

MAR 14 2007

## SENATE 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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32 WHEREAS, unlike other indigenous populations however,  
33 Native Hawaiians do not have control over their own land,  
34 resources, or other assets; and  
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1 WHEREAS, on January 17, 2007, Hawai'i's congressional  
2 delegation reintroduced legislation that would clarify the legal  
3 and political relationship between Native Hawaiians and the  
4 United States; and

5  
6 WHEREAS, United States Senators Daniel K. Akaka and Daniel  
7 K. Inouye introduced the Native Hawaiian Government  
8 Reorganization Act of 2007, S. 310 in the Senate and United  
9 States Representatives Neil Abercrombie and Mazie Hirono  
10 introduced the companion measure, H.R. 505 in the House of  
11 Representatives; and

12  
13 WHEREAS, the measure aims to extend the federal policy of  
14 self-determination and self-governance to Native Hawaiians who  
15 are Hawai'i's aboriginal, indigenous, native people recognized  
16 by the United States Congress as the original inhabitants of the  
17 lands that later became part of the United States; and

18  
19 WHEREAS, Native Hawaiians also had exercised sovereignty in  
20 areas that later became part of the United States, thereby  
21 establishing parity in federal policies toward the political  
22 status of Native Hawaiians, Alaska Natives, and American  
23 Indians; and

24  
25 WHEREAS, while the United States Congress has traditionally  
26 treated Native Hawaiians in a manner parallel to American  
27 Indians and Alaska Natives, the federal policy of self-  
28 governance and self-determination has not been formally extended  
29 to Native Hawaiians; and

30  
31 WHEREAS, the Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act  
32 of 2007 would remedy this discrepancy and extend to Native  
33 Hawaiians the policy of self-governance and self-determination  
34 currently practiced by American Indians and Alaska Natives; and

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36 WHEREAS, the Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act  
37 of 2007 establishes a process for the reorganization of a Native  
38 Hawaiian governing entity for the purposes of federal  
39 recognition; and

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41 WHEREAS, the Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act  
42 of 2007 does not itself extend federal recognition; rather, it  
43 simply authorizes the process for federal recognition; and  
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1 WHEREAS, the federal government already treats Native  
2 Hawaiians as an aboriginal, indigenous, native population in  
3 many respects and the United States Congress has enacted more  
4 than one hundred fifty federal measures relative to Native  
5 Hawaiians; and

6  
7 WHEREAS, these federal laws mandate the provision of health  
8 care, education, job training, the preservation of native  
9 languages, the protection of Native Hawaiian graves, and the  
10 repatriation of Native Hawaiian human remains; and

11  
12 WHEREAS, consequently, recognition would not necessitate  
13 new programs nor would it impact existing programs for American  
14 Indians and Alaska Natives; recognition would simply give Native  
15 Hawaiians a voice in matters affecting their destiny; and

16  
17 WHEREAS, programs and services benefiting Native Hawaiians  
18 are now in jeopardy because of legal challenges, as the number  
19 of lawsuits filed has increased ten-fold and plaintiffs have  
20 been persistent in advancing their cases; and

21  
22 WHEREAS, funding for programs, services, and entitlements  
23 that benefit and improve the lives of Native Hawaiians are now  
24 in danger of reduction or elimination; and

25  
26 WHEREAS, the Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act  
27 of 2007, S. 310 in the U.S. Senate and H.R. 505 in the U.S.  
28 House of Representatives, has not yet received a full discussion  
29 and vote in Congress; and

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31 WHEREAS, the Hawai'i State Legislature has supported the  
32 Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act in the past and in  
33 2005 adopted House Concurrent Resolution No. 56, S.D. 1,  
34 supporting the passage of the Native Hawaiian Government  
35 Reorganization Act; and

36  
37 WHEREAS, the Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of  
38 Hawai'i believes that the United States Congress and the  
39 President of the United States should favorably consider the  
40 Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act of 2007 to  
41 facilitate formal federal recognition of Native Hawaiians as  
42 indigenous people and ensure self-governance and redress; now,  
43 therefore,



1 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth  
2 Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2007,  
3 that the United States Congress and the President of the United  
4 States are respectfully urged to support the enactment of the  
5 Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act of 2007; and  
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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
8 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States,  
9 the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, the Speaker of  
10 the United States House of Representatives, members of Hawai'i's  
11 congressional delegation, the Governor, and the Chairperson of  
12 the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.  
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OFFERED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

**By Request**

