
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THAT PORTRAITS OF OFFICIALS OF THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF HAWAI`I BE REMOVED FROM DISPLAY IN POSITIONS OF HONOR IN STATE GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS.

1 WHEREAS, the Provisional Government of Hawai`i was
2 established illegally, immorally, and unjustly in 1893 following
3 the illegal, immoral, and unjust overthrow of the Kingdom of
4 Hawai`i; and

5 WHEREAS, the Provisional Government ruled Hawai`i during
6 the period between the overthrow in 1893 and the establishment
7 in 1894 of the Republic of Hawai`i; and

8 WHEREAS, the officials of the Provisional Government, by
9 accepting and remaining in office, perpetuated the great wrong
10 visited upon Native Hawaiians by the overthrow; and

11 WHEREAS, President Grover Cleveland called the acts leading
12 up to the overthrow an "act of war" and acknowledged that the
13 government of the Kingdom of Hawai`i, a peaceful and friendly
14 people, had been overthrown; and

15 WHEREAS, the Provisional Government protested President
16 Cleveland's December 18, 1893 message to Congress calling for
17 the restoration of the monarchy and instead continued to hold
18 power and pursue Hawai`i's annexation to the United States; and

19 WHEREAS, the Provisional Government strategically lobbied
20 the United States Senate Committee on Foreign Relations to
21 conduct a new investigation into the events surrounding the
22 overthrow of the monarchy in order to challenge the Blount
23 Report that previously had concluded that United States
24 diplomatic and military representatives had abused their

1 authority and were responsible for the change in government in
2 Hawai'i; and

3 WHEREAS, the policies of the Provisional Government were
4 more restrictive than those of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, including
5 denying citizenship to Chinese immigrants; and

6 WHEREAS, the Provisional Government restricted voting to
7 approximately four thousand people, down from the approximately
8 fourteen thousand people eligible to vote under the Bayonet
9 Constitution, prompting the observation in the Blount Report
10 that, "The testimony of leading annexationists is that if the
11 question of annexation was submitted to a popular vote . . .
12 that annexation would be defeated"; and

13 WHEREAS, the Provisional Government declared itself to be
14 the Republic of Hawai'i on July 4, 1894; and

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16 WHEREAS, the Republic of Hawai'i imprisoned Queen
17 Lili'uokalani in 1895 and under duress she signed a document
18 formally abdicating her throne in the hopes of sparing her
19 followers from probable death; and

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21 WHEREAS, after the overthrow of the government of the
22 Kingdom of Hawai'i, Lili'uokalani continued to believe that
23 justice would prevail and she never wavered in her diplomatic
24 efforts with the United States government or in her faith that
25 her rightful position as the sovereign of Hawai'i would be
26 restored; and

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28 WHEREAS, portraits of certain officials of the Provisional
29 Government are prominently displayed in positions of honor in
30 Ali'iolani Hale, the headquarters of the State's judiciary
31 branch; specifically, the rotunda area contains large, elegantly
32 framed portraits of a chief justice and an associate justice of
33 the Provisional Government's supreme court; and

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35 WHEREAS, displaying portraits of the officials offends
36 Native Hawaiians and many others by appearing to lend legitimacy
37 and official approval to the 1893 overthrow, to the Provisional
38 Government, to the Republic; and to the resulting serious harm
39 to Native Hawaiian culture and to Native Hawaiian self-
40 determination; and



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WHEREAS, other state buildings may also be prominently displaying portraits of Provisional Government officials; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2010, the Senate concurring, that officials of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of Hawai'i state government are urged to remove all portraits of officials of the Provisional Government from display in positions of honor in Hawai'i's state government buildings; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Concurrent Resolution is not intended to bring about the removal of portraits that are an integral element of exhibits, such as those in public museums or schools, that are intended to educate the public about the history of Hawai'i as opposed to honoring or appearing to honor certain persons for their role in that history; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Governor, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Hawai'i, and the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

OFFERED BY: Calvin H. Say
BY REQUEST
JAN 19 2010