

Honolulu Youth Commission
Testimony in support of
HCR 26 & HR24

Aloha e members of the House Committee on Education,

My name is Bronson Azama, I am Chair of the Honolulu Youth Commission. I write to you today to express our support for HCR 26 & HR24. The Commission has taken a stance in February through the passing of our resolution HYC 22-003, to request the renaming of President William McKinley High School to one of its former names Honolulu High School and requesting the removal of the McKinley Statue from the campus grounds.

We strongly believe this is an issue that needs to be addressed. As former students expressed, the name and the statue and the intergenerational trauma these symbols carry inhibits the ability for some students to feel comfortable in their school environment and in turn affects their ability to perform in the classroom or on the field. If simply changing the name and removing the statue contributes to individual excellence then it should be pursued, because we thrive on individual excellence that contributes to collective resurgence.

We respect the concerns of those who previously expressed their emotions and concerns for the school's traditions. Respectfully their history and traditions will always be a part of history, we do not seek to take much from them, but we are calling for the reminder that everyone deserves a chance to heal. What about those students, those alumni who support the name change, what about their feelings, emotional baggage, and even shame?

It is our hope that we can take this opportunity to remove pain and replace it with healing. The name Honolulu references the calm bay that is where the city is now, a place of beauty, abundance, and a space that shared a great deal of aloha. We hope that through the development of a place-based identity students will learn what was, and want to change what is to return our community to the center of aloha.

Mahalo,
Chair, Bronson Azama

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Unity, Equality, Aloha for all



To: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

For hearing Thursday, March 24, 2022

Re: HCR24, HR26 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.

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION

There is only one reason why some activists want to abolish "McKinley" from the name of the school and remove his statue from the campus. The reason is, they want to rip the 50th star off the American flag and return Hawaii to its former status as an independent nation. And through this resolution they want to enlist you legislators as collaborators in their treasonous propaganda campaign.

The strongest evidence that this is their motive is easy to see in the "whereas" clauses of this resolution and in documents provided by the NEA and the HSTA which are filled with historical falsehoods trashing the alleged U.S. "invasion" and "occupation" of Hawaii; alleged

suppression of Hawaiian language and culture; and civics curriculum in the early Territorial period. Portraying Native Hawaiians as victims of colonial oppression and/or belligerent military occupation is designed to bolster demands to "give Hawaii back to the Hawaiians", thereby producing a race-supremacist government and turning the other 80% of Hawaii's people into second-class citizens.

The leaders of America and also most of the leaders of the Republic of Hawaii were White men. So it's no surprise that today's secessionist efforts to reverse Annexation and establish ethnic Hawaiian racial supremacy are anti-White. But in recent years that racism has also become anti-Asian. The activists have produced a book and other materials saying that Hawaii citizens of Japanese and other Asian ancestries, even after several generations born and raised in Hawaii, are mere "settlers" or "guests" in a Hawaiian homeland where they have special rights as the "hosts." They say that unless Hawaii people of Asian ancestry line up to support Hawaiian secession under the leadership of ethnic Hawaiians, you are colonialists, just as guilty as the haoles, oppressing the "indigenous" people whose blood makes them children of the gods and brothers/sisters to the land (Kumulipo creation legend) in a way you never can be if you lack a drop of the magic blood. This is the same sort of "blood and soil" race-supremacist fascism that ruined Germany and Japan causing world war in the 1930s and 40s; and more recently it was revived by white nationalists in the U.S. You legislators have a responsibility to stop that fascism from getting established in Hawaii. See my detailed review of the book "Asian Settler Colonialism" published by UH Press in 2008, demanding that Asians subordinate themselves to ethnic Hawaiians:

<https://www.angelfire.com/big09a/AsianSettlerColonialism.html>

The activists hate President McKinley because he successfully persuaded Congress to pass the joint resolution in 1898 whereby the U.S. agreed to the Treaty of Annexation offered by the Republic of Hawaii in 1897. McKinley also signed the Organic Act in 1900 establishing basic laws for the Territory of Hawaii. McKinley also appointed Republic of Hawaii's President Sanford B. Dole to be the first Territorial Governor, thus ensuring stability and continuity of governance under the same head of state throughout the turbulent

decade from 1893 (Revolutionary Provisional Government) to 1894 (Republic of Hawaii) to 1898 (Annexation) to 1900 (Organic Act) to 1903 (end of Dole's term as Governor).

The activists hope to enlist you legislators as allies in their campaign of secession. They know that if you agree to this resolution, they will have a propaganda victory allowing them to say to the rest of America "Let us outa here!" They will cite your approval of this resolution as evidence to our nation's enemies in the United Nations that "America is weak and falling apart." Communist China, now building a navy more powerful than ours, and seeing the Hawaiian secessionist movement being led by so many people whose ancestry is Chinese as well as Hawaiian, might decide Hawaii is low-hanging fruit for plucking, in much the same way that a German leader in the 1930s felt he had a right to take over part of Czechoslovakia and all of Austria to liberate his fellow ethnic Germans who were so numerous there. Certainly when the U.S. complains in the United Nations about China's internal suppression of ethnic minorities and oppression of Tibet and Hong Kong, China will answer by accusing the U.S. of doing the same thing in Hawaii as evidenced by the resolution passed by Hawaii's own legislature bitterly crying out to be liberated.

In November 2020, seeing how aggressive the activists were becoming in their drive to purge "McKinley" from the school, I created a webpage documenting their intentions and opposing them. Please see my "Open letter to students, alumni, teachers, administrators, staff, community, and Board of Education explaining why the school's name and statue deserve to remain in place, and why a Hawaiian secessionist demand to remove them should be strongly rejected" at tinyurl.com/hmepjz7k

A friend of mine, the late Thurston Twigg-Smith, wrote a book entitled "Hawaiian Sovereignty: Do the Facts Matter?" which he graciously allowed me to post on my website where you can download it for free: <http://tinyurl.com/6osxwp>

Yes, the facts do matter. There are numerous falsehoods about Hawaii's history in the "whereas" clauses of this resolution, and in two

articles authored by Keanu Sai in the NEA newspaper, and in the lengthy HSTA essay:

<https://www.hsta.org/news/recent-stories/mckinley-high-school-deserves-a-name-that-honors-its-true-spirit-community-legacy/>

Shame on Hawaii's teachers for propagating such falsehoods, and especially for filling the minds of our children with them. Below are just a few of those falsehoods, with brief corrections and links to evidence proving falsehood. I know you don't have time to study these issues now, but hopefully when the legislative session is over you might take the time to learn about some of them.

By the way, an item in the HSTA essay says "According to the Alabama-based Southern Poverty Law Center, 168 Confederate symbols, including 94 monuments, were removed across the United States in 2020, virtually all of them following the killing of George Floyd by Minneapolis police officers."

I'm sure we all remember the outbreak of violence, arson, looting, and attacks on police that accompanied the "removal" of those statues and monuments in numerous cities.

Perhaps we should wonder whether the mention of those events in the HSTA essay is intended as a veiled threat that something similar might happen to McKinley High School and/or to the statue if we fail to comply with the activists' demands. That's all the more reason to stand up against such threats. Please do not knuckle under to them. It might be wise to ask each activist who testifies, to give a pledge that they will not engage in violence or vandalism, and that they will assist law enforcement in identifying, arresting, and prosecuting anyone who does. "Kapu aloha", right? Testimony from anyone who refuses to take such a pledge should be summarily rejected for the same reasons it is unwise to negotiate with terrorists.

Please vote "NAY" and consign this resolution to the trash.

Below are brief replies to specific falsehoods in the resolution (and to arguments often put forward to bolster them)

WAS THE MCKINLEY STATUE ERECTED TO HUMILIATE AND SUBJUGATE NATIVE HAWAIIANS?

Reso: "... when the statue of William McKinley was erected in 1911, several years after the renaming of the school, it was not to honor the President of the United States, but rather as a symbol to perpetuate the subjugation of Native Hawaiians and reinforce the lie that the Hawaiian islands belong to the United States of America"

Reply: There is not even any attempt to give evidence that was the motive; legislators should never endorse such bitter sentiments. And by the way, it is not a lie to say: the Hawaiian islands really do belong to the United States of America; don't you legislators agree? Didn't you take an oath to "support and defend the Constitution of the United States" against all enemies, foreign and domestic? Meet some of those enemies; i.e., the supporters of this resolution.

WHAT PERCENTAGE OF PEOPLE SIGNED ANTI-ANNEXATION PETITION?

Reso: "... eighty percent of the adult population signed the Kū'e Petitions against annexation in 1897"

Reply: There were 21,269 signatures on the petition opposing annexation. Interpolation of Census data shows there were about 39,542 full or part Hawaiians in 1897, the year of the anti-annexation petition. Thus, the 21,269 signatures on the petition represented 54% of the native population. But wait! Everyone says there were non-natives among the 21,269 people who signed the petition, although we cannot be sure how many. Well, if there were non-natives signing, then shouldn't the percentage of signers be calculated using the whole number of people in the entire population? Apparently non-natives were welcome to sign the petition, but the overwhelming majority refused. The whole population in 1896 was 109,020; in 1900 it was

154,001; so interpolation yields 120,265 as the population in 1897, which means the 21,269 signatures represent only 18% of the population. Furthermore, at that time only men could vote, and there were other important voter eligibility restrictions; so there is no relationship between petition signatures and eligible voters. But there's more to the story. In addition to the anti-annexation petition with 21,269 signatures, there was allegedly another petition containing over 17,000 signatures collected by a different organization. The trouble is, that second petition had a different purpose -- it called for Lili'uokalani to be restored to the throne! Hawaiian sovereignty activists like to add the numbers on the two petitions, for a total of around 38,000 to 39,000 signatures, which would represent virtually every native and part-native man, woman, and baby. But of course that's silly. The two petitions are on different topics. And probably everyone who signed the smaller petition (restore the queen) would have also signed the larger petition (stop annexation). Indeed, the gap of 4,000 signatures could be interpreted to mean that there were 4,000 natives who opposed annexation but also opposed restoring the monarchy and wanted the Republic of Hawai'i to continue as an independent nation under the coalition of White and Hawaiian oligarchs!

DOES U.S. JOINT RESOLUTION HAVE POWER TO REACH OUT AND GRAB A FOREIGN NATION (I.E., HAWAII)?

Reso: "... the Newlands Resolution illegitimately claimed United States annexation of the Hawaiian islands, even though such a document does not have any power or legitimacy to annex an internationally recognized nation ..."

Sai, NEA, 10/01/18: "Many government officials and constitutional scholars could not explain how a joint resolution could have the extra-territorial force and effect of a treaty in annexing Hawai'i, a foreign and sovereign state. ... In 1824, the United Supreme Court explained that, "the legislation of every country is territorial," and that the "laws of no nation can justly extend beyond its own territory... for it would be "at variance with the independence and sovereignty of foreign nations."

