

MAR 14 2012

---

---

# SENATE 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  
28 honesty, independence, integrity, and perseverance in fighting  
29 political corruption, patronage, and bossism; and

30



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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

OFFERED BY:

Erzanne Chun, Oakland  
 Michelle Kideri  
Keleoni Eglish  
Nike Gattard  
 Andrew J.  
 Clarissa K. Sarihikou

Will Egers  
Phai Kan  
 Angel de Bed  
 Maitik  
 Kelli Hill  
 Tamara Hill  
Umu He

