

MAR 14 2012

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

HONORING UNITED STATES PRESIDENT GROVER CLEVELAND FOR HIS SUPPORT OF THE HAWAIIAN MONARCHY AND EFFORTS TO PRESERVE THE HAWAIIAN KINGDOM, BY REQUESTING THE STATE OF HAWAII, CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU, COUNTY OF MAUI, COUNTY OF KAUAI, AND COUNTY OF HAWAII TO NAME A STATE OR COUNTY PROPERTY IN HIS NAME, AND REQUESTING THE STATE FOUNDATION ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS TO COMMISSION A WORK OF ART, WHETHER VISUAL OR LITERARY, IN HIS NAME.

1 WHEREAS, on November 23, 1993, President Bill Clinton
2 signed Public Law 103-150, the "Apology Resolution", an official
3 apology for the January 17, 1893, overthrow of the Kingdom of
4 Hawaii and the deprivation of the rights of Native Hawaiians to
5 self-determination, which had the effect of commencing the
6 reconciliation efforts between the United States government and
7 the Native Hawaiian people; and

8
9 WHEREAS, before 1898, the Kingdom of Hawaii was an
10 independent sovereign state, recognized by the United States,
11 the United Kingdom, France, Japan, and Germany; and

12
13 WHEREAS, President Grover Cleveland was a friend of Queen
14 Lili'uokalani, and recognized the independence and sovereignty of
15 the Kingdom of Hawaii, and he extended full and complete
16 diplomatic recognition to its government; and

17
18 WHEREAS, in his first term of office, President Grover
19 Cleveland supported treaties and conventions with the Hawaiian
20 monarchy that governed commerce and navigation, including free
21 trade with Hawaii, the treaty between the United States and the
22 Hawaiian Kingdom that was ratified in 1887, and the installment
23 of a naval base at Pearl Harbor, also in 1887; and

24
25 WHEREAS, President Grover Cleveland took strong positions
26 for the country's benefit, weathered the heavy criticism of
27 those who profited from the status quo, and was praised for his



1 honesty, independence, integrity, and perseverance in fighting
2 political corruption, patronage, and bossism; and

3
4 WHEREAS, his prestige as a reformer was so strong that even
5 a large wing of the Republican Party defected and supported his
6 election to a second term; and

7
8 WHEREAS, on January 17, 1893, American and European
9 businessmen who stood to lose political and financial power by
10 constitutional reforms proposed by Queen Lili'uokalani, deposed
11 her in a military coup d'etat, and negotiated with President
12 Benjamin Harrison's Administration for the annexation of Hawaii
13 to the United States reputedly for the personal financial gain
14 of those American and European businessmen who were going to be
15 impacted by the Queen's proposed reform; and

16
17 WHEREAS, President Cleveland considered the overthrow of
18 the Hawaiian Kingdom to be an illegal act of war and considered
19 Minister John Stevens' declaration of Hawaii as a United States
20 protectorate and participation by the United States military to
21 be unauthorized; hence, on March 9, 1893, five days after he
22 took office, President Cleveland disavowed the Harrison treaty
23 and withdrew it from consideration by the United States Senate;
24 and

25
26 WHEREAS, President Cleveland forestalled the immediate
27 annexation of Hawaii in an eloquent speech defending the Kingdom
28 of Hawaii to the United States Congress on December 18, 1893;
29 and

30
31 WHEREAS, the President characterized the acts of the
32 conspirators and the unauthorized military presence on Honolulu
33 soil as an act of war without authority of Congress and without
34 any pretense of legitimate purpose, and done over the protest of
35 the monarchy and during a time of peace and customary orderly
36 condition; and

37
38 WHEREAS, President Cleveland declared that by those acts
39 the government of a peaceful and friendly people was overthrown,
40 the national character of the United States was tainted, and the
41 rights of the Hawaiian people were injured, which merited
42 American efforts to correct this "substantial wrong" and restore
43 the Hawaiian Kingdom to its monarchs; and



1
2 WHEREAS, President Cleveland strove to reinstate Queen
3 Lili'uokalani to her throne, make clear his desire, and pressure
4 the Provisional Government to do so; and
5

6 WHEREAS, a standoff occurred between the United States,
7 Japan, and the United Kingdom against the Provisional
8 Government, between December 14, 1893, and January 11, 1894, an
9 event known as "Black Week"; and
10

11 WHEREAS, in working to reinstate Queen Lili'uokalani as
12 sovereign over the Kingdom of Hawaii, President Cleveland sent
13 former Congressman James Blount to investigate the situation;
14 and
15

16 WHEREAS, Commissioner Blount ordered that Queen
17 Lili'uokalani be restored to power and the American flag be
18 lowered from government buildings, and concluded in his report
19 that the actions taken against the Hawaiian monarchy were
20 improper, the Hawaiian people opposed the annexation of Hawaii,
21 and the removal of Queen Lili'uokalani was illegal; and
22

23 WHEREAS, throughout his term, President Cleveland opposed
24 annexation and tried to return Queen Lili'uokalani to power, and
25 it was not until President William McKinley was inaugurated that
26 the annexation treaty was re-submitted to the United States
27 Senate; and
28

29 WHEREAS, President Cleveland's reputation for honesty and
30 good character survived all of the political turmoil of the
31 times he lived in, and the public admiration and reverence for
32 him was such that his biographer Allan Nevins wrote in *Grover
33 Cleveland: A Study in Courage*, "in Grover Cleveland the
34 greatness lies in typical rather than unusual qualities. He had
35 no endowments that thousands of men do not have. He possessed
36 honesty, courage, firmness, independence, and common sense. But
37 he possessed them to a degree other men do not"; and
38

39 WHEREAS, other people involved in ending the Hawaiian
40 monarchy have been honored throughout the State of Hawaii by
41 naming properties after them, including Dole Intermediate
42 School, Thurston Avenue, William McKinley High School, and
43 Thurston lava tube in Hawaii Volcanoes National Park; and



1
 2 WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper that President Grover
 3 Cleveland have public property named after him in recognition of
 4 his courageous and sincere efforts to assist Queen Lili'uokalani
 5 to ward off the pressures and forces that overthrew the Hawaiian
 6 Kingdom and annexed Hawaii to the United States; now, therefore,
 7

8 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-sixth
 9 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2012, the
 10 House of Representatives concurring, that the State of Hawaii,
 11 City and County of Honolulu, County of Maui, County of Kauai,
 12 and County of Hawaii are requested to honor President Grover
 13 Cleveland by naming a state or county property, respectively, in
 14 his name; and
 15

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State Foundation on Culture
 17 and the Arts is requested to honor President Cleveland by
 18 commissioning a work of art in his name, whether visual or
 19 literary, in recognition of his efforts to preserve the Kingdom
 20 of Hawaii; and
 21

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 23 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Office of the
 24 Governor, Comptroller, State Foundation on Culture and the Arts,
 25 Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Department of Hawaiian Home Lands,
 26 Mayor and Council Chair of the City and County of Honolulu, and
 27 Mayor and Council Chair of the County of Maui, County of Kauai,
 28 and County of Hawaii, respectively.
 29
 30
 31

OFFERED BY:

Suzanne Chun
Michelle Tidem
Akeli Egler
Nike Hubbard
Clarence
M.H.

Will Engro
Pohai
Michael
David
Tom
Chris