Reply: Annexation did not begin with the U.S. passing a resolution to reach out and grab Hawaii. Annexation began with the Republic of Hawaii offering a Treaty of Annexation to the U.S. Afterward, the U.S. Congress had heated debates about the Treaty in both the House and Senate for many months, and finally passed a joint resolution to accept it: Senate 42-21; House 209-91. Sovereignty means that a nation has the sole right to decide for itself what method it will use for agreeing to a treaty offered by another nation. In 1898 the U.S. used the method of joint resolution to accept the offer of the Treaty of Annexation from the independent nation Republic of Hawaii, just as in 1845 the U.S. used the method of joint resolution to accept the offer of the Treaty of Annexation from the independent nation Republic of Texas. See

"Treaty of Annexation between the Republic of Hawaii and the United States of America (1898). Full text of the treaty, and of the resolutions whereby the Republic of Hawaii legislature and the U.S. Congress ratified it. The politics surrounding the treaty, then and now" at

<https://www.angelfire.com/big09a/TreatyOfAnnexationHawaiiUS.html>

Further reply: The secessionists also say that the Republic of Hawaii was not a legitimate government and therefore had no right to offer a Treaty of Annexation. But in fact the Republic was the successor government of a still-independent nation of Hawaii, following the revolution of 1893 which overthrew the monarchy. The Republic got its legitimacy under international law in the same way as the Kingdom had done: by receiving formal diplomatic recognition from the heads-of-state of numerous foreign governments. After holding a Constitutional Convention and producing a Constitution, President Dole requested formal recognition. During Fall 1894 letters were received in 11 languages that were personally signed by Emperors, Kings, Queens, and Presidents of at least 19 foreign nations on 4 continents formally recognizing the Republic as the rightful, lawful government of Hawaii. One of those letters was from Queen Victoria of Britain, who had close relationships with Queen Emma and Queen Lili'uokalani. Other letters were from the Tsar of Russia, the King and Queen of Spain, the Presidents of France and Switzerland, two Crown Princes of China

under authority of the Emperor while a war with Japan was raging; etc. Even ex-queen Lili'uokalani personally signed a letter of abdication and oath of loyalty to the Republic, witnessed by her personal attorney and former cabinet ministers. Photos of all these documents, along with supporting letters from diplomatic representatives, were taken in the Archives of Hawaii and are available online at <https://historymystery.kenconklin.org/recognition-of-the-republic-of-hawaii/>

U.S. APOLOGY RESOLUTION

Reso: "the "Apology Resolution" ...acknowledges that "the Native Hawaiian people never directly relinquished to the United States their claims to their inherent sovereignty ... either through a plebiscite or referendum""

Reply: Must the inhabitants of a territory be consulted, prior to being annexed? In the annexations of the Louisiana Territory and the Territory of Alaska, the inhabitants were not consulted by France or Russia (who sold those territories to the U.S.) nor by the U.S. There were only two times when annexations of land to the United States included consulting the inhabitants of the annexed areas: Texas and Hawaii. The reason why the inhabitants were consulted in these two cases was that these were independent nations prior to annexation. In the case of Texas, there was a plebiscite in which the vote was limited to white males who had sworn loyalty to the Republic of Texas. In the case of Hawaii, the elected legislature of the Republic of Hawai'i made the commitment. When a government makes a decision, it is binding on everyone in that nation regardless of the fact that some people -- perhaps many people -- don't like it. Native Hawaiians made up only 40% of the population at the time of the overthrow in 1893, 26% at the time of annexation in 1900, and perhaps 20% today. Source: Robert C. Schmitt. Demographic Statistics of Hawaii: 1778-1965. (Honolulu, 1968) The first U.S. Census was in 1900 and it showed a total population of 154,001 of whom 29,779 were Hawaiian, 7,857 were part-Hawaiian, 28,819 Caucasian, 25,767 Chinese, 61,111

Japanese. I did not vote for President Biden, nor for either of my Senators, nor for my House Representative. But they have authority to make decisions affecting me whether I like it or not.

Reso: "the "Apology Resolution" ... acknowledges that "the Native Hawaiian people never directly relinquished to the United States their claims to their ... national lands ..."

Reply: The national lands of Hawaii belonged to the multiracial nation, not to any particular ethnic group. The government lands of the Kingdom belonged to the government on behalf of all the people, not to ethnic Hawaiians in particular. The crown lands became owned by the government in 1865 when the legislature passed a law -- eagerly signed by the King -- to issue government bonds to pay off the mortgage on the crown lands that had been made by Lota Kamehameha V and was in danger of being foreclosed, in return for the King surrendering ownership to the government.

Further reply: The apology resolution is filled with falsehoods, has produced bad consequences, and should be repealed. For details see <https://www.angelfire.com/big09/ApologyReso20thAnniv.html>

FOLLOWING ANNEXATION, WERE HAWAII PUBLIC SCHOOLS USED TO STRIP NATIVE CHILDREN OF THEIR NATIONAL IDENTITY AND BRAINWASH THEM INTO PATRIOTISM TOWARD AMERICA?

Reso: "... following the enactment of the Newlands Resolution, Hawaii's public education system was pressed into service to indoctrinate, denationalize, "Americanize," and convert generations of Hawaii's children into patriotic United States citizens"

HSTA document citing Sai 10/13/18: "To enforce the annexation, the government implemented a "methodical plan of Americanization" that "sought to obliterate the national consciousness of the Hawaiian Kingdom in the minds of the school children throughout the islands. It was developed by the Territory of Hawai'i's Department of Public Instruction and called 'Programme for Patriotic Exercises in the Public Schools.'"

Reply: Of course the local government of the Territory of Hawaii, and its Department of Education, felt it important to implement a civics education program to help school children understand their rights and responsibilities as U.S. citizens during the first decade following Annexation; just as the DOE today feels it important to mandate 4 years of "Social Studies" courses required for high school graduation. Even Kamehameha School required male students to take ROTC courses until the U.S. military withdrew its cooperation from that program in 2002 due to racially exclusionary admissions policy.

DID THE REPUBLIC OF HAWAII, OR THE TERRITORY, MAKE HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE ILLEGAL?

RESO: "... the result of the illegal annexation ... displaced Native Hawaiians, robbing them of their ... language ..."

HSTA DOCUMENT: "The government made it illegal for anyone to have a Native Hawaiian first name, or even speak the Hawaiian language in public"

REPLY: I have thoroughly researched and disproved the often-repeated assertion that Hawaiian language was suppressed or made illegal, including a detailed rebuttal to a webpage making those assertions published by the Office of Hawaiian Education within the DOE; but DOE refuses to correct it despite overwhelming proof of falsity. For facts see "Was Hawaiian Language Illegal? Did the Evil Haoles Suppress Hawaiian Language As A Way of Oppressing Kanaka Maoli and Destroying Their Culture?" at

<http://tinyurl.com/6zrka>

and

"Holding the State of Hawaii Department of Education accountable for propagating the lie that Hawaiian language was banned" at <https://tinyurl.com/y6phnzeh>



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
Chair Representative Justin Woodson, Vice Chair Representative Jeanne Kapela

Thursday March 24, 2022, 2:00 p.m. via Videoconference

HR 24 – 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.

TESTIMONY
Donna Oba, President, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kapela and Committee Members

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports HR24 urging the BOE and DOE to change the name of McKinley High School and remove the statue of McKinley. The written resolution cites powerful reasons for the change to the school.

League acknowledges that the overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom government was without the will of people and that the overthrow led to a disturbing period for the kingdom's citizens.

League does not support undemocratic processes of government. There are many symbols and statues across the U.S. commemorating and celebrating damaging and tragic periods of its history. By not changing the name of McKinley High School, we fail to recognize that tragic period in Hawaii.

Changing the name will be a story to be proud of when it is told in history records. The legislature will be recognized as a supporter of individual rights, civil rights, and national rights.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

HR-24

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 10:49:21 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cary Miyashiro	Quad D Solutions	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I respectfully oppose the changing of the name of McKinley High School and the removal of the statue.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cary Miyashiro, President

Quad D Solutions



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Lisa Morrison
Secretary-Treasurer
Wilbert Holck
Executive Director

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

RE: HR 24 / HCR 26 – 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.

THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 2022

OSA TUI, JR., PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Woodson, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawai'i State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support** HR 24/ HCR 26, urging the Board of Education and the Department of Education to change the name of President William McKinley High School and remove the statue of President McKinley from the school premises.

Promoting human and civil rights to support and nurture diversity in our multifaceted community is an important part of HSTA's mission. We believe all children deserve access to a great public education, and should never be marginalized because of their race, gender, sexual orientation, culture, or nationality.

As educators, we are deeply committed to our keiki and our communities. We are proud to live in a vibrant tapestry of cultures with shared values rooted in 'ohana and 'āina. We lift our students with knowledge, awareness, skill, and confidence; creating an environment of equity that allows every student to thrive. Here, we explain why the name President William McKinley does not honor this commitment.

The school's name glorifies a man who illegally annexed a country against the will of her queen and people.

On Jan. 16, 1893, U.S. troops invaded the Hawaiian Kingdom, which led to a conditional surrender by the Hawaiian Kingdom's executive monarch, Her Majesty Queen Lili'uokalani. An investigation initiated by President Grover Cleveland called this invasion "an act of war." President Cleveland agreed to restore the Hawaiian Kingdom if Queen Lili'uokalani granted amnesty to the provisional government that overthrew her. She ultimately agreed, but unfortunately, President Cleveland did not get elected to a second term and could not restore her to her rightful position.

When McKinley took office, he proceeded to annex Hawai‘i, ignoring protests by Queen Lili‘uokalani, two Hawaiian political organizations — Hui Aloha ‘Āina and Hui Kālai‘āina — and a petition of more than 21,000 signatures from Hawaiian citizens and residents submitted by Hui Aloha ‘Āina. Hui Kālai‘āina collected an additional 17,000 signatures.

When he could not obtain a two-thirds vote in the Senate to ratify a “treaty” of annexation with the illegal Republic of Hawai‘i, McKinley pushed for a joint resolution in the U.S. Congress, a domestic measure that required a simple majority, but had no lawful authority beyond U.S. borders. McKinley signed the resolution into law on July 7, 1898.

The name reflects an indoctrination of Hawaiian students and a movement that obliterated Native Hawaiian identity in favor of American patriotism.

To enforce the annexation, the government implemented a “methodical plan of Americanization” that “sought to obliterate the national consciousness of the Hawaiian Kingdom in the minds of the school children throughout the islands. It was developed by the Territory of Hawai‘i’s Department of Public Instruction and called ‘Programme for Patriotic Exercises in the Public Schools.’”

The government made it illegal for anyone to have a Native Hawaiian first name, or even speak the Hawaiian language in public. Native Hawaiians were forced to suppress their Hawaiian cultural and national identity in favor of American allegiance.

If students weren’t “Americanized” enough, they weren’t allowed to attend high school and entered the workforce instead. In 1907, Harper’s Weekly correspondent William Inglis noted the “astounding” difference in student body from grade school to Honolulu High School: “Below were all the hues of the human spectrum, with brown and yellow predominating; here the tone was clearly white.”

Honolulu High School was the former name of what is now President William McKinley High School. The school itself was originally established in 1833 as the Oahu Charity School. Its name was subsequently changed to Honolulu Town School then Fort Street School. In 1895, it moved from Princess Ruth Ke‘elikōlani’s former residence to its current location and was renamed Honolulu High School.

The change from Honolulu High School to President William McKinley High School in 1907 and the installation of McKinley's statue in 1911 reflect the government's targeted indoctrination in schools.

An article published in The Hawaiian Star on Nov. 22, 1901, said: "It is believed that the project of erecting a local memorial to Mr. McKinley, if carried out by all classes of the Hawaiian population, and participated in by the school children, will tend to develop patriotism (sic) and go to strengthen the interest of our people in American institutions and principles."

This indoctrination also impacted teachers, many of whom were Native Hawaiian women forced to teach curriculum that handcuffed their personal beliefs and identity. According to a 2017 Office of Hawaiian Affairs report, Native Hawaiian teachers made up 41.1 percent of the total number of teachers prior to 1893. "The combination of non-Hawaiian teacher recruitment, lower pay for Native Hawaiian teachers, and the mandate of using only the English language in schools led to the decline of Native Hawaiian teachers," the OHA report concluded.

The devastating loss of Native Hawaiian identity, culture, and language has yet to fully recover.

Though the overthrow and annexation occurred more than a century ago, their destructive impacts continue to fester. Those who did not live through this era may never fully understand the far-reaching damage and trauma colonization has on its people.

Americanization and the denial of Native Hawaiian names, language, and learning made many Native Hawaiians ashamed of their cultural identity. They believed they were worth less — a mentality that has been passed down and continues to cripple successive generations.

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs stated, "The practice of using Western standards to validate Hawaiian culturally-based activities and behaviors led to the devaluing of the traditional Hawaiian system and caused shame and embarrassment among Native Hawaiians. Navigating the immense cultural shifts and the depreciation of Hawaiian values and traditions caused internal moral conflicts between preserving the old and embracing the new. These effects can still be seen today."

Public schools were established by the Hawaiian Kingdom in 1840 by King Kamehameha III. As of 1834, the literacy rate among Hawaiians was estimated

between 91 percent and 95 percent. Now, one in every six adults in Hawai‘i, or more than 16 percent of the adult population, cannot read or write at a basic level.

This statistic, while not isolated to the Native Hawaiian population, indicates a disconnect from language and education. In 2016, Native Hawaiian reading proficiency percentages ranged from high of 41.2 percent in grade 5 to a low of 29.2 percent in grade 7, far below the non-Hawaiian range of 60.3 percent in grade 5 through 50.5 percent in grade 7; and the largest proficiency gap of 20.8 percentage points occurred in grade 11. This loss of literacy leads to higher dropout rates, unemployment, low wages, poverty, homelessness, and incarceration.

Continued suppression of Hawaiian culture and identity further exacerbates the challenges Native Hawaiians face today in areas including sustainability, land use, and resources management. No group should be forced to prove themselves on their own land, or left to struggle and fail.

It is our kuleana (responsibility) to restore pono (righteousness).

