

SR29

Testimony

# Ke Aupuni O Hawai'i

## THE HAWAIIAN KINGDOM

Box 62107 • Manoa Station • Manoa, Oahu, Hawaiian Islands

### Testimony Supporting SCR 55 and SR29

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair

Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

DATE: Monday, March 28, 2011

Aloha Chair Hee and Vice Chair Shimabukuro and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary And Labor:

The Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples was adopted on September 13, 2007 by 143 member states of the United Nations at their General Assembly meeting in New York City. At that historic General Assembly vote, only four UN members voted against the Declaration: Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United States.

However, after intensive lobbying by the indigenous peoples, those four states adopted the Declaration last year 2010, with the US being the very last when President Obama finally announced US' acceptance on December 16, 2010.

The Declaration sets out the individual and collective rights of the world's 370 million native peoples, calls for the maintenance and strengthening of their cultural identities, and emphasizes their right to pursue development in keeping with their own needs and aspirations. The Declaration signifies a turning point in breaking the discriminatory genocidal policies and practices instituted by the Papal Bulls beginning in 1493.

The reason I mention the Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is that Hawaii played a significant role in creating it. Dozens of Hawaiians contributed significantly at the United Nations in the formulation of this declaration. They include: Kawaipuna Prejean, Poka Laenui, Dennis Pu'uhonua Kanahale, Mililani Trask, Lilikala Kame'eleihiwa, Keli'i Gora, Malia Nobrega, Kaiopua Fyfe, 'Ehu Kekahu Cardwell, Butch Kekahu, Joshua Cooper, along with a number of UH students.

The other reason I mention the Declaration is that the Legislature of the State of Hawaii adopted it in 2006 prior to the 2007 adoption by the UN General Assembly. Thus, it is only fitting that the State of Hawaii, in order to dissociate from the horrific injustices suffered by indigenous peoples at the hands of so-called "discoverers," pass SCR 55 and SR29 and change, in Hawaii, "Discoverers' Day" to "Indigenous People's Day." It would not only be appropriate it would be a true reflection of Aloha.



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**Subject:** Testimony for SR29 on 3/28/2011 9:30:00 AM  
**Date:** Thursday, March 24, 2011 6:53:28 PM

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Testimony for JDL 3/28/2011 9:30:00 AM SR29

Conference room: 016  
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Comments:

Much of what is said in the resolution about what occurred 100's of years ago may be factually correct. On the other hand, Polynesians, Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders themselves were extremely prominent discoverers. However, the language of this resolution goes out of its way to express a political point of view and insult a lot of people based on race and religious beliefs. It is neither advisable nor necessary to insult anybody or more importantly "Bite the hand that feeds you." I suggest that the Legislature just abolish Discoverers' Day. Who needs it?