

MAR 11 2022

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TASK FORCE TO EXPLORE THE  
FEASIBILITY OF RESTORING OR CHANGING HISTORICAL PLACENAMES  
ON STREETS.

1 WHEREAS, in recent years across the nation, there has been  
2 a push to address America's dark past regarding locations named  
3 after racist and negative figures from American history; and  
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5 WHEREAS, this has manifested itself most prominently in the  
6 debate over whether to rename locations or remove monuments and  
7 statues dedicated to Confederate soldiers and generals who were  
8 traitors against the United States as well as ardent advocates  
9 of white supremacy who should not be honored in the present day;  
10 and  
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12 WHEREAS, in the continental United States, many cities,  
13 municipalities, and states have changed the names of streets  
14 that were named after these racist historical figures and have  
15 renamed them to honor people of color or other non-controversial  
16 figures; and  
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18 WHEREAS, similarly, while there are not many streets named  
19 after Confederates in the State of Hawaii, there are however,  
20 streets named to honor negative figures from Hawai'i's past such  
21 as people who overthrew the monarchy and made active efforts to  
22 suppress the use of the Hawaiian language and culture; and  
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24 WHEREAS, additionally, there are streets that had their  
25 traditional names changed to replace their original Hawaiian  
26 language names with generic names; and  
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28 WHEREAS, because several states and municipalities have  
29 taken the lead on this area such as the city of New Orleans and  
30 the city of San Francisco, the State of Hawaii has many examples  
31 of criteria to pick and choose from in order to create a set of  
32 guidelines to use when deciding what street names to change; and



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2 WHEREAS, a delicate balance needs to be struck between  
3 historical preservation and revisionism, and the goal should be  
4 to change some names, mainly the most egregious examples, but  
5 not to rename every single street; and  
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7 WHEREAS, it should also be noted that renaming streets is  
8 not a task for one government agency, because of different  
9 jurisdictional oversight, different agencies are responsible for  
10 the naming and renaming process; and  
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12 WHEREAS, the feasibility of renaming the streets needs to  
13 be considered as well as input from the communities in the areas  
14 where the streets are located along with other relevant  
15 stakeholders; now, therefore,  
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17 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first  
18 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022, the  
19 House of Representatives concurring, that this body requests  
20 that a task force be formed to examine the feasibility of  
21 renaming streets; and  
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to  
24 consider using the following standard when trying to determine  
25 if a street name should be changed due to the individual having  
26 a problematic history: whether the individual owned slaves, had  
27 a documented history of gender or racialized violence, engaged  
28 in active attempts to circumvent democratic rights of citizens,  
29 engaged in documented attempts to overthrow a legitimate  
30 government, or engaged in active efforts to suppress the use of  
31 the Hawaiian language and culture; and  
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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to  
34 invite additional organizations or agencies to participate on  
35 the task force and that agencies may request to be put on or  
36 taken off the task force; and  
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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to  
39 include the following in its study:  
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- 41 (1) A list of potential streets to be renamed that meet  
42 the criteria; and



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(2) A feasibility report on renaming each street on the list of potential candidates to be renamed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to submit a preliminary report of its findings and recommendations to the Legislature no later than forty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2023; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director of Transportation, Director of Accounting and General Services, Administrator of the State Historic Preservation Division, Chairperson of the Maui County Council, Chairperson of the Hawaii County Council, Chairperson of the Kauai County Council, and Chairperson of the Honolulu City Council.

OFFERED BY: Kal Nkash