HSTA believes a school should have a name that appropriately recognizes the pono and pride of our ‘āina, our people, especially our youth, and our state. We must teach our keiki to fully embrace their true history and identity if we want them to thrive.

This need is not exclusive to Native Hawaiians. Staying true to our values and righting our wrongs heals our ‘ohana and uplifts our entire community. We must brave the first step by removing a prominent figure who was instrumental in the harm and trauma of our collective history.

A similar change occurred in Alaska in 2015 when President Barack Obama and Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell restored the name Denali to what had been called Mount McKinley for nearly a century. Denali, or “deenaalee,” means “the tall one” in the Koyukon language, spoken for thousands of years by an indigenous Athabaskan group.

“Denali’s name has long been seen as one such slight, regarded as an example of cultural imperialism in which a Native American name with historical roots was replaced by an American one having little to do with the place,” according to The New York Times.

“There’s no denying that for some Americans, the deck’s been stacked against them, sometimes for generations, and that’s been true of many Native Americans,” said President Obama. “But if we’re working together, we can make things better.”



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President
Logan Okita
Vice President
Lisa Morrison
Secretary-Treasurer
Wilbert Holck
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Names have great significance to us. A school's name should honor its greatness.

Names are a cornerstone of our identity. In Hawaiian culture, names are chosen with great deliberation to imbue their possessors with sacred story and energy.

Eōmailani K. Kukahiko, Ph.D., a University of Hawaii at Manoa faculty member in the Curriculum Studies Department who specializes in Hawaiian language immersion, wrote, "Hawaiian names tell the stories of our people. Names are usually given by kūpuna, or to honor kūpuna. Sometimes names appear in a dream, inoa pō, yet other times as a recording of a specific event."

McKinley High is an incredible school with impressive accomplishments and prominent alumni. It serves and supports our community. Its halls are steeped in spirit, honor, and pride. It's important that we recognize the true source of this excellence: the students, the educators, the community, the 'āina.

This great school deserves a better name.

We are joining an ongoing movement across Hawai'i and the U.S. continent.

In February 2022, students, staff, and community members marked the restoration of the Central Middle School's name to Princess Ruth Ke'elikōlani Middle School. This change was the result of a roughly 2½-year endeavor to acknowledge and celebrate the school's proud history and profound connection to one of Hawaii's cherished ali'i and her tremendous legacy to Hawai'i and its people. "We feel that this change will reinvigorate our school community as it gives Princess Ke'elikōlani her due respect and allows us as a school to embrace and celebrate who we are and allows for us to create our next chapter in our school history," the school's principal, Joseph Passantino, wrote in his 2021 proposal.

In July 2017, Lanikai Elementary Public Charter School in Kailua, O'ahu became Ka'ōhāo Public Charter School. Ka'ōhāo is the true name of the area between Kailua Beach and Waimanalo Beach, which a developer called Lanikai in an incorrect attempt to say heavenly sea. "We believe that our name change represents much of what we stand for as a school. In many ways, we are tying and joining together the past, the present, and the future. We do this humbly, with cultural respect and understanding; and applying knowledge from awareness to action, the chief aim of education," according to the school's website.



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Wilbert Holck
Executive Director

The City and County of Honolulu's Revised Ordinances of Honolulu, Chapter 22, Article 8 stipulates that all street names shall "consist of Hawaiian names, word or phrases and shall be selected with a view to the appropriateness of the name to historic, cultural, scenic and topographical features of the area." This law has been in effect since 1978.

In 2020, 168 Confederate symbols, including 94 monuments, were removed across the United States, virtually all of them following the killing of George Floyd by Minneapolis police officers, according to the Alabama-based Southern Poverty Law Center.

"Critics argue that removing or renaming tributes to Confederate figures amounts to erasing history," a National Public Radio report noted. "But many historians — and public opinion polling — reject this concept, saying it's time for the symbols to go, and possible to engage with this period of history in other ways."

We ask that you support HR 24 and HCR 26 so we can right a devastating wrong, honor this school's true legacy, and move toward a better, equitable future that ensures our communities are whole and every student thrives.

Mahalo for hearing this important issue.



House Committee on Education

Pō‘ahā, Malaki 24, 2022

Via Wikiō

Ke Kapikala Moku‘āina

415 South Beretānia Street

Re: HR24/HCR26 - RELATING TO PRESIDENT WILLIAM MCKINLEY HIGH SCHOOL

Aloha Luna Ho‘omalū Justin H. Woodson, *Hope Luna Ho‘omalū* Jeanne Kapela and members of the House Committee on Education:

The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs **SUPPORTS** the intent of HR24/HCR26. These resolutions call upon 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.

At its 61st annual convention, the Association adopted resolution 2020-34, urging funding for the commissioning of a plaque telling the complete and accurate story of the invalid annexation of Hawai‘i to the United States and that it be placed adjacent to the statute of President William McKinley at President William McKinley High School. At its 50th annual convention, the Association adopted resolution 2009-45, supporting the removal through recasting of the “Treaty of Annexation” document carried in the hand of the statute of William McKinley at President McKinley High School in Honolulu by calling upon the Legislature and the Department of Land and Natural Resources to take corrective action.

The Association has no position on the removal of the statute or the renaming of the school specifically, however, the Association recognizes that there are “...different ways to deliver the accurate accounting of Hawai‘i’s historical events around the invalid annexation.” (AHCC Reso.

2020-34). The Association further affirms that “...the statute of President William McKinley portrays a fabricated history that has long-standing political and cultural ramifications...[; and] ...[that the Association] continues to have an interest in correcting the current misrepresentation of the history of Hawai‘i’s invalid annexation...” (AHCC Reso. 2020-34). The Association acknowledges that the aforementioned resolutions, at their heart, seek to address the injustices surrounding the illegal annexation of Hawai‘i by the United States.

Thus, the Association respectfully urges the committee to **PASS** HR24/HCR26.

The civic club movement was founded in 1918 by Congressional Delegate Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalaniana‘ole with the creation of the Hawaiian Civic Club; the Association was formally organized in 1959 and has grown to a confederation of over sixty (60) Hawaiian Civic Clubs located throughout the State of Hawai‘i and the United States. The Association is the oldest Hawaiian community-based grassroots organization. The Association is governed by a 16-member Board of Directors; advocates for improved welfare of Native Hawaiians in culture, health, economic development, education, social welfare, and nationhood; and perpetuates and preserves language, history, music, dance and other Native Hawaiian cultural traditions.

Mahalo for allowing us to share our *mana‘o*.

Me ka ‘oia‘i‘o,

Hailama Farden
Pelekikena

ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS

A RESOLUTION

NO. 2020 - 38

URGING FUNDING FOR THE COMMISSIONING OF A PLAQUE TELLING THE COMPLETE AND ACCURATE STORY OF THE INVALID ANNEXATION OF HAWAI'I TO THE UNITED STATES AND THAT IT BE PLACED ADJACENT TO THE STATUE OF PRESIDENT WILLIAM MCKINLEY AT PRESIDENT WILLIAM MCKINLEY HIGH SCHOOL

WHEREAS, at its annual convention in 2009, the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs adopted Resolution 2009-45, supporting the removal through recasting of the "Treaty of Annexation" document carried in the hand of the statue of William McKinley at President McKinley High School in Honolulu by calling on the Legislature and the Department of Land and Natural Resources to take corrective action; and

WHEREAS, shortly after the adoption of Resolution 2009-45, a delegation of Hawaiian Civic Club members met with the principal of McKinley High School who was not receptive to the actions called for in the resolution; and

WHEREAS, in the 11 years since the adoption of this resolution, no further action has been taken on Resolution 2009-45 by any relevant State of Hawai'i agency; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 2009-45 accurately documents the history of the invalid annexation of Hawai'i to the United States; and

WHEREAS, the statue of President William McKinley at its namesake school on O'ahu portrays a fabricated history that has long-standing political and cultural ramifications; and

WHEREAS, the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs continues to have an interest in correcting the current misrepresentation of the history of Hawai'i's invalid annexation depicted by the statue of President William McKinley; and

WHEREAS, the Association recognizes that the plaque is only one of many different ways to deliver the accurate accounting of Hawai'i's historical events around the invalid annexation; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs at its 61st Annual Convention held online, in the malama of Makali'i and the rising of 'Olekūkolu, this 22nd day of November 2020, urging funding for the commissioning of a plaque

telling the complete and accurate story of the invalid annexation of Hawai'i to the United States and that it be placed adjacent to the statute of President William McKinley High School; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Association urging the State of Hawai'i through its Department of Education and Department of Land and Natural Resources of the State of Hawai'i, and the respective complex area superintendent and the McKinley High School administration to partner with the Association in the telling of the accurate story of the invalid annexation of Hawai'i by the United States of America; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Association commits to work with all interested stakeholders to develop and implement a plan for the commissioning and development of the plaque, its verbiage, location, and aesthetic; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Hawai'i State Board of Education Chairperson, the Hawai'i State Department of Education Superintendent, the respective Honolulu District Complex Area Superintendent, Chair of the Native Hawaiian Education Council, CEO of the Council of Native Hawaiian Advancement as well as the Governor of the State of Hawai'i, President of the State Senate, Speaker of the State House of Representatives, Chair of the State Senate subject matter committee on Hawaiian Affairs, Chair of the State House subject matter committee on Hawaiian Affairs, Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and all County Mayors.



The undersigned hereby certifies that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted in the malama of Makali'i and the rising of 'Olekūkolu on the 22nd day of November 2020, at the 61st Annual Convention of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs held online.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hailama V.K.K. Farden". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Hailama V.K.K. Farden, President

ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS

A RESOLUTION

09-45

SUPPORT THE REMOVAL THROUGH RECASTING OF THE “TREATY OF ANNEXATION” DOCUMENT CARRIED IN THE HAND OF THE STATUE OF WILLIAM MCKINLEY AT MCKINLEY HIGH SCHOOL IN HONOLULU BY CALLING ON THE LEGISLATURE AND THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO TAKE CORRECTIVE ACTION

WHEREAS, on January 16, 1893, over the protest of Queen Lili‘uokalani, the diplomatic and military forces of the U.S. assisted insurrectionists in seizing control of the Hawaiian Kingdom government and established a government; and

WHEREAS, on February 14, 1893, in Washington, D.C., the government signed a treaty of cession of the Hawaiian Kingdom to the United States and U.S. President Harrison submitted the treaty to the Senate for ratification; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 1893, newly elected U.S. President Cleveland received the protest of Queen Lili‘uokalani from a Hawaiian Kingdom envoy and withdrew the treaty from the Senate; and

WHEREAS, President Cleveland thereafter appointed Hon. James Blount as a Special Commissioner to investigate the seizure of the Hawaiian Kingdom and to report his findings to the president; and

WHEREAS, the Presidential investigation concluded that the overthrow of the Hawaiian government was illegal under international law and entered into an agreement with Queen Lili‘uokalani that the President would restore the Hawaiian Kingdom government and the Queen would grant amnesty to the insurgents; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Congress prevented President Cleveland from restoring the Government; and

WHEREAS, Queen Lili‘uokalani and Hawaiian nationals, to their detriment, relied on Cleveland’s commitment to restore the Hawaiian Kingdom government; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a resolution on February 7, 1894, warning other nations “that foreign intervention in the political affairs of the islands will not be regarded with indifference by the Government of the United States”; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Senate endorsed this sentiment by passing a resolution on May 16, 1894, “that any intervention in the political affairs of these islands by any other Government will be regarded as an act unfriendly to the United States”; and

WHEREAS, on June 16, 1897, the newly elected President of the United States, William McKinley signed a second treaty of cession in Washington, D.C. with representatives of the *self-proclaimed* Republic of Hawai‘i, but the proposed treaty remained subject to ratification by the U.S. Senate; and

WHEREAS, on June 18, 1897, Queen Lili‘uokalani filed a diplomatic protest with the U.S. State Department in Washington, D.C., stating:

I, Liliuokalani of Hawaii, by the will of God named heir apparent on the tenth day of April, A.D. 1877, and by the grace of God Queen of the Hawaiian Islands on the seventeenth day of January, A.D. 1893, do hereby protest against the ratification of a certain treaty, which, so I am informed, has been signed at Washington by Messrs. Hatch, Thurston, and Kinney, purporting to cede those Islands to the territory and dominion of the United States. I declare such a treaty to be an act of wrong toward the native and part-native people of Hawaii, an invasion of the rights of the ruling chiefs, in violation of international rights both toward my people and toward friendly nations with whom they have made treaties, the perpetuation of the fraud whereby the constitutional government was overthrown, and, finally, an act of gross injustice to me.; and

