in
5 eighteen foreign states dating as far back as 1846; and
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7 WHEREAS, the result of the illegal annexation turned Hawai'i
8 into an overseas colony completely dependent on the United
9 States of America and displaced Native Hawaiians, robbing them
10 of their birth right, cultural identity, nationality, language,
11 and homes, while negatively impacting their physical, mental,
12 emotional, and spiritual well-being; and
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14 WHEREAS, following the enactment of the Newlands
15 Resolution, Hawaii's public education system was pressed into
16 service to indoctrinate, denationalize, "Americanize", and
17 convert generations of Hawaii's children into patriotic United
18 States citizens; and
19

20 WHEREAS, U.S. Public Law 103-150, informally known as the
21 "Apology Resolution", a Joint Resolution of the United States
22 Congress signed by President Bill Clinton in 1993, acknowledges
23 that "the Native Hawaiian people never directly relinquished to
24 the United States their claims to their inherent sovereignty
25 over their national lands, either through a plebiscite or
26 referendum"; and
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28 WHEREAS, William McKinley also turned a blind eye to racial
29 atrocities being committed throughout the United States during
30 his presidency, including the genocide of Native Americans in
31 California and lynching of African-Americans in the southern
32 states; and
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34 WHEREAS, William McKinley also signed the Curtis Act of
35 1898, which was intended to dismember the sovereign status of
36 the Five Civilized Tribes, abolish the tribes' governments,
37 invalidate their laws, dissolve their court systems, and subject
38 native people to United States federal law; and
39

40 WHEREAS, in recent years, the Department of Education has
41 recognized the need to replace school names and symbols that



1 have racially complicated origins with place-based alternatives;
2 and

3
4 WHEREAS, examples of the Department of Education's
5 commitment to healing the State's school system from historical
6 trauma include the renaming of Central Middle School to Princess
7 Ruth Ke'elikolani Middle School in 2021, noting that the
8 princess' home, Keoua Hale, once stood on the grounds of the
9 current campus; and

10
11 WHEREAS, the Board of Education purchased the property for
12 what became Honolulu High School in 1895, which later became
13 Ke'elikolani School before the name was changed to Central Junior
14 High School in 1928, then Central Intermediate School in 1932,
15 and Central Middle School in 1997; and

16
17 WHEREAS, according to the principal of Princess Ruth
18 Ke'elikolani Middle School, Joseph Passantino, Central Middle
19 School was established as the school's name "in the 1930s
20 because people couldn't pronounce the Hawaiian name"; and

21
22 WHEREAS, regarding the restoration of the school's Hawaiian
23 name, Mr. Passantino also said that "the significance is huge,
24 especially for the staff who's dedicated over two years to give
25 her that duty and honor"; and

26
27 WHEREAS, additional actions have been taken at other public
28 schools to address racially insensitive signifiers, such as the
29 replacement of Kahuku High School's "Red Raiders" mascot, logo,
30 and offensive chants after the Department of Education's Civil
31 Rights Compliance Branch deemed them to be disrespectful and
32 potentially discriminatory toward Native Americans; and

33
34 WHEREAS, in an effort to overcome structural racism,
35 communities across the United States have removed statues and
36 symbols that deepen historical trauma, racial suppression, and
37 white supremacy, including a statue of William McKinley in
38 Arcata, California in 2019; and

39
40 WHEREAS, in 2021, the Legislature adopted House Concurrent
41 Resolution No. 112, declaring racism to be a public health
42 crisis; and



1
2 WHEREAS, Hawaii's public school system has a responsibility
3 to promote historical understanding, racial equity, and civil
4 rights; now, therefore,

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6 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
7 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022,
8 that the Board of Education and Department of Education are
9 urged to replace the name of President William McKinley High
10 School with the previous name of Honolulu High School and remove
11 the statue of President William McKinley from the school
12 premises; and

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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that to the greatest extent
15 possible, the Board of Education and Department of Education are
16 requested to ensure that public school curricula are inclusive
17 of content on the historical injustice and discrimination
18 endured by Hawaii's indigenous people; and

19
20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
21 Resolution be transmitted to the members of the Hawaii's
22 Congressional delegation, Governor, Chairperson of the Board of
23 Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Chairperson of the
24 Board of Education, Superintendent of Education,
25 Kaimuki-McKinley-Roosevelt Complex Area Superintendent, and
26 President of the McKinley High School Foundation.

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28
29 OFFERED BY: _____

Jana Acasis

