
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT FOR AND REQUESTING THE REMOVAL OF
THE TERM "TREATY OF ANNEXATION" CAST IN BRONZE ON THE
STATUE OF PRESIDENT MCKINLEY ON THE GROUNDS OF MCKINLEY
HIGH SCHOOL.

1 WHEREAS, on January 16, 1893, over the protest of Queen
2 Lili'uokalani, the diplomatic and military forces of the United
3 States assisted insurrectionists in seizing control of the
4 Hawaiian Kingdom government and establishing a government to
5 replace the Hawaiian Kingdom government; and
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7 WHEREAS, on February 14, 1893, in Washington, D.C., the
8 United States government signed a "Treaty of Cession of the
9 Hawaiian Kingdom to the United States", which United States
10 President Harrison submitted to the United States Senate for
11 ratification; and
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13 WHEREAS, on March 11, 1893, newly elected United States
14 President Grover Cleveland received the protest of Queen
15 Lili'uokalani from a Hawaiian Kingdom envoy and withdrew the
16 submission of the treaty from the Senate's consideration; and
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18 WHEREAS, President Cleveland thereafter appointed Honorable
19 James Blount as a Special Commissioner to investigate the
20 seizure of the Hawaiian Kingdom and to report his findings to
21 the President; and
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23 WHEREAS, the Presidential investigation concluded that the
24 seizure of the Hawaiian Kingdom government was illegal under
25 international law, and President Cleveland thereafter entered
26 into an agreement with Queen Lili'uokalani that the federal
27 government would restore the Hawaiian Kingdom government and the
28 Queen would grant amnesty to the insurgents; and



1 WHEREAS, the United States Congress prevented President
2 Cleveland from restoring the Hawaiian Kingdom government; and
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4 WHEREAS, Queen Lili'uokalani and Hawaiian nationals, to
5 their detriment, relied on President Cleveland's commitment to
6 restore the Hawaiian Kingdom government; and
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8 WHEREAS, the United States House of Representatives passed
9 a resolution on February 7, 1894, warning other nations "that
10 foreign intervention in the political affairs of the islands
11 will not be regarded with indifference by the Government of the
12 United States", and the United States Senate endorsed this
13 sentiment by passing a resolution on May 16, 1894, stating "that
14 any intervention in the political affairs of these islands by
15 any other Government will be regarded as an act unfriendly to
16 the United States"; and
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18 WHEREAS, on June 16, 1897, newly elected President of the
19 United States William McKinley signed a second treaty of cession
20 in Washington, D.C., with representatives of the
21 "self-proclaimed Republic of Hawai'i", but the proposed treaty
22 remained subject to ratification by the United States Senate;
23 and
24

25 WHEREAS, on June 18, 1897, Queen Lili'uokalani filed a
26 diplomatic protest with the United States State Department in
27 Washington, D.C., stating in pertinent part:
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29 "I, Liliuokalani of Hawaii, by the will of God named heir
30 apparent on the tenth day of April, A.D. 1877, and by the
31 grace of God Queen of the Hawaiian Islands on the
32 seventeenth day of January, A.D. 1893, do hereby protest
33 against the ratification of a certain treaty, which, so I
34 am informed, has been signed at Washington by Messrs.
35 Hatch, Thurston, and Kinney, purporting to cede those
36 Islands to the territory and dominion of the United States.
37 I declare such a treaty to be an act of wrong toward the
38 native and part-native people of Hawaii, an invasion of the
39 rights of the ruling chiefs, in violation of international
40 rights both toward my people and toward friendly nations
41 with whom they have made treaties, the perpetuation of the
42 fraud whereby the constitutional government was overthrown,
43 and, finally, an act of gross injustice to me."



1 WHEREAS, on July 24, 1897, Hawaiian political organizations
2 also filed protests with the McKinley Administration against the
3 second treaty; and
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5 WHEREAS, in spite of these protests, President McKinley
6 indicated his intent to submit a new treaty of cession to the
7 United States Senate, which would convene in December of 1897;
8 and
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10 WHEREAS, in September of 1897, the Men's and Women's
11 Hawaiian Patriotic League (Hui Aloha 'Aina) initiated signature
12 petitions protesting the treaty and submitted the petitions to
13 the United States Senate in December 1897; and
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15 WHEREAS, these protests, along with the formal protests of
16 Queen Lili'uokalani, succeeded in preventing the Senate from
17 ratifying this second attempt to annex the Hawaiian Islands by a
18 treaty of cession; and
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20 WHEREAS, on April 21, 1898, the United States declared war
21 against the Kingdom of Spain, turning Hawai'i into a naval and
22 troop base to commence the war against the Spanish in the
23 Philippines and Guam in the western Pacific Ocean, purportedly
24 to protect the west coast of the United States; and
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26 WHEREAS, on July 7, 1898, President McKinley signed a joint
27 resolution of annexation passed by the United States House of
28 Representatives and the United States Senate, purporting to
29 annex the Hawaiian Islands as a war necessity; and
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31 WHEREAS, a prominent secondary school in Honolulu is named
32 after United States President William McKinley; and
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34 WHEREAS, standing at the front entrance to McKinley High
35 School is a bronze statue of President William McKinley holding
36 a document inscribed, "Treaty of Annexation", which never
37 existed and was never implemented; and
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39 WHEREAS, the statue has contributed to the misinformation
40 disseminated to the people of Hawai'i and Native Hawaiians about
41 the history of these islands and of the relationship of the



1 United States to the Hawaiian Kingdom, leading to the teaching
2 of an incorrect history; and
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4 WHEREAS, these inaccuracies, when incorporated into public
5 displays such as statues, have been harmful to everyone
6 including not only students at McKinley High School but all
7 young people in the public school system because these public
8 displays perpetuate and promote lies as truths, leaving Hawai'i's
9 youth unprepared to engage in meaningful dialogue on Hawai'i's
10 history; now, therefore,
11

12 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
13 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
14 of 2011, the Senate concurring, that the Legislature supports
15 the removal of the term "Treaty of Annexation" cast in bronze on
16 the statue of President McKinley on the grounds of McKinley High
17 School; and
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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education and
20 the Department of Accounting and General Services is requested
21 to take steps to remove the term "Treaty of Annexation" cast in
22 bronze on the statue of President McKinley on the grounds of
23 McKinley High School; and
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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
26 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor of Hawaii,
27 Superintendent of Education, the Comptroller, Office of Hawaiian
28 Affairs, each member of Hawaii's congressional delegation, and
29 the Principal of McKinley High School.
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OFFERED BY: 

MAR 16 2011