WHEREAS, on July 24, 1897, Hawaiian political organizations also filed protests with the McKinley Administration against the second treaty; and

WHEREAS, in spite of these protests, President McKinley indicated his intent to submit the Treaty of Cession to the U.S. Senate, which would convene in December of 1897; and

WHEREAS, in September of 1897, the Men’s and Women’s Hawaiian Patriotic League (Hui Aloha ‘Āina) initiated signature petitions protesting the treaty and deposited the petitions with the U.S. Senate in December 1897; and

WHEREAS, these protests, along with the formal protests of Queen Lili‘uokalani, succeeded in preventing the U.S. Senate from ratifying this second attempt to annex the Hawaiian Islands by a treaty of cession; and

WHEREAS, on April 21, 1898, the United States declared war against the Kingdom of Spain, turning Hawai‘i into a naval and troop base to commence the war against the Spanish in the Philippines and Guam in the western Pacific Ocean, purportedly to protect the west coast of the United States; and

WHEREAS, on July 7, 1898, President McKinley signed a joint resolution of annexation passed by the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate, purporting to annex the Hawaiian Islands justified as a war necessity; and

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

WHEREAS, a prominent secondary school in Honolulu is named after U.S. President William McKinley; and

WHEREAS, standing at the front entrance to McKinley High School is a bronze statue of President William McKinley holding a document inscribed "Treaty of Annexation"; and

WHEREAS, the document called "Treaty of Annexation" never existed and was never implemented; and

WHEREAS, the statue has contributed to the misinformation shared with the people of Hawai'i and Native Hawaiians about the true history of these Islands and of the relationship of the United States to the Hawaiian Kingdom, leading to the teaching of an incorrect history; and

WHEREAS, these inaccuracies, when incorporated into public displays such as statues, have been harmful to all, including young people in the public school system, not just McKinley High School, because they perpetuate and promote lies as truths, leaving Hawai'i's youth unprepared to engage in meaningful dialogue on Hawai'i's history.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs at its 50th Annual Convention at Mākena, Maui, Hawai'i, this 7th day of November, 2009, that it support the removal through recasting of the "Treaty of Annexation" document carried in the hand of the statue of William McKinley at McKinley High School in Honolulu by calling on the Legislature and the Department of Land and Natural Resources to take corrective action.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of the State of Hawai'i, the Speaker of the House of the State Legislature, the President of the Senate of the State Legislature, the Hawai'i Congressional Delegation, the Superintendent of the Department of Education, the Director of the Department of Accounting and General Services, and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.



The undersigned hereby certifies that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted on the 7th day of November, 2009, at the 50th Annual Convention of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs at Mākena, Maui, Hawai'i.

Honorable Helen

President

HR-24

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 5:22:02 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brennan Takayama	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please change the name of McKinley High School back to its original name of Honolulu High School. We are PROUD of Honolulu and must instill a sense of pride in students from Honolulu.

HR-24

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 7:28:56 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristen Young	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HR24 to restore the name of what is currently known as 'President William McKinley High School' back to its original name, Honolulu High School, and to remove the statue of President McKinley from the school premises.

If we have any respect for Hawai'i and the school that is currently named McKinley High School, we must not allow the legacy of a man (President McKinley) who illegally annexed a country against the will of her queen and people, to be glorified through the name of an honorable academic institution in our community.

This resolution is an opportunity to act on our knowledge of history, honor this place and people, and restore what once was.

Please pass HR24. Thank you.

HR-24

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 7:34:27 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chantell Cambia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Legislation,

I urge you to pass HR24/HRC26, which will take action to changing President William McKinley High School back to Honolulu High School. Schools in Hawai'i should not be named by those in honor of those who colonized and occupies Indigenous land, in this case, Hawaiian lands. President William McKinley was a white man who supported the illegal annexation of Hawai'i in becoming a U.S. state. Hawai'i is not a state. It is a sovereign nation. It is its own country. Not changing the name of this school, you are neglecting the voices of Kānaka Maoli who do honor those who imposed occupation and colonization of their land, of their home. Pass HR24/HRC26 now!

HR-24

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 9:11:58 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rebecca Kapolei Kiili	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kākou,

I am writing in **strong support** of HR 24 relating to returning the name of Honolulu High School to the currently named McKinley High School. Western culture is the original ‘cancel culture’ that canceled all indigenous groups around the world through imperialism and colonization. However, the world is shifting and bringing back the consciousness of indigenous peoples, cultures, and communities because the health of our world is in dire constraints and indigenous wisdom, perspectives, values, and lifestyles are sorely needed for today and for future generations.

The Hawaiian Kingdom evolved and was well established for 50 years. Our people and our ancestors engaged in the ways of the world for the time that they were living. They were building a nation of people that included all other ethnic races, languages, and cultures of people. There was no discrimination, all was accepted.

Returning the rightful name of Honolulu High School does not diminish the legacy of those generations who attended this school and feel the pride for their alma mater. It simply shifts the narrative and perspective back to acknowledge the true and authentic name it was originally given when it was established in the Hawaiian Kingdom era. And, while we cannot change what happened in the past, we can certainly create change for the future. We can collectively honor this special place that has given so much to non-Hawaiian people and their families for many generations.

As a Native Hawaiian and minority living in Hawai‘i, the historical trauma that we have endured is real. The impacts of colonization upon the Native Hawaiian people have been detrimental to our overall health, wealth, and well-being in our own native lands. Hundreds of years later, Native Hawaiians are continuously being marginalized in our own homelands often being cited for suffering the ills of society that include homelessness, poverty, abuse, substance abuse, mental health, and socio-economically. As a person belonging to this ethnic group, these constant reminders of our history and the impacts upon my ancestors affects my sense of identity and self-worth. A lot of this same damage was done to Hawaii’s people and native ancestors for many generations. Let’s right the wrongs and move away from deficit branding and othering. Let us truly honor indigenous peoples and their contributions to the world. Start with returning the rightful name of Honolulu High School.

Thank you for your time and support.

Rebecca Kapolei Kiili

HR-24

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 9:21:21 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Steven Thomas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We can't change the past, but it's our duty to try to right the wrongs of the past. This needs to happen.

HR-24

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 9:36:16 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I think we should remove the Borad Education Frist it has Failed to its Job for Decads!!

HR-24

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 9:56:31 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pablo Wegesend	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the members of the Hawaii State House of Representatives,

My name is Pablo Wegesend, a 1999 graduate of the school currently known as McKinley High School. I bleed the school colors Black & Gold. I am a major fan of the school's Tiger spirit. The school is the home of some of my very wonderful memories. I have organized the 15h & 20th year reunions for my classmates. Nobody can question my school spirit. However, I believe it is time to give the school back its original name of Honolulu High School.

McKinley High School was named after William McKinley, who was the US president when Hawaii was annexed into the American empire without the consent of the Hawaiian people.

Imagine how it feels to have your country taken over, and to have the conquering leader have his name and a statue on the high school located in the urban center where everyone can see it! The name & the statue is like a middle finger towards the Hawaiians who protested against the conquest and annexation of Hawaii. We as the people of Hawaii should no longer accept that white supremacist imperialist middle finger in silence.

In 2022, we are watching in real time as Vladimir Putin has sent Russian troops into Ukraine against the will of the Ukrainian people. If Vladimir Putin had force schools in Ukraine to be named after him, the world would be outraged at this attempt of forcing the people of Ukraine to accept Russian control. We need to have the same exact outrage towards having a school in Hawaii named after a Putin-like character William McKinley who imposed American colonialism against the will of the Hawaiian people.

It is time for Hawaii to take a stand against white supremacy, racism, colonialism and imperialism. It is time for Hawaii to stop with its inertia that tends to allow the status quo to go unchallenged!

It is time for Hawaii to be an inspiration to the world with a powerful example of peaceful change that corrects the wrongs of the past. Removing the statue of William McKinley from the school will be that powerful example of peaceful change. Removing the William McKinley name from the school and renaming it Honolulu High School will be that powerful example of peaceful change.

And may I suggest that after the McKinley statue is removed, that we can replace it with a statue of the school's mascot : The Tiger. That statue will be a major boost of school spirit for the students and alumni of the school.

Place have the honor and bravery to approve HR24 and HCR26! It's the right thing to do.

Sincerely,

a proud Honolulu Tiger (c/o 99)

Pablo Wegesend

The Honorable Justin Woodson, Chair
House of Representatives
Committee on Education

Dear Chair Woodson and Members of the House Committee on Education:

I am testifying in **opposition** to HR 24 and HCR 26 urging the Superintendent to request that the Board of Education to change the name of McKinley High School to Honolulu High School and remove the statue of President William McKinley from the premises.

I come from a long line of McKinley graduates. Both sets of grandparents and most of their siblings, my parents' cousins, my sisters, my late husband and I are all proud graduates of McKinley. Ever since I moved back from California, I have been hoping my twins will have a chance to graduate from McKinley to continue that legacy.

McKinley High School has been steeped in tradition. As students, we learn about the history OF THE SCHOOL, what students and graduates before us have accomplished with limited means and that anything is possible after graduating from McKinley. Our alumni include a Governor, US Congress Members, Olympians, Educators, Decorated Veterans, Scientists and Entrepreneurs, to name a few.

This school has been in existence for over 150 years. It has been known longer as McKinley High School than any other name. The school was named as a memorial to an assassinated president and not specifically because of his involvement in annexing Hawaii. Whenever a death happens, everyone is on board with naming/re-naming places or creating events in the deceased person's memory. Changing McKinley High School's name will not change the past.

Why are we spending so much time on this issue? The pandemic wreaked more havoc on an already fractured Hawaii public education system. I know...my twins are in public school, but fortunately a great school, with wonderful, supportive staff. If they were at a different school or if I did not emphasize education, my twins would have fallen behind like countless other students. I don't think the re-naming of schools should be a priority when there are other issues, such as teacher retention/pay and lack of student resources in the majority of schools.

Sincerely,

Lisa-Anne Mitsuka Chan
McKinley High School Class of 1991
McKinley Alumni Association Recording Secretary
Editor, *The Alumni Pinion*

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
Chair Rep Justin Woodson, Vice Chair Rep Jeanne Kapela

Thursday March 24, 2022, 2:00 p.m. via Videoconference

HR 24 – 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.

TESTIMONY submitted by
Piilani Kaopuiki, 838 Hauoli St, Honolulu, Hawaii 96826

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kapela and Committee Members

I **strongly support HR24** urging the BOE and DOE to change the name of McKinley High School and remove the statue of McKinley. The very comprehensively written resolution cites powerful reasons for the change to the school.

It should be with pride that the community assigns a person's name to an institution of learning, be it for keiki just starting their journey of education or for schools of higher learning. A person whose name is chosen should have a resume of honorable achievements worthy of the high honor.

McKinley, in his treatment of Hawaii, was exactly the opposite of the definition of honorable. His actions were clearly aimed at robbing the people of Hawaii of its nationhood and sovereignty. The naming of the school after his death, and the later erection of the statue, were clearly physical reminders of American dominance aimed at extinguishing the self-image of the people of Hawaii as independent and sovereign in their own eyes. We can see that happening this very minute in Europe.

Opposition to the name change by school alumni cite the self-identity linked to the school. That is self-demeaning. The great memories from school, great friendships, education for life will all still remain undiminished when the school is renamed.

It has been suggested that the change would be erasing history. That is not true. History remains constant. Our treatment of history changes. In this case, the actions of McKinley, the politician, have come to light. His actions of expansion to meet his political goals as it affected the people of Hawaii have come to light. Today, it is appropriate to acknowledge the aggressive geopolitical actions and aftermath and withdraw the honor and recognition given in the early 20th century. Correcting ourselves is a trait we learn as children. It is a trait we should practice as reasonable adults.

Those who cite distinguished alumni as a branding to maintain the name because of the connection, diminish the talent and efforts of those students in distinguishing themselves. They would have been the high achievers regardless of the name of the school they attended. Those who say it is important to give students the biggest

perspective of both sides of the argument place a burden on the student. If a student takes the perspective that the name should be changed, that student will have to suffer disappointment as future classes will be given opportunities for their “biggest perspective of both sides of the argument” ad infinitum.

Let us also remember, the pretext for naming the school as symbolized by the statue is a lie. There was no annexation as is etched on the scroll. Hawaii cannot be proud to perpetuate this awful, destructive and hurtful lie.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

HR-24

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 11:28:30 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leona Leialoha	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha and mahalo for your consideration on this matter. It IS time for the truth and I support renaming this school to Honolulu High School as well as the removal of the statue.

