
HOUSE RESOLUTION

PROCLAIMING APRIL 30 OF EVERY YEAR AS HAWAIIAN RESTORATION DAY.

1 WHEREAS, in 1991, the General Synod of the United Churches
2 of Christ, representing over six thousand member churches,
3 passed a resolution "Recognizing the Rights of Native Hawaiians
4 to Self-Governance and Self-Determination"; and
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6 WHEREAS, in 1993, the President of the United Church of
7 Christ, which sent the first missionaries to Hawaii in 1820,
8 issued a formal "Apology to Na Kanaka Maoli" and committed the
9 church to redress the wrongs done to native Hawaiians; and
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11 WHEREAS, in 1993, the United States Congress adopted Public
12 Law 103-50 often referred to as the "Apology Bill," which
13 apologized to native Hawaiians for the illegal overthrow of
14 Queen Liliuokalani and the Hawaiian Kingdom, which was signed by
15 President William J. Clinton; and
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17 WHEREAS, in 1994, the National Council of Churches USA at
18 its General Assembly of sixty-eight denominations passed a
19 resolution titled "A Stolen Nation" that called for support of
20 grass roots efforts of the Kanaka Maoli toward sovereignty and
21 self-determination; and
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23 WHEREAS, in the nineteenth century, through a combination
24 of intrigue, subterfuge, betrayal, and incomparable alliances,
25 the sons of the missionaries took control of the lands of Hawaii
26 and seized and operated sugar and pineapple plantations, which
27 became a thriving export business; and
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29 WHEREAS, in 1872, the United States sent its emissary,
30 General John Schofield, to Hawaii to study the coastline,
31 waterways, bays, and harbors as a civilian; and
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33 WHEREAS, in 1881, Secretary of State James Gillespie Blaine
34 told President Benjamin Harrison that Hawaii was of enough value
35 to be annexed to the United States; and
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1 WHEREAS, in May 1882, Lorrin Thurston of the secret
2 Annexation Club met with President Benjamin Harrison requesting
3 assistance with an overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom; and
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5 WHEREAS, B.F. Tracy, Secretary of the Navy, told Thurston,
6 as authorized by the President that "if conditions in Hawaii
7 compel you people to act as you have indicated, and you come to
8 Washington with an annexation proposition, you will find an
9 exceedingly sympathetic administration here"; and
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11 WHEREAS, in November 1892, Secretary of State John W.
12 Foster wrote to Thurston, stating that the Harrison
13 administration was willing to put up \$250,000 to buy out Queen
14 Liliuokalani's claims to Hawaii; and
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16 WHEREAS, in January 1893, after years of conspiracy and
17 deception, with the aid and support of the United States, the
18 sons of the American missionaries and other business people,
19 planned and executed the illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian
20 Kingdom; and
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22 WHEREAS, Queen Liliuokalani was the last reigning monarch
23 of the Hawaiian Kingdom; and
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25 WHEREAS, Queen Liliuokalani, who would not shed one drop of
26 her people's blood to save her nation, was deposed by the
27 advocates of a Republic for Hawaii in 1893; and
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29 WHEREAS, Grover Cleveland was both the twenty-second and
30 the twenty-fourth president of the United States (1885-1889 and
31 1893-1897); and
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33 WHEREAS, Cleveland, a distinguished leader, rose to
34 political prominence through the ranks of Mayor of Buffalo and
35 Governor of New York before his election to this nation's
36 highest office; and
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38 WHEREAS, in March 1893, Grover Cleveland was sworn into
39 office for his final term as President, three months after the
40 illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom; and
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42 WHEREAS, after President Cleveland, an anti-imperialist,
43 assumed the presidency, he immediately worked to stop the treaty
44 of annexation of Hawaii; and



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2 WHEREAS, the newly sworn President Cleveland challenged the
3 illegal overthrow of Queen Liliuokalani and sent James Blount to
4 Hawaii to gather facts and to assist in a just determination of
5 the involvement of the United States in the overthrow; and

