
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS AND THE STATE OF HAWAI`I TO AFFIRM AND SUPPORT THE HISTORIC, CULTURAL, AND SACRED SIGNIFICANCE OF MAUNA`ALA-THE ROYAL MAUSOLEUM.

1 WHEREAS, following the 1862 death of their four-year-old
2 son, Prince Albert Edward Kauikeaouli, "Ka Haku O Hawai`i", King
3 Kamehameha IV and Queen Emma began planning a royal mausoleum as
4 a fitting resting place for the Prince, and for the `iwi kūpuna
5 of the ali`i who, at the time, were interred in an over-crowded
6 and insufficient tomb on the grounds of Pohukaina, fronting what
7 is now `Iolani Palace; and
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9 WHEREAS, in 1864, after the passing of King Kamehameha IV,
10 his brother and successor, Lot Kekuapoaiwa, King Kamehameha V,
11 continued the plans to develop Mauna`ala--the Royal Mausoleum--
12 in Nu`uanu, on the island of O`ahu; and
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14 WHEREAS, upon the Royal Mausoleum's completion in 1865, and
15 on the evening of October 12, eighteen royal caskets were
16 removed from their coral tomb at Pohukaina and, in a formal
17 procession, were interred at the Royal Mausoleum. From that
18 time forward, the ruling ali`i and their families have been
19 interred there, including all of the Kamehameha line, with the
20 exception of Kamehameha I, and the Kalakaua line; and
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22 WHEREAS, following the illegal overthrow of the Kingdom of
23 Hawai`i in 1893 and the annexation of Hawai`i in 1898, the
24 Congress of the United States, nevertheless, took steps to
25 recognize and protect the sacred and culturally unique purpose
26 for which Mauna`ala was created; and
27

28 WHEREAS, in 1900, Congress passed Joint Resolution 28 of
29 the fifty-sixth Congress, which stated that the Royal Mausoleum



1 would be "forever reserved for the purpose to which the said
2 lands have been heretofore dedicated and for which they have
3 been heretofore used"; and
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5 WHEREAS, confirmation for the perpetuity and protection of
6 this site was echoed in a letter dated March 8, 1950, from the
7 Department of the Attorney General of the Territory of Hawai`i
8 to the Honorable Samuel Wilder King, which stated that the
9 "Royal Mausoleum premises were dedicated as a burial ground for
10 members of the Royal family of Hawai`i. The resolution was
11 designed to perpetuate the dedication of the premises as a
12 mausoleum for the old Hawaiian kings and members of the royal
13 family by making certain that the premises would not be disposed
14 of under the public land laws of the United States"; and
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16 WHEREAS, the care and maintenance of Mauna`ala, from that
17 time, has been the kuleana of the State of Hawai`i through the
18 State Parks Division of the Department of Land and Natural
19 Resources; and
20

21 WHEREAS, the civic clubs of the O`ahu Council are to be
22 commended for contributing to the care of Mauna`ala through
23 rotating the responsibilities for chapel cleaning; and
24

25 WHEREAS, the students of Kamehameha School are also to be
26 commended for their generous contribution in assisting with the
27 cleaning and care of Mauna`ala; and
28

29 WHEREAS, a provision in the will of Mr. Charles Reed
30 Bishop, who built the Kamehameha crypt for the Kamehameha Ali`i
31 provides evidence of the history of maintenance and upkeep of
32 Mauna`ala; and
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34 WHEREAS, Charles Reed Bishop committed in his will, to
35 honoring the resting place of our ali`i by providing for "such
36 sum as may be necessary for the care, repair, maintenance, and
37 improvement of the tomb, monument and grounds in Nu`uanu, in
38 said City of Honolulu, where are deposited the remains of my
39 late wife, and other Hawaiian chiefs"; and
40



1 WHEREAS, however, due to specific limitations in the trust
2 pertaining to the maintenance costs, the trust is financially
3 unable to subsidize all of the repair and maintenance needs of
4 the Royal Mausoleum, which still remains the responsibility, and
5 under the jurisdiction, of the State of Hawai'i; and
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7 WHEREAS, there presently exists significant structural and
8 maintenance needs affecting the Chapel and grounds of Mauna`ala,
9 including erosion of retaining walls, repairs needed to maintain
10 the crypts, upkeep of the paved areas within the grounds, and
11 many other needs requiring substantial funding; and
12

13 WHEREAS, Mauna`ala is culturally sacred and unique, and
14 deserving of adequate state funding for its appropriate upkeep;
15 now, therefore,
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17 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
18 Twenty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
19 of 2006, the Senate concurring, that the Association of Hawaiian
20 Civic Clubs is requested to support the preservation of
21 Mauna`ala through measures demonstrating its commitment to this
22 project; and
23

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Department of Land and
25 Natural Resources is strongly encouraged to accept its
26 historical and moral responsibility for properly caring for this
27 sacred site and to acknowledge that Mauna`ala is not merely
28 another "park" or recreation site, but rather a unique cultural
29 treasure that must be appropriately funded, protected, and cared
30 for as the final resting place of our Ali'i; and
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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Governor, the Office of
33 Hawaiian Affairs, and the Department of Land and Natural
34 Resources are urged to support the restoration of Mauna`ala
35 through allocation of appropriate state funds for this purpose;
36 and
37

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
39 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; the
40 Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources; the
41 Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian



H.C.R. NO. 138

1 Affairs; the President of the Association of Hawaiian Civic
 2 Clubs; the President of Ho'onani Mauna'ala Mai Nā Māmakakaua
 3 Mai; and the curator of Mauna'ala.

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