To leaders and members of the House of Representatives, the Board of Education and the Department of Education:

I strongly OPPOSE the resolution to change the name of McKinley High School. Here are some of my reasons:

MISGUIDED PRIORITIES / “POLITICS”

It is a sad commentary about our current priorities that the state legislature is taking time out to discuss the issue of changing a historic school’s name in this time of pandemic, when public school students have missed out on so much, and leadership changes in the DOE should be of primary importance.

I suspect that capitulating to this one request will result in a spate of resolutions to change the names of other schools in the islands where for some reason or another someone deems that the person for whom the school has been named is “not worthy.” The proposed actions here remind me of what is happening in the southern mainland, where statues and names related to the Confederacy are being removed.

Does changing the name erase the history? I think not. So why not focus on positive educational efforts to promote the history of our islands and to be thankful on how far we have come over the decades – as AMERICANS. The proposer appears to believe that Hawaii would be better off if Native Hawaiians had been left alone and if America had not entered the picture. Let’s see ...that would mean no bombing of Pearl Harbor, no World War II, no statehood, no state legislature, just a continuation of the Hawaiian monarchy – and everyone would live peacefully and Native Hawaiians would now still have their cultural identity, nationality, language, homes, and spiritual well-being. What kind of magical thinking is this?

The past will NOT change, but the future can be made better, if as a community (backed by our elected officials) we focus on what is important today and tomorrow.

HISTORICAL/AESTHETIC

- Oldest public high school in the state (with the name McKinley High School since 1907).
- Multiple historic buildings on campus.
- Iconic and arguably the most beautiful campus frontage in the islands (including private schools) – the line of trees and President McKinley’s statue are integral components of that view.
- Many key figures in Hawaii’s history and growth were graduates of the school: Abraham Akaka, George Ariyoshi, Hiram Fong, Dan Inouye, Duke Kahanamoku, Arthur Lyman, Satoru Abe, as well as many others (and all of the veterans named in HR64, also on the docket for March 24, 2022).

LOCAL/NATIONAL RECOGNITION AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

- **McKinley’s** band and drama departments were well recognized statewide for their excellent programs (Henry Miyamura and Jimmy Nakamoto are legends).
- **McKinley’s** Math Team became the first public school team to become champions of the Oahu Mathematics League (competitive mathematics contests) in 1979.
- The Educational Testing Service sent representatives to **McKinley** in the 1970s to investigate after noting that a disproportionate number of FEMALE students at the school were achieving high scores on the Math portion of the college-qualifying Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT).

- Throughout my teaching tenure at the school, we serviced many children of immigrants, primarily from southeast Asia. One of my math classes was designated “Foreign,” comprising about 25 students who spoke at least 8 different languages as their primary language at home. This was an inclusive school that embraced multiple cultures, languages, and special needs. Some became engineers, doctors, lawyers, teachers, business owners – perhaps even politicians. What they all had in common was that they were “McKinley Tigers.”

PERSONAL

- Both of my parents and most of my uncles and aunts graduated from McKinley High School 80 to 90 years ago.
- I graduated from McKinley in the class of 1968, with 700+ others, and was the first in my father’s family to obtain a college degree (from a mainland university). Several classmates, all from primarily blue-collar families, were accepted to prestigious colleges including Harvard, Radcliffe, University of Pennsylvania, Oberlin, and Antioch, as well as the University of Hawaii in 1968.
- I returned to McKinley as the Student Body advisor (1976), mathematics teacher (1975 – 1984), and Math Team coach (1977-1984).
- My three nieces sought a district exception to attend McKinley in the 1980s.

TRADITIONS

It has often been joked that when one is asked “What school you went?” in the islands, the intent of the question is to ask what high school you went to – not college, as is often the case on the mainland. This was partly because the high school you attended gave an indication of the neighborhood you grew up in and your social/economic status. Tens of thousands of us living today are graduates of **McKinley High School** (NOT Honolulu High School), as were many of our parents. We hold diplomas from McKinley High School; we rooted for the McKinley Tigers; and we stood under President McKinley’s statue to have our photos taken after the on-campus graduation ceremony.

I do not want to have to say as part of my life story: “I went to a local high school and spent 9 exciting years teaching mathematics there --- it USED TO BE called McKinley High School.” Many important local leaders as well as ordinary people went to that school when it was called McKinley, and have fond memories of and aloha for it – are we expected to white-out our school’s name from our diplomas and memories? The school has also garnered achievements and awards as **McKinley High School** – for its academics, band and drama programs, and beautiful campus.

I URGE YOU TO NOT CHANGE THE SCHOOL’S NAME OR SPEND ANY TIME ARGUING THE ISSUE, BUT INSTEAD FOCUS ON MORE IMPORTANT AND PRESSING MATTERS RELATED TO THE EDUCATION OF OUR LOCAL CHILDREN!

Respectfully,

Raynette R. Takizawa (McKinley High School, Class of 1968)
raynetter@aol.com

HR-24

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 11:58:41 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cat Orlans	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing as a native Hawaiian alumni of McKinley in support of this bill and in support of the name change. I commuted all 4 years of high school to town from Lualualei, O'ahu. Back in high school I would have said that I'm the girl from Nanakuli. As I continue to learn and educate myself on my culture and the significance of place names I now refer to my actual location of Lualualei. If you haven't heard of it, you may really associate it with a large military base of storage sitting next to the largest population of native Hawaiians on the island.

When I attended McKinley, I was not offered much place based cultural or language opportunities to learn the real history behind our school's name. Yet, we all have such pride as tigers that we follow suit blindly in the name of tradition. Tradition, that seems to be a culture of compliance not allowing you on the oval and the McKinley statue and traditions drilled into us from the first day of school freshman year. But why? We never seemed to really question it. It really wasn't until I graduated and attended UH Manoa that I truly learned about the trauma this person represents to native Hawaiians with the illegal annexation of the Hawaiian kingdom.

When I think of all the alumni that would be in opposition of this name change, I think of their love of our traditions at that school. I have empathy for them too. Because if they had the opportunity to truly learn the correct history from the lens of the native people of a place maybe they would instead have empathy for us as well. Native Hawaiians know all too well how traditions and customs can be taken away and oppressed. In fact, the

Therefore I encourage all faculty, students and alumni to keep on listening and learning from the indigenous host culture of this place. In fact, since following the various bills that have been introduced in this space, I have even reached out via email to the current principal at McKinley and encouraged him to work with native Hawaiian cultural experts and advisors and come to the table with various stakeholders to learn and understand why this change is well over due for this high school but our community at large.

Sadly, after almost a year I have not heard back. I have even heard him reference the school as a brand and refer to local culture of identifying your high school name as part of one's identity. This practice comes from the native Hawaiian culture of introducing your place or origin. He has stated publicly that he thinks only McKinley students or alumni should have a say in this decision. It's really disappointing to see this type of person in a leadership role and

saddens me that he's compliant in this space instead of being a leader in the space of reconciliation.

Changing the name back to Honolulu high elevates our school. Honolulu is the capitol of Hawai'i and there is so much history to the name Honolulu.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Catherine Orlans
Class of 2005

HR-24

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 2:13:46 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alexander K.D. McNicoll	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HR24.

HR-24

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 5:50:35 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ryan Willis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Fully support names of all schools named of U. S. Presidents be changed.

HR-24

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 5:52:41 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kanoe Willis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Fully support names of all schools named of U. S. Presidents be changed.

HR-24

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 6:29:04 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Regina Peterson	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

This statue and the name of the school "Mckinley High School" is a key component to the political indoctrination strategy to "BRAINWASH" the people living in Hawai'i that they are American...

A LIE!!! A LIE THEN!!! A LIE NOW!!!

There are soooo many things wrong about what this man stood for!!! and to have his statue and his name placed in honor...

is disgraceful to our Kūpuna who stood against this fake annexation he holds!!!

To the Alumni and present students enrolled:

YOUR HISTORY, YOUR CONNECTIONS, YOUR RELATIONSHIPS , YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS FROM BEING IN THIS SCHOOL "DOES NOT" STEM FROM THIS STATUE OR HIS NAME!!!

IT CAME/COMES FROM YOU!!!

Allowing this statue and the name to remain any longer SAYS...

YOU ARE OKAY WITH:

- 1). The robbery of the birthright, cultural identity, nationality, language, homes of the native hawaiians
- 2). The physical, mental, emotional, spiritual negative impact caused by this man and others like him
- 3). The fraud he committed to continue the illegal occupation of the United States by signing a joint resolution - "Newlands Resolution"

4). The genocide of Native Americans in California, lynching of African-Americans in Southern states, AS HE turned a blind eye to during his presidency

AND MORE!!!

removing this hideous statue and changing the name allows:

1). Alumni and present students to make NEW HISTORY for yourselves and your school in being the school that takes the step to HEAL A NATION AND IT'S PEOPLE!!!

2). Honor to be given back to the people who stood to protect the land they love so much!!!

3). Truth to be told...and honored, just like the truth behind Christopher Columbus and "Thanksgiving"

4). It allows for future generations who attend this school to NOT have to live in the shadow of this dark history

"HONOLULU HIGH SCHOOL" - THE SCHOOL THAT SPEAKS TRUTH

HR-24

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 6:34:13 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gerald T Takano	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Greetings. I oppose re-naming Honolulu's McKinley HS and removing its sculpture. In my opinion, this seemingly innocuous act sets a dangerous precedent in appealing to "political-correctness" emotions of the time. The name of the school is important for Hawaii, historically, in defining its events during the US expansion of the late 1800s and its subsequent path towards democracy. McKinley symbolizes Hawaii's relationship with the USA. The school's name and sculpture association to racism or exploitation is questionable and should be re-interpreted through different lens.

Please assess "who" is demanding these changes. What really are the motives? Have they considered historical perspective of this situation.

Thank you. Gerald Takano, 1966 graduate of McKinley HS, Honolulu, Hi.

HR-24

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 7:27:48 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
mary drayer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

please return Honolulu High School to it's rightful name - also remove the statue - McKinley's role in the illegal overthrow needs to be recognized and no longer rewarded.

HR-24

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 7:33:27 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello,

My name is Nanea Lo. I'm a lifelong resident of O‘ahu from Papakōlea, now residing in Mō‘ili‘ili in my ancestral homelands. I am a product of this high school and as a Kanaka Maoli I STRONGLY SUPPORT HR24.

Honolulu High School should have never been renamed to President William McKinley High School in 1907. This was a political indoctrination strategy to convince the people of Hawai‘i that they were Americans, which we're not.

In 1911, a statue of President McKinley was erected at the school. In his hand, McKinley outrageously holds a fake “Annexation Treaty” to reinforce the lie that the Hawaiian islands belong to the USA.

It’s time we acknowledge this harmful history and stop perpetuating the legacy of a man who helped rob Native Hawaiians of their birth right, cultural identity, language, and home.

It’s time we decolonize all of Hawai‘i’s public schools— from renaming Central Middle to Princess Ruth Ke‘elikolani Middle, to replacing Kahuku’s “Red Raider” mascot— we already have examples of how the Hawai‘i DOE has successfully made efforts to overcome structural racism and historical injustice.

Support HR24.

me ke aloha ‘āina,

Nanea Lo

HR-24

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 7:48:51 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James DeLuze	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Im a 1966 graduate of McKinley. I do not want the name of My Alma Marta changed or the statue of president McKinley removed. I'm proud of my school and don't ruin it for us graduates.

HR-24

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 8:06:34 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Lee	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

I stand OPPOSED to any proposal to rename McKinley High School and/or the removal of the statue, based on these sound principles:

1. THE CHANGING OF THE/OUR SCHOOL'S NAME CANNOT BE JUSTIFIED BASED UPON THE OPINION AND INTERPRETATION OF CERTAIN HISTORICAL EVENTS, IN THIS CASE, THE ANNEXATION OF HAWAII AND THE OCCURRENCES LEADING UP TO THIS EVENT.

2. "MCKINLEY HIGH SCHOOL" IS A POWERFUL BRAND CULTIVATED OVER 156 YEARS OF PRIDE AND TRADITION THAT SERVES AS AN IDENTITY FOR THE "MCKINLEY COMMUNITY" THAT INCLUDES ALL PEOPLE, BUSINESSES, AND ORGANIZATIONS, PAST AND PRESENT, THE LANDMARK CAMPUS, AND THE HISTORY.

