

MAR 03 2011

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO SUPPORT LEGISLATION THAT REDESIGNATES
DISCOVERERS' DAY IN HAWAII TO INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY.

1 WHEREAS, the basic concept of discovery established
2 Christian dominion over non-Christian nations and peoples and
3 allowed for the colonization and seizure of their lands; and
4

5 WHEREAS, on January 8, 1455, the papal bull Romanus
6 Pontifex was issued by Pope Nicolas V to King Alfonso V of
7 Portugal, establishing Christian dominion throughout Africa,
8 based upon the concept of discovery; and
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10 WHEREAS, on October 12, 1492, Christopher Columbus did not
11 discover America because it had been previously inhabited by
12 indigenous people for thousands of years and because after four
13 voyages to the Caribbean, Columbus believed until his death in
14 1506 that he had landed in Asia; and
15

16 WHEREAS, in his famous letter to the Spanish Crown in 1493,
17 Christopher Columbus was the first to suggest the enslavement of
18 the native inhabitants that he had encountered; and
19

20 WHEREAS, on May 4, 1493, the papal bull Inter Caetera was
21 issued by Pope Alexander VI to King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella
22 of Spain establishing Christian dominion in the Americas and
23 everywhere one hundred leagues west of the Azores and Cape Verde
24 Islands, based upon the concept of discovery; and
25

26 WHEREAS, as the governor of Espanola, known today as Haiti
27 and the Dominican Republic, Christopher Columbus in the 1490s
28 imposed an institutional system of forced labor that killed many
29 of the area's native inhabitants; and
30

31 WHEREAS, on January 19, 1778, British captain James Cook
32 did not discover the Hawaiian Islands, or Ka Paeaina, because



1 the islands had been inhabited by the native Hawaiian people, or
2 Kanaka Maoli, for hundreds of years prior to Cook's arrival; and
3

4 WHEREAS, as a result of the crusading concept of discovery
5 and European colonization of native lands, indigenous people
6 perished worldwide; and
7

8 WHEREAS, the use of the name Discoverers' Day to recognize
9 the first arrival of non-Polynesians to Hawaii is problematic
10 because of the inhumane nature of the concept of discovery; and
11

12 WHEREAS, in the July 1990 Declaration of Quito, Ecuador, in
13 which representatives from one hundred twenty Indian nations met
14 at a continental gathering to mark five hundred years of Indian
15 resistance, indigenous people mobilized and declared their
16 opposition to the 1992 quincentennial celebration of the
17 European arrival in the Americas and reaffirmed their
18 continental unity and struggle toward their liberation; and
19

20 WHEREAS, in 1992, the city of Berkeley, California
21 abolished Columbus Day, renaming it Indigenous Peoples' Day to
22 protest the European colonization of North America and call
23 attention to the plight of Native American people; and
24

25 WHEREAS, since 1992, an increasing number of American
26 states, cities, local governments, and institutions have renamed
27 or abolished Columbus Day; and
28

29 WHEREAS, the recognition of Discoverers' Day in Hawaii is
30 synonymous with Columbus Day because of the inhumane nature of
31 the concept of discovery; and
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33 WHEREAS, Indigenous Peoples' Day and Native American Day
34 are two of the most prominent names now used to recognize the
35 day; and
36

37 WHEREAS, beginning on October 12, 1997, indigenous peoples
38 and supporters have gathered annually in Hawaii to call public
39 attention to this issue; and
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1 WHEREAS, beginning in October 2002, indigenous peoples and
2 supporters have been calling Discoverers' Day in Hawaii,
3 Indigenous Peoples' Day in solidarity with indigenous people
4 worldwide, to celebrate indigenous survival, pride, and culture,
5 and to call public attention to this issue; now, therefore,
6

7 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-sixth
8 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2011,
9 that the Governor is respectfully requested to support
10 legislation that redesignates the second Monday in October as
11 Indigenous Peoples' Day, in recognition of the countless numbers
12 of indigenous people worldwide who perished as a result of the
13 indigenous-European clash of civilizations and of those
14 indigenous people who have endured and survived over the past
15 five hundred years and who wish to celebrate their continuity
16 and breath of life, educate the general public about this issue,
17 and create a more peaceful world; and
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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
20 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the President of the
21 Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
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23
24

OFFERED BY: _____

