
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE STATE FOUNDATION ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS TO
DEVELOP A PLAN TO RECOGNIZE, HONOR, AND MEMORIALIZE THE
LEGACY OF MARY KAWENA PŪKU'I IN PERPETUATING THE HAWAIIAN
CULTURE.

1 WHEREAS, Mary Kawena Pūku'i, born in 1895 as Mary Abigail
2 Ka-wena-'ula-o-ka-lani-a-Hi'iaka-i-ka-poli-o-Pele-ka-wahine-'ai-
3 honua (The rosy glow in the sky made by Hi'iaka who was raised in
4 the bosom of Pele, the earth consuming woman) Na-lei-lehua-a-
5 Pele (Pele's lehua leis) Wiggin, in rural Ka'u on the island of
6 Hawaii grew up bilingual and bicultural, with a Hawaiian mother,
7 who spoke only Hawaiian, and a Salem, Massachusetts, native
8 father who spoke to her in English, although he spoke fluent
9 Hawaiian; and

10
11 WHEREAS, Mary Kawena Pūku'i's lifelong desire to understand
12 and preserve her Hawaiian culture can be attributed to her
13 grandmother, Po'ai, who had been a dancer in the Queen Emma
14 Court, and with whom young Mary Kawena Pūku'i spent the first six
15 years of her life, as was customary; and

16
17 WHEREAS, by her early teens Mary Kawena Pūku'i was
18 collecting stories, legends, and traditions given to her by
19 family and friends; and

20
21 WHEREAS, through her recognized language and writing
22 skills, Mary Kawena Pūku'i found herself at the Bishop Museum,
23 where she would spend some fifty years working closely with its
24 staff, including anthropologists, ethnologists, and biologists,
25 and co-wrote the Hawaiian-English Dictionary to assist them; and

26
27 WHEREAS, Mary Kawena Pūku'i's published work spanned over
28 fifty years and significantly contributed to the fields of



H.C.R. NO. 71

1 Hawaiian language and Hawaiian studies, which might have
2 remained lost or been translated much later; and

3
4 WHEREAS, at the beginning of the twentieth century,
5 Hawaiian culture was largely repressed in favor of Western
6 education; however, its resurgence in the "Hawaiian Renaissance"
7 movement of the 1960s to 1970s resulted in Hawaiian culture
8 being fully integrated into today's Hawaii; and

9
10 WHEREAS, had it not been for Mary Kawena Pūku'i's dedication
11 and diligence in preserving the knowledge and culture of the
12 Hawaiian people, the resurgence of the Hawaiian culture would
13 have failed or faltered to the loss and misfortune of the whole
14 State of Hawaii; and

15
16 WHEREAS, the legacy of Mary Kawena Pukui in perpetuating
17 the Hawaiian culture must be recognized, honored, and
18 memorialized; now, therefore,

19
20 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
21 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of
22 2020, the Senate concurring, that the State Foundation on
23 Culture and the Arts is requested to develop a plan to
24 recognize, honor, and memorialize the legacy of Mary Kawena
25 Pūku'i in perpetuating the Hawaiian culture by:

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- 27 (1) Using funds in the Works of Art Special Fund for the
- 28 development and implementation of a plan to recognize,
- 29 honor, and memorialize Mary Kawena Pūku'i;
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- 31 (2) Determining a memorial befitting Mary Kawena Pūku'i's
- 32 legacy, such as a monument or statue in her likeness
- 33 in a setting that reflects her legacy of perpetuating
- 34 the Hawaiian culture and history that will survive for
- 35 generations to come;
- 36
- 37 (3) Determining an appropriate site for the memorial where
- 38 residents and visitors can admire, understand, and
- 39 appreciate Mary Kawena Pūku'i's contribution in
- 40 perpetuating Hawaiian culture and history; and
- 41



1 (4) Identifying any legal, financial, or cultural
 2 impediments to recognize, honor, and memorialize Mary
 3 Kawena Pūku'i and proposals to address those
 4 impediments, including proposed legislation; and
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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Executive Director of the
 7 State Foundation on Culture and the Arts may create a working
 8 group to support and assist in the development and
 9 implementation of the plan as requested by this measure; and
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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Executive Director of the
 12 State Foundation on Culture and the Arts is requested to submit
 13 a report on its findings and recommendations, including any
 14 proposed legislation, regarding the development and
 15 implementation of a plan as requested by this measure to the
 16 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
 17 the Regular Session of 2021; and
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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 20 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
 21 Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Chairperson
 22 of the Hawaiian Homes Commission, Executive Director of the
 23 State Foundation on Culture and the Arts, and President of The
 24 Mary Kawena Pūku'i Cultural Preservation Society.
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OFFERED BY:

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H.C.R. NO. 71



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