3. THIS HISTORY CANNOT, AND SHOULD NOT, BE CHANGED, CORRECTED, ALTERED, OR SANITIZED, IN THE PRESENT. CHANGING THE NAME OF MCKINLEY HIGH SCHOOL WOULD DO THAT. WHAT IS CONSIDERED RIGHT AND WRONG CHANGES OVER TIME. THIS PROPOSAL GOES AGAINST THE BASIC FOUNDATION OF EDUCATIONAL PRINCIPLES. IT GOES AGAINST THE MEANING OF "LEARNING" AND "OBTAINING KNOWLEDGE".

HR-24

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 8:32:29 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Evonne Mitsuka	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

With all that is going in Hawaii and the world nearly at the brink of war, here we are AGAIN discussing matters that are trivial and do nothing, except further polarize Hawaii's citizens. What does changing the name to Honolulu High School or removing a statue do for the betterment of its students? We all know the answer. It does absolutely NOTHING, except make a few people, who have not contributed to the greatness of McKinley High School, proud of themselves for wasting hard earned taxpayer money and limited government resources. A name change will not solve the issues that have been plaguing McKinley High School in recent years, like lower than average graduation rates, lower math and science scores, high absenteeism, and lower 9th grade to 10th grade on time promotions.

This resolution represents the lowest that politics have gone in recent years by bringing in mainland-style identity and "woke" politics and "feel good" legislation to the forefront. As an alumni of McKinley High School, I OPPOSE HR24, which does nothing to advance or enhance the education of McKinley High School students whatsoever. This "feel good" legislation only appeases a tiny sliver of society that has become intoxicated by the attention and power of identity politics. In my humble opinion, the legislature should be focusing its time, effort and taxpayer money on matters that are really affecting Hawaii's citizen, like pervasive crime, homelessness, drug use, rising costs of living, low living wages and unnecessary government spending.

HR-24

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 10:12:49 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dr. Kioni Dudley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am Kioni Dudley, Ph.D. I taught in the D.O.E. high schools for 22 years.

We need to know who President William McKinley was. We need to know of his forced, illegal Annexation of Hawai'i -- through a Resolution of Congress that contradicted the U.S. Constitution. And we need to know of his drive for destroying cultures while Americanizing conquered peoples.

Today, we read of the indoctrination of Indian children in Canada, forced to attend schools where they were propagandized, required to take on the new, white culture of their colonizer, and forbidden to speak their native language. Every bit of that happened here...to our Hawaiian students. It all happened at McKinley High School first. It all happened because of McKinley.

During Kingdom times, Hawaii had one of the highest literacy rates in the world. Some say 96%. Our King was the first head of state to travel around the world. Happenings across the planet filled our headlines. Our people were aware, alive, anxious to learn. We didn't need change. We were doing fine.

Look where our Native Hawaiian people are today. McKinley destroyed everything. We cannot continue to celebrate such a man. We need to change the name of McKinley HS.

Dr. Kioni Dudley

92-1365 Hauone Street Kapolei, Hawai'i 96707 (808) 672-8888
DrKioniDudley@hawaii.rr.com Website www.2050Hawaii.com

HR-24

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 10:16:54 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Yoon Ok Won	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose the name change for McKinley High School. It is a school community decision and should be left at that.

HR-24

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 10:22:55 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andy Ngo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

McKinley High School's name should remain as is. I am opposed to this House Resolution.

HR-24

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 10:25:12 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aaron Takeba	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This House Resolution is a waste of time and should not pass.

HR-24

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 10:29:46 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aukai Pia	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a part Hawaiian tax payer, I oppose this HR. It's senseless and why do we need to change McKinley High School's name? Not even the supporters of this HR have a clear understanding of the historical facts that they believe support this move. I strongly oppose this HR and it would be a waste of my tax dollars that the State of Hawaii could put to better use.

HR-24

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 10:33:06 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Scot Seo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose the changing of McKinley High School's name. It should be kept as is.

HR-24

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 11:13:11 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Candace Sasaki	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I would like to oppose the name changing of McKinley High School.

Testimony Opposing Name Change to President William McKinley High School

I am writing in opposition of HR 24. I am sorry that I cannot appear in person as we have a major event happening on our campus during this hearing time and will have to be on campus.

The ramifications from this are far greater than just McKinley High School. This decision would affect every single school, institution, infrastructure and businesses that is named after someone across the State. No name is spared as it applies to anything with a persons' name attached to it or it would be a discriminatory practice to target only certain names and not all.

I stated in my previous testimony to the House Committee on Education last session that this practice that we see across the nation is very scary in what they are trying to do. Erasing or changing of history and not recognizing all sides of any story, but only one point of view. We need to show our students and those who are trying to do this that everybody who has been recognized in history more than likely has something in their past practices that we deemed as inappropriate by today's standards, but at the time was an acceptable practice. We need to make sure that we present all sides to any historical figures to our students and let them not make the same mistakes in their futures that are being singled out by this movement and just to get rid of all historical figures. If we do that, then we are doomed to make the same mistakes. Without these reminders in our forefront to make us cognizant, before we act we are doing a great injustice to the future of our country.

But I think the biggest concern I have about this whole thing is not just the changing of the names of our institutions, but also the changing of our schools' whole culture, history and pride. The connection that we all have to our schools, especially high schools, go deep into the make up of who we are. We are often asked "where you grad from?" and the answer is always the name of our high school. That is how much we revere our schools and the experiences that we got in each and everyone of them. It is not about who the school is named after, but the "branding" of the school's culture that is attached to that school. Our alumni will tell you, McKinley High School is not about teaching of President McKinley only, but is about 'Pride and Tradition', the values and experiences that makes our high school unique, like all of you and what your schools' messages are to your students. We all stand to lose our identity that our schools are built on to become like so many schools across the nation of being called, for example, PS 1 in Honolulu District. Where is the pride in that? Much more simpler things have also been brought to the forefront like the school's alma mater and any other materials that carry your school's name on it or by our alumni that they will not have a school to be attached to because it no longer exists, talk to any St. Francis alumni they will voice this same concern. (I have one working for me and it is a sore topic of conversation for her, so this pains her just as much.)

Mahalo for your time as once again, I am in opposition of HR 24 Renaming of President William McKinley High School.

Ron Okamura
Principal
President William McKinley High School

HR-24

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 11:38:27 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mark T. Nakamura	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chairperson Woodson and Vice Chair Kapela,

I am writing to testify my opposition to HR24.

Thank you,

Mark Nakamura

HR-24

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 11:48:30 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nanette Kaiwi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm a Native Hawaiian, 1967 graduate of McKinley High School. I oppose the passing of this bill for a few reasons:

1. McKinley High School has a proud history. Many dignitaries, such as the late Senator Daniel Inouye, proudly hailed from this alma mater. Almost everything you read on Senator Inouye includes this school's name, McKinley High School.
2. The Hawaiian's that proposed this bill isn't from the island of O'ahu. It's their personal agenda, part of the Hawaiian activist movement pushing for this change. Yes, President McKinley was part of the overthrow of the Hawaiian Government but, that is very old history. I don't like that the statute is holding a false tariff as it exposes lies but, changing the name of our school isn't the answer. Sharing the truth is the answer.
3. Changing the name of our school will set a precedent, leading to this group to demand the renaming of other schools, such as Dole, after the first Governor after the overthrow. Who's going to pay for the cost of changing the name of McKinley, including signage, rubber stamps (for library books), uniforms (football, etc.), letterhead and other stationery, etc. The sign that the people pushing for this change, at the front of McKinley High School was paid for by the alumni association, not the Board of Education. Who will pay for a new one?

Then when this group pushes for more school names to be changed and/or statutes to be removed, who pays? THE TAXPAYERS, with money that should be used for paying teachers, repairs, maintenance, books, supplies and much, much more.

Please DO NOT PASS THIS BILL to please what I believe is a self serving minority. I personally have fought, as a Native Hawaiian on other issues but, it's around preservation of land, things for our keiki, recognition of our status.

We are not the mainland US, why these Hawaiian's want to align themselves with what's going on in the continent is unknown to me. Yes, our Queen signed those papers that led to us losing our status and land under duress but, she did it to spare bloodshed. Our people were not captured slaves, owned by humans and used for personal gain. We shouldn't be aligning with what's going on in the continental United States.

One more item, if you please. Our situation is different than that of changing Central Middle School to Princess Ruth Ke'elikōlani. That school is built on land that was hers and her home, Keoua became the first building of that school.

Mahalo for your time.

Nanette Anne Kaiwi

HR-24

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 11:48:34 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Blaine Bastatas	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose the name change of HR 24.

HR-24

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 11:50:12 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michele Fukumoto	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in opposition of HR24. I believe in the process and support the McKinley High School Community Council's decision to keep the name, as is. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition of HR24.

HR-24

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 12:00:03 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hailey Tanaka	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am oppose to the name change of McKinley High School.

March 24, 2022

Representative Justin Woodson and Members of the House Committee on Education:

My name is Carl Takamura and I am in strong opposition to HR 24/HCR26 to change the name of McKinley High School.

As a proud alumnus of the class of '62, I am well aware of the long and rich history of McKinley High School and of the many men and women who have graduated and gone on to serve our state and our country in many significant ways and I believe it would be a great disservice to these and future alumni to change the name of our school. This is particularly true for the students and alumni of McKinley HS who sacrificed their lives during World War II, and as stated in HR 64 (which is also being considered by this committee), "it is essential to pay tribute and safeguard the name of McKinley High School, to honor McKinley's High School's 132 Fallen Soldiers, who valiantly served our nation with resolution and moral rectitude".

In 1989, during the celebration of the 125th anniversary of McKinley High School, the McKinley High School Foundation was established with the simple goal of providing additional funds to enhance educational opportunities for the students of McKinley High School. The Foundation was very fortunate to have among its initial group of alumni benefactors such distinguished community leaders as Robert Pfeifer (Alexander & Baldwin), U.S. Senator Hiram Fong (Finance Factors), Jack Tsui (Panda Travel), William K. H. Mau (Waikiki Business Plaza/Waikiki Lau Yee Chai), and Robert Kaya (Robert Kaya Contractors). The Foundation also held fundraising events that honored other alumni such as the late U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye, former Governor George Ariyoshi, and current Illinois U.S. Senator Tammy Duckworth. The Foundation has awarded over \$1.5 million in scholarship since its inception, and in 2021, it awarded \$95,000 in scholarships to 44 McKinley graduates.

I mentioned the establishment and success of the McKinley HS Foundation primarily as an example of the many people and organizations from across Hawaii who believe in and support McKinley High School and its students.

Please do not approve HR24. Mahalo.

HR-24

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 12:35:17 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vern Miyagi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:



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Osa Tui, Jr.
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Lisa Morrison
Secretary-Treasurer

Wilbert Holck
Executive Director

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

RE: HR 24, URGING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF
HCR 26 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.

THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 2022

JODI KUNIMITSU, CHAIR, HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS COMMITTEE
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kapela, and members of the House Committee on Education:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association's Human and Civil Rights Committee **supports HR 24 and HCR 26** urging the Board of Education and Department of Education to change the name of President William McKinley High School and to remove the statue of President McKinley from the school premises.

Our committee is made up of educators across the state who are passionate about racial and social justice work. We strive to promote non-discriminatory spaces for educators and learners, and advocate on behalf of our students and communities; a reflection of HSTA's value to uphold high standards of truth and ethics.

We believe the name President William McKinley High School is damaging to our students, especially those in our Native Hawaiian community, given McKinley's illegal annexation of a kingdom against the will of her queen and people. We cannot keep turning a blind eye to this dark stain in Hawai'i's history, and the continued oppression and harm it causes to this day.

Communities across the country have taken bold steps to scrutinize, change, and even dismantle monuments, names, and mascots as we learn and understand more about colonization and white supremacy and their devastating impacts on indigenous groups and communities of color.

It's time for Hawai'i to do the same.

The decision in 1907 to glorify the U.S. president reflected a larger movement to indoctrinate students and erase their cultural identity. His statue carries a treaty of annexation, a document that does not exist since it failed to get a two-thirds vote for ratification by the U.S. Senate and was never signed by the Hawaiian Kingdom.

The school's name and statue are clear evidence of violent colonization and assimilation. If we allow their perpetuation, we ignore the harm they brought and continue to bring, as well as those in our community who have come forward to share their stories of trauma and struggle. We cannot expect Native Hawaiian students, or those of any oppressed cultures and people, to pursue an education under the shadow of a figure who robbed their elders of their own education. We must reflect; we must listen; we must act, or else we are no better than our predecessors.

Some may argue that keeping the name or statue keeps the history alive. But countless examples across the country prove otherwise. We don't need names and statues to remind us of trauma. People who experience trauma will never forget, and it is not our place to dictate how they heal.

