

MAR 14 2007

## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

SUPPORTING THE ENACTMENT OF THE NATIVE HAWAIIAN GOVERNMENT  
REORGANIZATION ACT, ALSO KNOWN AS THE AKAKA BILL.

1 WHEREAS, the State of Hawai'i was once the Kingdom of  
2 Hawai'i, with a monarchy that was afforded full diplomatic  
3 recognition by the United States; and  
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5 WHEREAS, on January 17, 1893, the government of the Kingdom  
6 of Hawai'i was overthrown by a group of American citizens who  
7 acted with the support of the United States Minister, John  
8 Stephens, and a contingent of United States Marines from the  
9 U.S.S. Boston; and  
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11 WHEREAS, despite the overthrow of their kingdom, the Native  
12 Hawaiian people never willingly relinquished their inherent  
13 claims to sovereignty and, to this day, they retain their unique  
14 identity through their distinct cultural, social, and political  
15 traditions and institutions; and  
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17 WHEREAS, following annexation, the conditions of Native  
18 Hawaiians in the Territory of Hawai'i declined to such an extent  
19 that the United States Congress passed a law to set aside more  
20 than two hundred thousand acres of land to address these  
21 problems; and  
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23 WHEREAS, when Hawai'i achieved statehood, these lands were  
24 included in a public trust, and the federal government  
25 transferred administrative responsibility for the public trust  
26 to the government of the State of Hawai'i; and  
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28 WHEREAS, Native Hawaiians are a distinct indigenous  
29 population with their own culture, identity, and assets set  
30 aside for their benefit; and  
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1 WHEREAS, unlike other indigenous populations however,  
2 Native Hawaiians do not have control over their own land,  
3 resources, or other assets; and  
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5 WHEREAS, on January 17, 2007, Hawai'i's congressional  
6 delegation reintroduced legislation that would clarify the legal  
7 and political relationship between Native Hawaiians and the  
8 United States; and  
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10 WHEREAS, United States Senators Daniel K. Akaka and Daniel  
11 K. Inouye introduced the Native Hawaiian Government  
12 Reorganization Act of 2007, S. 310 in the Senate and United  
13 States Representatives Neil Abercrombie and Mazie Hirono  
14 introduced the companion measure, H.R. 505 in the House of  
15 Representatives; and  
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17 WHEREAS, the measure aims to extend the federal policy of  
18 self-determination and self-governance to Native Hawaiians who  
19 are Hawai'i's aboriginal, indigenous, native people recognized  
20 by the United States Congress as the original inhabitants of the  
21 lands that later became part of the United States; and  
22

23 WHEREAS, Native Hawaiians also had exercised sovereignty in  
24 areas that later became part of the United States, thereby  
25 establishing parity in federal policies toward the political  
26 status of Native Hawaiians, Alaska Natives, and American  
27 Indians; and  
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29 WHEREAS, while the United States Congress has traditionally  
30 treated Native Hawaiians in a manner parallel to American  
31 Indians and Alaska Natives, the federal policy of self-  
32 governance and self-determination has not been formally extended  
33 to Native Hawaiians; and  
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35 WHEREAS, the Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act  
36 of 2007 would remedy this discrepancy and extend to Native  
37 Hawaiians the policy of self-governance and self-determination  
38 currently practiced by American Indians and Alaska Natives; and  
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40 WHEREAS, the Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act  
41 of 2007 establishes a process for the reorganization of a Native  
42 Hawaiian governing entity for the purposes of federal  
43 recognition; and



1 WHEREAS, the Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act  
2 of 2007 does not itself extend federal recognition; rather, it  
3 simply authorizes the process for federal recognition; and  
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5 WHEREAS, the federal government already treats Native  
6 Hawaiians as an aboriginal, indigenous, native population in  
7 many respects and the United States Congress has enacted more  
8 than one hundred fifty federal measures relative to Native  
9 Hawaiians; and  
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11 WHEREAS, these federal laws mandate the provision of health  
12 care, education, job training, the preservation of native  
13 languages, the protection of Native Hawaiian graves, and the  
14 repatriation of Native Hawaiian human remains; and  
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16 WHEREAS, consequently, recognition would not necessitate  
17 new programs nor would it impact existing programs for American  
18 Indians and Alaska Natives; recognition would simply give Native  
19 Hawaiians a voice in matters affecting their destiny; and  
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21 WHEREAS, programs and services benefiting Native Hawaiians  
22 are now in jeopardy because of legal challenges, as the number  
23 of lawsuits filed has increased ten-fold and plaintiffs have  
24 been persistent in advancing their cases; and  
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26 WHEREAS, funding for programs, services, and entitlements  
27 that benefit and improve the lives of Native Hawaiians are now  
28 in danger of reduction or elimination; and  
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30 WHEREAS, the Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act  
31 of 2007, S. 310 in the U.S. Senate and H.R. 505 in the U.S.  
32 House of Representatives, has not yet received a full discussion  
33 and vote in Congress; and  
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35 WHEREAS, the Hawai'i State Legislature has supported the  
36 Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act in the past and in  
37 2005 adopted House Concurrent Resolution No. 56, S.D. 1,  
38 supporting the passage of the Native Hawaiian Government  
39 Reorganization Act; and  
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41 WHEREAS, the Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of  
42 Hawai'i believes that the United States Congress and the  
43 President of the United States should favorably consider the  
44 Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act of 2007 to



1 facilitate formal federal recognition of Native Hawaiians as  
2 indigenous people and ensure self-governance and redress; now,  
3 therefore,  
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5 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth  
6 Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2007,  
7 the House of Representatives concurring, that the United States  
8 Congress and the President of the United States are respectfully  
9 urged to support the enactment of the Native Hawaiian Government  
10 Reorganization Act of 2007; and  
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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
13 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the  
14 United States, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate,  
15 the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives,  
16 members of Hawai'i's congressional delegation, the Governor, and  
17 the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Office of  
18 Hawaiian Affairs.  
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OFFERED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

  
**By Request**

