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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO SUPPORT LEGISLATION THAT REDESIGNATES  
DISCOVERERS' DAY IN HAWAII AS 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  
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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  
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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  
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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 and south of the Azores and  
24 Cape Verde Islands, based upon the concept of discovery; and  
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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  
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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  
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4 WHEREAS, as a result of the crusading concept of discovery  
5 and European colonization of native lands, indigenous people  
6 perished worldwide; and  
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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  
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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 quinentennial celebration of the  
17 European arrival in the Americas and reaffirmed their  
18 continental unity and struggle toward their liberation; and  
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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  
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25 WHEREAS, since 1992, an increasing number of American  
26 states, cities, local governments, and institutions have renamed  
27 or abolished Columbus Day; and  
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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 are  
34 two of the most prominent names now used to recognize the day;  
35 and  
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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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41 WHEREAS, beginning in October 2002, some indigenous peoples  
42 and supporters in Hawaii have been referring to Discoverers' Day  
43 as Indigenous Peoples Day in solidarity with indigenous people  
44 worldwide, to celebrate the survival, pride, and culture of



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