Changing this school's name will not erase or diminish the impressive accomplishments, pride, and accolades of its students, alumni, faculty, staff, and supporters. The school's proud legacy never relied on a mere name, but rather the people who make up its distinguished, vibrant community. A person's love of school and love of name are not the same.

We view this change as an opportunity to celebrate, not cancel. We have a chance to truly honor a great school with a better name that properly reflects the rich essence of a respected and storied school. Therefore, **we ask for your support of HR 24 and HCR 26** to change the name of McKinley High School to one that reflects the true spirit of our islands.

Mahalo nui for your time and consideration to do what is right for future generations of Hawai'i's keiki.

HR-24

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 1:01:37 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Garnett	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Honorable Justin Woodson, Chair

House of Representatives

Committee on Education

Dear Chair Woodson and Members of the House Committee on Education:

I am testifying in strong opposition to HCR 26 and HR 24, urging the Superintendent to request that the Board of Education to change the name of McKinley High School to Honolulu High School and remove the statue of President William McKinley from the premises.

I come from a family of proud McKinley High School graduates. I am a public school teacher with 20+ years of service. I am also a member of the Hawaii State Teachers Association (HSTA).

While attending McKinley High School, the students were made well aware of the deep rooted Pride and Traditions that have been carried on for generations. As one walked the halls of the Administration building, you were surrounded by not only the photos of distinguished alumni but their stories of success and positive contributions to society. The annual Hall of Honor Assembly highlighted the accomplishments of the alumni honorees being inducted, inspiring the student body to aspire to higher achievements. This caused us, as students, to pause and think, who in our class would one day have the honor of being inducted into McKinley's Hall of Honor? The traditions and pride felt by the students,

faculty, staff, and alumni of McKinley High School were that of those who attended and worked at the school and not a reflection of the president of which the school was named after.

As a member of HSTA I disagree with their involvement in this matter. I was never asked my opinion.

Sincerely,

Lisa (Chang) Garnett

McKinley High School Class of 1991

Public School Teacher for 20+ years

Member of HSTA

HR-24

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 1:06:07 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alita Charron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear BOARD OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION,

I am a proud graduate of our public school system and a proud alumae of McKinley High School, formerly Honolulu High School. As I consider what my children are now learning in the public school system and what I learned in the University of Hawai'i system, I strongly support HR24 in renaming McKinley High back to Honolulu High and removing McKinley's statue from the campus. By doing so, we not only teach but show our students and keiki the importance of place, context, and the righting of wrongs.

Although I am not native Hawaiian, I was born and raised here, and have not lived anywhere else. This is partly due to circumstance, and now choice. Honoring Honolulu High School as the rightful name is so much more meaningful than a president who does not reflect Hawai'i at all. Neither does McKinley's statue.

Consider, also, the taking down of problematic statues of individuals whose historic record is not reflective of an honorable life worthy of a statue. Likewise, a school whose certificates and diplomas are handed out to thousands of students every year is also problematic. As is McKinley's own statue on campus further harm our students and community in reinforcing harmful and hurtful histories.

I fully support HR24 to rename McKinley High to Honolulu High and remove McKinley's statue from campus as someone who would be directly impacted.

Thank you,

Alita

The Honorable Justin Woodson, Chair
House of Representatives
Committee on Education

Re: In OPPOSITION of HR24 and House Concurrent Resolution HCR26

Dear Chair Woodson and Members of the House Committee on Education:

My name is Chieko Higuchi, MHS Class of 1966, and I am testifying in opposition of HR24 and Concurrent Resolution HCR26. I strongly oppose the Board of Education and Department of Education to change the name of President William McKinley High School back to Honolulu High School and to remove the statue of President McKinley from the school premises.

Since President William McKinley High School (referred as McKinley High School or MHS) was founded in 1865 and known then as Fort Street English Day School, it was known as McKinley High School since 1905 until now in 2022. McKinley High School is going into its 117th year being known as President William McKinley High School by all its alumni from 1905 until the present time. It was only called "Honolulu High School" for 12 years, from 1895, when the Fort Street English Day School was split into Ka'iulani Elementary School and "Honolulu High School". In 1907 "Honolulu High School's" name was changed to what it is today, President William McKinley High School. In 1923 McKinley High School moved to Beretania and Victoria Streets.

In 1898 Hawaii was annexed to the United States as a Territory by President McKinley signing a joint resolution to annex the Hawaiian Islands. This was an incredibly sad time for the Hawaiians because their monarchy was replaced by Hawaii as a Territory of the U.S. Hawaii remained a Territory of the U.S. until it became the 50th state of the U.S. in 1959. Since then, our Congressional delegation has helped to pass bills that have granted the Hawaiian Homelands Commission and other government organizations a lot of funds to assist Hawaiians in getting housing, loans, jobs, and job training, and medical facilities. At the website: <https://www.usgrants.org/Hawaii> it lists \$3,258.00 million dollars in government grants and \$2,560. Million dollars in other forms of federal financial assistance for citizens and permanent residents who live in the State of Hawaii. As long as you have a citizenship certificate (green card) or a permanent residence certificate, you could be eligible to apply and receive Hawaii government grants. There is no need to change the name of President William McKinley High School and perhaps it is because of the recognition that our high school has brought to the State of Hawaii with its vast number of leaders to our community that the Hawaiians are very fortunate to make it become known nationally as being one of those schools listed on the National Register of Historic Places since 1980. The architect most involved with the design of its Spanish Colonial Revival buildings was Louis E. Davis. ‘

The history of the students at McKinley High School is admirable and really depicts their sense of “Pride” and “Code of Honor” which was written in 1927 by student: Mun Chee Chun which MHS students have tried to display and maintain. During World War II, MHS students volunteered at Red Cross Stations, supported selling war bonds, and raised enough funds to purchase a B-24 Liberator bomber, named Madame Pele for the United States Air Force. A “Hall of Honor” was established at McKinley High School, to acknowledge outstanding citizens who attended McKinley High School. McKinley High School became their “Alma Mater.” Those alumni who attended McKinley High School have shown their appreciation for the school, its significance and how they want to keep “McKinley High School’s” name when they wrote their comments and signed the “Petition to Keep the Name of President McKinley High School”. This petition (one of several petitions) presently has 1,460 signatures with hundreds of opinions from alumni, students attending McKinley High School and others, who do NOT want to change the name of McKinley High School. When evaluating whether a school’s name should be changed, it is very important to get community input as well input from those alumni who attended the school. In January 2022, I believe that the School Community Council (SCC) voted to NOT change the name of the school, and NOT to take down the statute of President William McKinley.

Here are some of the many inductees, listed by last name (year of graduation or years of birth and death). There probably are more to add to the ones I have listed below:

1. [Satoru Abe](#) (1926) -sculptor
2. [Joseph Kaiponohea ‘Ae’a](#) (1882-1914) hanai son of Queen Lili’uokalani
3. [Abraham Akaka](#) -Minister
4. [George R. Ariyoshi](#) (1944) – Governor of State of Hawaii (1974-1986); First American of Japanese descent elected governor in the United States
5. [Gladys Kamakakuokalani Brandt](#)
6. [Larry Buenafe](#) (1988) U.S. Marine Corps, Sergeant Major, first Filipino American to serve as the Sergeant Major for Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 369, served in six combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan
7. [Tammy Duckworth](#) (1985) – U.S. Army Major, and Iraq War veteran. Democratic member of U.S. Senator from the State of Illinois from 2017.
8. [Hiram L. Fong](#) (1924) – U.S. Senator (1959 – 1977)
9. [Harry “Fuji” Fujiwara](#) (1949) former pro wrestler, most popularly known as Mr. Fuji for World Wrestling Entertainment
10. [Leina’ala Kalama Heine](#) (1958) – kumu hula
11. [Yuna Ito](#) (2001) – J-pop singer; in 2007 released debut album, HEART, which debuted as #1 on the Oricon charts in Japan
12. [Daniel Inouye](#) (1924-2012) – U.S. Army’s 442nd Combat Team; Medal of Honor Recipient; U.S. Representative (1959-1962); U.S. Senator (1962-2012). Was President pro tempore of the U.S. Senate, the 4th highest-ranking member of the U.S. Government
13. [Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson](#) (1986-1987) Professional actor
14. [Duke P. Kahanamoku](#) – Olympic gold medalist in swimming (1912 and 1920)

15. [Benny Kalama](#) – Musician, falsetto singer
16. [Keichi Kimura](#) – artist
17. [Wah Kau Kong](#) – First Chinese American fighter pilot in World War II
18. [Ford Konno](#) (1952) won four medals in swimming in 1952 and Olympic Games

19. [Arthur Lyman](#) (1932-2002) - jazz vibraphonist
20. [Masaji Marumoto](#) (1906-1995) Hawaii Supreme Court Judge
21. [Fujio Matsuda](#) (1942) – educator
22. [Edith Kawelohea McKinzie](#) (1925 -2014), author, genealogist; traditional hula expert
23. [Leroy A. Mendonca](#) (1932-1951) U.S. Army Sgt. Killed in combat In Korean War, Medal of Honor
24. [Alice Sae Teshima Noda](#) (1894-1964) entrepreneur
25. [Frederick Pang](#) (1954), U.S. Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Manpower and Reserve Affairs: 1993-94)
26. [Paul Schrier](#) (1985) actor
27. [Alfred Song](#) (1936) California State Assemblyman and State Senator
28. [John Chin Young](#) (1909-1997) artist

All these “Hall of Honorees” who attended McKinley High School, were chosen for having made a great contribution to humanity and to our society. Class reunion organizations, foundations in memory of people who attended McKinley High School have been made, class websites, Facebook and Instagram websites, McKinley Alumni Association have been made with the name of McKinley High School. Changing the name of the school, would greatly impact these organizations that have been in existence for a long time.

In conclusion, I feel that public input from the petitions of alumni, students attending McKinley High School, the School Community Council (SCC) and other interested parties have shown that they Do NOT want the name of McKinley High School to be changed. More effort needs to be made in getting the funds from all the federal grants shown at the website: <https://www.usgrants.org/Hawaii> given to the Hawaiian people to be used to find them jobs, loans, housing, medical assistance, that they may need. Why disrupt the lives of our high school students for more than 5 years now regarding a name change in the school, when more productive effort can be made to bring the funds to the schools to provide them with better educational work-study programs, and enrichment programs, etc.

Sincerely,
Chieko Higuchi
Resident of Mililani, Hawaii
McKinley High School Class of 1966

Testimony Before the House Education on Education

RE: HR24/HCR26 - 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.

Laverne Moore, Special Education Teacher at McKinley High School

Chair Woodson, and Members of the Committee

I, Laverne Fernandes Moore, strongly support resolution HR24 / HCR 26.

As a Native Hawaiian woman who grew up under colonization, I personally experienced what colonization does to a child at a very young age. One is forbidden to speak its native tongue; have a Hawaiian first name and mandated to have an English first name, forbidden to learn and practice your cultural practices, beliefs and values in public. Colonization repeals individual rights and makes one feel less than.

Growing up, I felt marginalized, and I didn't understand why. I only learned to be proud of my Native Hawaiian identity as an adult, and realized I need to fight for what is **"Pono"**.

I started teaching special education at McKinley High School in 2001, and I absolutely love it. But I will always struggle with the name McKinley, because President McKinley represents the illegal takeover of our Hawaiian government and our freedom as native Hawaiians. It still hurts. It will always hurt.

When I look at my indigenous students who are Micronesian and Samoan, I see colonization and how we robbed them of their culture and their way of life. I see the displacement and its impacts, and I can't ignore that. I'm transported back to my childhood. I see a lost young girl who was stripped of her rights, and my heart aches. We were deprived of so much.

Today, Hawaiians continue to suffer the effects of colonization. Our language was banned in 1896, resulting in several generations of Hawaiians, including myself, whose only language is English. Our lands and waters have been taken for military bases, resorts, urbanization and plantation agriculture.

What's in a name? In our Hawaiian culture, a name is bestowed, a connection is made, a story told, history preserved, someone honored, a hope expressed.

The name President William McKinley High School is not "Pono" in the Hawaiian tradition for President McKinley is not a person who embellishes Honor and Respect, but the history of destruction of our Hawaiian culture, government, way of life and forcing native Hawaiians to assimilate and forgo their own sovereignty.

President William McKinley represents the injustice he created for the Kingdom of Hawaii and its people.

To undo a legacy of colonization on the Kingdom of Hawaii and its people, I urge you to **support** this resolution.

HR-24

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 1:51:43 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Kaneshiro	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We need to honor and respect the students of McKinley High School and keep the name and allow the statue to represent the pride and tradition.