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7 WHEREAS, upon the counsel of James Blount and Gresham,
8 President Grover Cleveland determined that the United States was
9 unjustly and illegally involved in the overthrow; and

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11 WHEREAS, President Grover Cleveland addressed the United
12 States Congress and requested that Queen Liliuokalani and the
13 Hawaiian Kingdom be restored; and

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15 WHEREAS, always concerned about the underprivileged,
16 Cleveland believed his ultimate allegiance was to the nation,
17 not to a political party, and he acted on his strongly held
18 beliefs throughout his entire political life; and

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20 WHEREAS, this position by President Cleveland reflected his
21 understanding that imperialism and expansionism were not the
22 unanimously favored policy; and

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24 WHEREAS, President Cleveland was a very spiritual and moral
25 leader who risked his personal reputation and suffered ridicule
26 as a result of the unpopular positions he took; and

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28 WHEREAS, President Cleveland faced not only tremendously
29 challenging political, social, and economic circumstances during
30 his terms of office, but he was also battling cancer and
31 suffering from ill-health during his last term of office; and

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33 WHEREAS, Cleveland spent his last years as a lecturer and
34 beloved member of the administration at Princeton University;
35 and

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37 WHEREAS, in 1898, John Schofield, retired commanding
38 General of the United States Army, reported to the United States
39 Congress that the port of Pu'uloa - later to become Pearl Harbor
40 - was the best natural harbor in the world for the purposes of a
41 modern Navy; and
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1 WHEREAS, General Schofield told Congress "...we made a
2 pre-emption which nobody in the world thinks of disputing
3 provided we perfect our title"; and
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5 WHEREAS, President Grover Cleveland was a true friend to
6 Queen Liliuokalani and the people of the Hawaiian Kingdom; and
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8 WHEREAS, today, many people worldwide are recognizing that
9 the spiritual and moral leadership of President Cleveland was
10 ahead of his time; and
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12 WHEREAS, the people of Hawaii have been supported and
13 encouraged in the last one hundred fourteen years by the words
14 and prayers of President Grover Cleveland; and
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16 WHEREAS, President Cleveland's legacy and his vision for
17 justice in Hawaii remain strong in Hawaii with the ancestors and
18 people of the Queen; and
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20 WHEREAS, in a proclamation dated February 25, 1894,
21 President Cleveland declared that "April 30 [of every year] be
22 set aside as a day of solemn fasting, and prayer for the
23 injustice to me [President Grover Cleveland] and my great good
24 sister [Queen Liliuokalani] for her speedy return to the
25 throne"; and
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27 WHEREAS, the Pacific Justice and Reconciliation Center, the
28 Hawaii Conference of the United Churches of Christ, and the
29 United Church of Christ have worked to lift up the life of
30 President Grover Cleveland, and bring to light the truth of
31 history; now, therefore,
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33 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
34 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
35 Session of 2007, that the Legislature and the Governor are
36 requested to recognize and acknowledge the historical and
37 educational contributions of President Cleveland's work for the
38 people of Hawaii and America today and for the future; and
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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature hereby
41 proclaims April 30 of each year as a special day of remembrance,
42 education, and prayer, for people of all faiths, for Grover
43 Cleveland, a great American who stood for the true values and



1 principles of the United States Constitution, and for "liberty
2 and justice for all"; and
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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
5 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the Mayors of the
6 respective counties of Hawaii, to the Governor of the State of
7 New Jersey, the President of the New Jersey Senate, the Speaker
8 of the New Jersey General Assembly, the Mayor and the Princeton
9 Township Committee, the Mayor of Caldwell, New Jersey and the
10 Council of the Borough of Caldwell, and to the General Minister
11 and President of the United Church of Christ Headquarters.
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OFFERED BY:

Izla B. Burg

MAR 09 2007

