
HOUSE RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING CAPTAIN IRA BARNES DUTTON AND URGING THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE TO WORK TOWARD RELOCATING HIS STATUE FROM ITS CURRENT LOCATION AT SAINT JOSEPH CHURCH IN KAMALO TO THE KALAUPAPA PENINSULA.

1 WHEREAS, Ira Barnes Dutton, better known as "Brother Joseph
2 of Molokai" was born on April 27, 1843, in Stowe, Vermont, and
3 spent his formative years in Janesville, Wisconsin; and
4

5 WHEREAS, after the Civil War broke out, Ira Barnes Dutton
6 enlisted in the Union Army in September of 1861 as part of
7 Company B of the 13th Wisconsin Infantry and was discharged in
8 1866 as the military was downsized after the war; and
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10 WHEREAS, Ira Barnes Dutton was an expert horseman, showed
11 leadership and administrative skills, and advanced rapidly in
12 the military hierarchy; and
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14 WHEREAS, Ira Barnes Dutton served in the Quartermaster
15 Corps and was mentioned with respect by many Generals of the
16 Union Armies; and
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18 WHEREAS, in June of 1864, Ira Barnes Dutton was assigned to
19 the command of General Robert S. Granger in Decatur a few miles
20 from Atlanta and with a small detachment managed to blow up
21 bridges, railroad lines, and stockpiles of ammunition, which
22 allowed the Union Army to recapture Decatur and General Sherman
23 to enter Atlanta soon thereafter; and
24

25 WHEREAS, following the Civil War, Ira Barnes Dutton
26 volunteered to find the dead that were scattered on the
27 battlefields and bring them to a common burial site; and
28

29 WHEREAS, after years of suffering from post-traumatic
30 stress disorder and other personal problems, Ira Barnes Dutton,



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1 at the age of 40, sought atonement for his transgressions and
2 converted to the Catholic faith, taking the name of his favorite
3 Saint, Joseph, when baptized; and

4
5 WHEREAS, after hearing about the work of Father Damien on
6 Molokai, Brother Joseph Dutton gave away all of his possessions,
7 made his way by foot to San Francisco, and boarded a steamer
8 bound for Hawaii, arriving at Kalaupapa in July of 1886, where
9 he stayed for the next 45 years; and

10
11 WHEREAS, word of Brother Joseph Dutton's self-imposed exile
12 on Molokai swept through the United States, and on July 18,
13 1908, President Theodore Roosevelt ordered the Great White
14 Fleet, which was on a round-the-world voyage to demonstrate that
15 the United States was a world power, to divert their course and
16 sail past Kalaupapa and dip their colors in salute to this
17 heroic patriot and the residents of Kalaupapa; and

18
19 WHEREAS, Brother Joseph Dutton served as a lay brother on
20 Kalaupapa and, when Father Damien died in 1889, assumed the
21 duties of administrative assistant, striving to improve the
22 living conditions of the residents and, among his many
23 accomplishments, founded the Baldwin Home, a residence for men
24 and boys suffering from Hansen's Disease; and

25
26 WHEREAS, when Brother Joseph Dutton died on March 26, 1931,
27 he was buried in a grave next to Saint Damien at Saint Philomena
28 Church at Kalaupapa; and

29
30 WHEREAS, Captain Ira Barnes Dutton, also known as "Brother
31 Joseph of Molokai", has become a role model and inspiration for
32 veterans today due to his status as a military veteran and the
33 struggles he overcame; now, therefore,

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35 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
36 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
37 Session of 2014, that this body recognizes Captain Ira Barnes
38 Dutton and urges the National Park Service to work toward
39 relocating his statue from its current location at Saint Joseph
40 Church in Kamalo to the Kalaupapa Peninsula; and



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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Resolution be transmitted to the Secretary of the Interior,
3 Director of the National Park Service, and Secretary of the
4 United States Department of Veterans Affairs.
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OFFERED BY:

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