

MAR 03 2011

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# SENATE 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  
12

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 overthrow 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  
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30           WHEREAS, the United States Congress prevented President  
31 Cleveland from restoring the Hawaiian Kingdom government; and



1  
2 WHEREAS, Queen Lili'uokalani and Hawaiian nationals, to  
3 their detriment, relied on President Cleveland's commitment to  
4 restore the Hawaiian Kingdom government; and  
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6 WHEREAS, the United States House of Representatives passed  
7 a resolution on February 7, 1894, warning other nations "that  
8 foreign intervention in the political affairs of the islands  
9 will not be regarded with indifference by the Government of the  
10 United States", and the United States Senate endorsed this  
11 sentiment by passing a resolution on May 16, 1894, stating "that  
12 any intervention in the political affairs of these islands by  
13 any other Government will be regarded as an act unfriendly to  
14 the United States"; and  
15

16 WHEREAS, on June 16, 1897, newly elected President of the  
17 United States William McKinley signed a second treaty of cession  
18 in Washington, D.C., with representatives of the  
19 "self-proclaimed Republic of Hawai'i", but the proposed treaty  
20 remained subject to ratification by the United States Senate;  
21 and  
22

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



1 WHEREAS, on July 24, 1897, Hawaiian political organizations  
2 also filed protests with the McKinley Administration against the  
3 second treaty; and

4  
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

9  
10 WHEREAS, on 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

14  
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

19  
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

25  
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

30  
31 WHEREAS, a prominent secondary school in Honolulu is named  
32 after United States President William McKinley; and

33  
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

38  
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  
42 United States to the Hawaiian Kingdom, leading to the teaching  
43 of an incorrect history; and



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

8  
9 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-sixth  
10 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2011, the  
11 House of Representatives concurring, that the Legislature  
12 support the removal of the term "Treaty of Annexation" cast in  
13 bronze on the statue of President McKinley on the grounds of  
14 McKinley High School; and

15  
16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education and  
17 the Department of Accounting and General Services is requested  
18 to take steps to remove the term "Treaty of Annexation" cast in  
19 bronze on the statue of President McKinley on the grounds of  
20 McKinley High School; and

21  
22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
23 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor of Hawaii;  
24 Superintendent of Education; the Comptroller; Office of Hawaiian  
25 Affairs; each member of Hawaii's Congressional Delegation, and  
26 the Principal of McKinley High School.

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29 OFFERED BY: 