Thank you.

HR-24

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 1:52:22 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Holly Honbo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose the name change of McKinley High School (HR24).

I am neither an alumna nor a faculty or staff member of McKinley High School.

All of us who grew up in Hawaii fiercely love our high schools, and our connections extend years beyond the classroom walls, as evidenced by alumni associations and foundations which support them, and also by the number of alumni who attend Homecoming events. In Hawaii, our high schools instill a sense of individual, generational, and communal pride.

McKinley High School has been that source of identity, pride and connection for hundreds of thousands of alumni and an entire community for over a century. In these uncertain times, especially, we can, I think, agree that anything surviving 100 years is astounding.

Throughout its 100+ year history, McKinley High School has always boasted a robust enrollment. It is a school that current students, alumni, and their families are proud to be associated with. Indeed, each year, hundreds of students from other schools apply for a Geographic Exemption to attend McKinley High School. **Students flock to McKinley High School.** Students want to attend McKinley High School, and their parents want their children to attend this diverse and successful institution of education as well.

It is they who will suffer unless you oppose the name change. Do not strip them of what they hold dear. Oppose this bill.

Please do not be swayed by individuals, perhaps with hidden agendas, who seem to create a problem where one does not exist. Do not allow this bill to be passed. It only serves to create

division and attempts to draw lines between people to divide our local culture. All of Hawaii will suffer if you allow mainland trends to destroy the beautiful balance of cultures and peoples into which Hawaii has evolved. Let us go forward. Please oppose this bill.....again.

Thank you.

HR-24

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 1:54:34 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Manuel Pulido	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to oppose the name changing of McKinley High School. For more than 150 years, McKinley High School has stood strong and held itself up on two main pillars: Pride and Tradition. A name change would cause great disturbances to the traditions and practices students look forward to every year, and slight the alumni who have graduated as “McKinley Tigers”. We would like to preserve the history, pride, and tradition of McKinley High School and its alumni as it currently is without a name change. Furthermore, the Reserve Officers' Training Corps program at McKinley High school is celebrating its 100 Year Anniversary this year. In the past ROTC was mandatory for students until the late 1960s. The Pride and Tradition of many of the McKinley High School students who learned these time-honored values taught by the ROTC: Duty, Respect, Honor, Integrity, and Service - has served Hawaii and the global community with many McKinley graduates making a positive influence on our society. I highly recommend that we keep the McKinley name on the high school to honor all of those, including myself, a 1990 McKinley High graduate and former ROTC Cadet at the school.

Manuel Pulido

Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army Retired

HR-24

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 1:54:41 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ocean Ko	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am strongly against the motion laid out with this resolution.

HR-24

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 2:53:01 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robyn Tom	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Robyn Tom and I am a proud graduate of McKinley High School. I am submitting testimony in opposition to HR24.

McKinley High School is a school rich in tradition. Changing the school name will not change history. It is through educating our students, facilitating debate and dialogue, and supporting critical thinking that we will ensure our students understand the past to make the right decisions for the future. Let's focus on what will truly make a difference.

Mahalo,

Robyn Tom

HR-24

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 4:31:22 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Heather Graeber	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support!

HR-24

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 5:32:06 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anela Lewis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Anela Lewis and I am in support of returning the original and respectful names to the schools brought to your attention. The people of Hawai‘i have no cause to celebrate President Mckinley as Hawai‘i had no wish to be apart of the US, we must correct this wrong by returning the schools original name or renaming it to something or someone respectable to Hawai‘i and removing its statue of Mckinley. It's important to preserve Hawai‘i in any way we can as the islands and people have already experienced desecration and generational trauma due to unjustified colonization and false annexation. Please help us decolonize our systems for the betterment of the future, one step at a time.

Mahalo,

Anela Lewis

HR-24

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 6:52:12 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bixby Ho	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Legislators,

My name is Bixby Ho, I am a class of 1998 graduate of President William McKinley High School in Honolulu, Hawai'i.

I am submitting testimony **against HR24**, urging to change of the name of this great institution to Honolulu High School.

The late Secretary of State Madeleine Albright once said, "History is written backwards but lived forwards."

If changing the name of President William McKinley High School means so much, then why are we not changing the names of other great institutions like Washington Middle School, Dole Middle School, Lincoln Elementary School, Roosevelt High School?

This institution has a long rich history that will live far beyond any of us. I ask that the members to not even consider this resolution and work on issues that face us today.

Changing the name of this beloved insitution will do more harm than good.

I thank you for the opportunity to be read.

Sincerely,

Bixby Ho

Class of 1998 Alumni

President William McKinley High School

CHAIR WOODSON, VICE-CHAIR KAPELA, & MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

House Resolution 24

Thursday - March 24th, 2022
2:00pm at Hawaii State Capitol Rm. 309 via Videoconference

IN OPPOSITION

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice-Chair Kapela and Members of the House Committee on Education,

I am Chance K. Na'auao-Ota. I am a proud McKinley Tiger class of 2018 and I am testifying *against* House Resolution 24.

Ever since the last time a resolution related to the changing of the name of McKinley High School came about, much has changed. Since then, there have been public discussions relating to the topic. From much deliberation from McKinley High School's School Community Council to a public forum on Thinktech Hawai'i shown on PBS Hawai'i. Also since then, McKinley High School's School Community Council has voted **not** in favor of the name change. This decision has been passed along to the Board of Education and the Superintendent for the area as well, to the best of my knowledge and understanding. Many of the school's faculty, staff, alumni, parents, students and community members along with their friends have gotten together to oppose this sort of action as well. In fact since the time of HR 148 back in 2021 there has been a petition to keep the McKinley High School name that as of 01/31/2022 has reached 4,622 signatures compared to the petition put out to change the name back in 2015 which has, as of 03/23/2022, 4,321 signatures.

Once again the argument about the erection of President McKinley's statue is brought up and I still have the same response and clear factual document to rebut that.

I do know for certain that there is a newspaper article with quotes from then Governor Sanford B. Dole stating the following.

“It is believed that the project of erecting a local memorial to Mr. McKinley, if carried out by all classes of the Hawaiian population, and participated in by the school children, will tend to develop patriotism and go to strengthen the interest of our people in American institutions and ideals.”

-The Hawaiian Star (Honolulu, HI) 22 November 1901 pg. 1 *The M'Kinley Memorial-*

Again I will say that to say that the statue of William McKinley put up at the highschool of topic was to perpetuate the subjugation of the Hawaiian people is blatant conjecture, and to say that it's purpose was to reinforce a “lie,” that the Hawaiian Islands were then a territory of the United States of Hawaii is a twist of the truth. Although to be fair we cannot truly know what conspired aside from what was left behind, such as the Hawaiian Star Newspaper Article mentioned above.

If I recall correctly, was it not the missionaries who first came to Hawai'i who robbed the Hawaiian people of their language & cultural identity. Also, if we are going to talk about some atrocities against the Hawaiian people then why not start with former Governor Sanford B. Dole? To this, I ask the sponsors and authors of this resolution. To one of whom I asked a similar question on the PBS' Think Tech segment relating to the name change and the removal of the President McKinley statue from campus grounds. After all, Sanford B. Dole was part of the conspirators who actually overthrew the Kingdom of Hawai'i. Then he became the man became the first leader of the government which replaced the Kingdom of Hawai'i. His role and title then, being the Governor of the Republic of Hawai'i. Let us act on those who actually had a hand to play in the overthrow, than those who had no hand in it. I say this in the context of separating the overthrow from the annexation of the State of Hawai'i because I believe that we should begin to recognize these as two separate events, which people are understandably upset about.

We must not let our feelings blind us from what is right and what is wrong, from strength and from weakness. This continual attack on my school's name must stop here, because there are more pressing matters happening in our State. There are other school's names that should be up on the chopping

block before McKinley's if this is what the authors and sponsors of this resolution want. I will say this though, I believe that they will be met with the same resistance and the same objections that they face here. Yes, Central Middle School changed their name to Princess Ke'elikolani Middle School. This is great and I am glad for them for making that decision. Now, I want the language I used to resonate with the fellow committee members and concerned community members reading this. The community and ohana within the now Princess Ke'elikolani Middle School made their name change from Central Middle School happen, *they* did that. It was not some outside force or persons pushing their will upon them.

The reason I bring this up is because that is what is happening here with this resolution and with Aoloa Patao's Petition, the sponsors and supporters of this resolution wish to push their will on the community and ohana of McKinley High School. This now brings me back to my earlier point that we must not let our feelings blind us from what is right and what is wrong, because this is wrong. Especially from a governmental standpoint, when people speak of government overreach this is a good example of it. If we should ever feel the need to change the school's name we will reach out to the Board of Education and to the area Superintendent ourselves, but this will not and should not happen through a House Resolution.

The sponsors and authors of this resolution speak of, "Hawaii's public school system has a responsibility to promote historical understanding, racial equity, and civil rights." Let us touch upon historical understanding. To fully understand history, we must take a look at both sides and all parts of history. Not just the bits and pieces we find convenient and not the side we only agree with. Also, since there is mention of historical injustice and discrimination I would appreciate it if the authors and sponsors of House Resolution 24 could please give a few examples and with proof of what they are referring to.

To end this I will input a quote from former U.S. Representative Colleen Hanabusa talking about McKinley High School alumni, the late U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye.

"I still remember his political poster, when I began to recognize political posters, solid black with Dan, his signature in yellow, simple yet strong as he was. I didn't know at that time the

significance of the colors. Those with the colors of his alma mater, McKinley High School, again a statement that he never forgot where he came from.” - Colleen Hanabusa”

Mahalo for taking the time to read my testimony. I urge the members of the Hawai’i House Education Committee to vote **no** to this resolution. I say this with McKinley Tiger Pride and with Black and Gold running through my veins. “Go, McKinley Tigers, fight boys til the end.” That little tidbit takes a part from McKinley’s High School’s fight song, the “Black and Gold.”

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H2-a', with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Chance K. Na’auao-Ota

Phone: n/a

Email: cnaauaoo808@gmail.com

HR-24

Submitted on: 3/24/2022 8:33:59 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bliss Kaneshiro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a graduate of McKinley High School I strongly support changing the name of the school back to Honolulu High School. I chose to attend McKinley - using a geographic exemption to attend the same High School that my grandfather attended. I attribute much of my professional success to the education I received at McKinley (I am now a physician).

It is also a tradition to do what is right and correct injustices when you can. I recognize the trauma the name McKinley evokes.

Lets change the name to Honolulu High (Go Tigers!)

Bliss Kaneshiro

HR-24

Submitted on: 3/24/2022 8:36:41 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Danielle Espiritu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai,

I am writing in support of HR 24 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.

As a Kanaka Maoli, and as someone whose kūpuna (ancestors) were Hawaiian Kingdom subjects who openly opposed and prevented the passing of any treaty annexation between Hawai‘i and the United States, it is appalling to think that we have a high school that is commemorating actions that never took place. No treaty of annexation exists to this day because of the actions of the vast majority living in Hawai‘i in the late 1800s, both Hawaiian and non-Hawaiian. President McKinley's proposed treaty of annexation never passed in Congress. To suggest that it did, as the current statue does, is simply false.

Furthermore, to honor and memorialize an individual directly responsible for morally questionable and illegal actions, in the very place affected most deeply by those actions, is incredibly dishonoring to Kanaka and to the thousands of Hawaiian Kingdom subjects who peacefully and legally stood against his proposed treaty.

We have an opportunity today to set that narrative straight, and I implore you to use your power to do so. Let us not continue to promote and memorialize a false history glorifies one of the greatest injustices Hawai‘i has seen.

Mahalo,

Danielle Espiritu

Waimalu, ‘Ewa, O‘ahu

HR-24

Submitted on: 3/24/2022 9:15:49 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Harrinette Holt-Hansen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Harrinette Holt-Hansen,

I support HR 24.

If we are to lead by example, and I trust most parents and adults do, then it would behoove those making this decision to support Hr24.

Living in dishonesty is not a good example and aside from academics in our school, we try to instill good sportsmanship, tolerance, honesty and all the qualities and good morals to lead our young to a successful and good life.

We oppose violence, tyranny and bullies! We don't like liars, thieves or people like Putin who wants the world to believe that Ukraine is not a sovereign nation. Let's be honest, this is akin to what the U.S. has done and there are no justifications to make a wrong right. In Honolulu at a school that was once named Honolulu School, bears the name and a statue that symbolizes all that we should and do oppose. We owe this to the world and not just to our children and people of Hawaii.