

MAR 10 2023

SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO
RENAME DEAN HALL AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA TO
"ALICE BALL HALL".

1 WHEREAS, Alice Augusta Ball was a talented chemist who made
2 significant contributions to the field of medicine by
3 discovering a treatment for leprosy, or Hansen's disease, a
4 disease thought to be incurable at the time; and
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6 WHEREAS, Alice Ball was the first woman and first African
7 American to receive a master's degree from the University of
8 Hawaii, then the College of Hawaii, and the University's first
9 female and African American chemistry instructor; and
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11 WHEREAS, Alice Ball's master's thesis involved the study of
12 the chemical properties of the Kava plant species, which further
13 led Dr. Harry T. Hollmann to approach Ball regarding the study
14 of chemical properties of chaulmoogra oil for the treatment of
15 Hansen's disease; and
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17 WHEREAS, Alice Ball's research led her to develop a new,
18 highly effective injectable form of chaulmoogra oil that was
19 quickly used to treat Hansen's disease patients both in Hawaii
20 and around the world, revolutionizing treatment and pivotally
21 shifting the fight against the disease; and
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23 WHEREAS, in 1918, a Hawaii physician reported in the
24 *Journal of the American Medical Association* that Board of Health
25 examiners released seventy-eight patients from Kalihi Hospital
26 following treatment with injections of Alice Ball's modified
27 chaulmoogra oil; and
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29 WHEREAS, Alice Ball's groundbreaking work directly impacted
30 the eight thousand people that, upon diagnosis with Hansen's
31 disease, were able to receive treatment in their homes rather
32 than be exiled to Kalaupapa, Molokai; and
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34 WHEREAS, despite Alice Ball's short research career due to
35 her passing at age twenty-four, her legacy lives on through her



1 contributions to the treatment of Hansen's disease, as
2 injections of modified chaulmoogra oil remained the preferred
3 treatment for Hansen's disease until sulfonamide drugs were
4 developed in the 1940s; and

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6 WHEREAS, Alice Ball's contributions went unacknowledged
7 until the twenty-first century; and

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9 WHEREAS, Arthur L. Dean, a chemist, Alice Ball's graduate
10 study adviser, and later President of the University of Hawaii,
11 continued Ball's work and began producing large quantities of
12 the injectable chaulmoogra extract but failed to credit Ball in
13 published research findings, renaming Ball's technique the "Dean
14 Method", despite Dr. Hollmann's objections; and

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16 WHEREAS, "Dean Hall" is a building named after Arthur L.
17 Dean at the University of Hawaii at Manoa campus; and

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19 WHEREAS, renaming Dean Hall to "Alice Ball Hall" is a
20 fitting tribute to one of the University of Hawaii at Manoa's
21 most impactful students and instructors and would help
22 commemorate, increase awareness, and ensure due recognition of
23 Ball's work; now, therefore,

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25 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
26 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023,
27 that the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii is urged
28 to rename the University of Hawaii at Manoa's Dean Hall to
29 "Alice Ball Hall" in honor of Alice Augusta Ball's contributions
30 to the field of medicine and impact on the University of Hawaii
31 and the world; and

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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
34 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Board of Regents of
35 the University of Hawaii, and President of the University of
36 Hawaii.

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39 OFFERED BY: 

