
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, PURCHASE, OR PARTNER WITH ANOTHER ENTITY TO CREATE OR OBTAIN 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

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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

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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

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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

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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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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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
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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
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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
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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
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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
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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
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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
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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,
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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
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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State Foundation on Culture
15 and the Arts is requested to honor President Cleveland by
16 commissioning, purchasing, or partnering with another entity to
17 create or obtain a work of art whether, visual or literary in
18 his name, in recognition of his efforts to preserve the Kingdom
19 of Hawaii; and
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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
22 Resolution be transmitted to the Office of the Governor,
23 Comptroller, State Foundation on Culture and the Arts, Office of
24 Hawaiian Affairs, Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, Mayor and
25 Council Chair of the City and County of Honolulu, and Mayor and
26 Council Chair of the County of Maui, County of Kauai, and County
27 of Hawaii, respectively.

