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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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Date: 03/18/2021
Time: 02:00 PM
Location: 309 & 430 Via
Videoconference
Committee: House Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto, Superintendent of Education

Title of Resolution: HCR 0179 URGING THE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION TO REQUEST THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO CHANGE THE NAME OF PRESIDENT WILLIAM MCKINLEY HIGH SCHOOL BACK TO THE SCHOOL'S PREVIOUS NAME OF HONOLULU HIGH SCHOOL AND TO REMOVE THE STATUE OF PRESIDENT MCKINLEY FROM THE SCHOOL PREMISES.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) offer comments on HCR 0179.

The Department recognizes the information presented in HCR 0179 and the significance of school names and the naming of significant buildings. History and culture play vital roles in the decision-making process of naming, particularly in Hawaii.

The Department will be conducting its own research into the naming of McKinley High School and its previous name of Honolulu High School. The Department will follow Board of Education policy as well as its own standard practices to ensure all input is received and all facts are analyzed. The Department will work with the Board of Education on the direction moving forward.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on this resolution. .

The Hawai'i State Department of Education is committed to delivering on our promises to students, providing an equitable, excellent, and innovative learning environment in every school to engage and elevate our communities. This is achieved through targeted work around three impact strategies: school design, student voice, and teacher collaboration. Detailed information is available at www.hawaiipublicschools.org.

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Unity, Equality, Aloha for all



To: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

For hearing Thursday, March 18, 2021

Re: HCR179, HR148 URGING THE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION TO REQUEST THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO CHANGE THE NAME OF PRESIDENT WILLIAM MCKINLEY HIGH SCHOOL BACK TO THE SCHOOL'S PREVIOUS NAME OF HONOLULU HIGH SCHOOL AND TO REMOVE THE STATUE OF PRESIDENT MCKINLEY FROM THE SCHOOL PREMISES

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION

There is only one reason why some activists want to abolish "McKinley" from the name of the school and remove his statue from the campus. The reason is, they want to rip the 50th star off the American flag and return Hawaii to its former status as an independent nation. And through this resolution they want to enlist you legislators as collaborators in their treasonous propaganda campaign.

The strongest evidence that this is their motive is easy to see in the "whereas" clauses of this resolution and in documents provided by the NEA and the HSTA which are filled with historical falsehoods trashing the alleged U.S. "invasion" and "occupation" of Hawaii; alleged

suppression of Hawaiian language and culture; and civics curriculum in the early Territorial period. Portraying Native Hawaiians as victims of colonial oppression and/or belligerent military occupation is designed to bolster demands to "give Hawaii back to the Hawaiians", thereby producing a race-supremacist government and turning the other 80% of Hawaii's people into second-class citizens.

The leaders of America and also most of the leaders of the Republic of Hawaii were White men. So it's no surprise that today's secessionist efforts to reverse Annexation and establish ethnic Hawaiian racial supremacy are anti-White. But in recent years that racism has also become anti-Asian. The activists have produced a book and other materials saying that Hawaii citizens of Japanese and other Asian ancestries, even after several generations born and raised in Hawaii, are mere "settlers" or "guests" in a Hawaiian homeland where they have special rights as the "hosts." They say that unless Hawaii people of Asian ancestry line up to support Hawaiian secession under the leadership of ethnic Hawaiians, you are colonialists, just as guilty as the haoles, oppressing the "indigenous" people whose blood makes them children of the gods and brothers/sisters to the land (Kumulipo creation legend) in a way you never can be if you lack a drop of the magic blood. This is the same sort of "blood and soil" race-supremacist fascism that ruined Germany and Japan causing world war in the 1930s and 40s; and more recently it was revived by white nationalists in the U.S. You legislators have a responsibility to stop that fascism from getting established in Hawaii. See my detailed review of the book "Asian Settler Colonialism" published by UH Press in 2008, demanding that Asians subordinate themselves to ethnic Hawaiians:
<https://www.angelfire.com/big09a/AsianSettlerColonialism.html>

The activists hate President McKinley because he successfully persuaded Congress to pass the joint resolution in 1898 whereby the U.S. agreed to the Treaty of Annexation offered by the Republic of Hawaii in 1897. McKinley also signed the Organic Act in 1900 establishing basic laws for the Territory of Hawaii. McKinley also appointed Republic of Hawaii's President Sanford B. Dole to be the first Territorial Governor, thus ensuring stability and continuity of governance under the same head of state throughout the turbulent

decade from 1893 (Revolutionary Provisional Government) to 1894 (Republic of Hawaii) to 1898 (Annexation) to 1900 (Organic Act) to 1903 (end of Dole's term as Governor).

The activists hope to enlist you legislators as allies in their campaign of secession. They know that if you agree to this resolution, they will have a propaganda victory allowing them to say to the rest of America "Let us outa here!" They will cite your approval of this resolution as evidence to our nation's enemies in the United Nations that "America is weak and falling apart." Communist China, now building a navy more powerful than ours, and seeing the Hawaiian secessionist movement being led by so many people whose ancestry is Chinese as well as Hawaiian, might decide Hawaii is low-hanging fruit for plucking, in much the same way that a German leader in the 1930s felt he had a right to take over part of Czechoslovakia and all of Austria to liberate his fellow ethnic Germans who were so numerous there. Certainly when the U.S. complains in the United Nations about China's internal suppression of ethnic minorities and oppression of Tibet and Hong Kong, China will answer by accusing the U.S. of doing the same thing in Hawaii as evidenced by the resolution passed by Hawaii's own legislature bitterly crying out to be liberated.

In November 2020, seeing how aggressive the activists were becoming in their drive to purge "McKinley" from the school, I created a webpage documenting their intentions and opposing them. Please see my "Open letter to students, alumni, teachers, administrators, staff, community, and Board of Education explaining why the school's name and statue deserve to remain in place, and why a Hawaiian secessionist demand to remove them should be strongly rejected" at tinyurl.com/hmepjz7k

A friend of mine, the late Thurston Twigg-Smith, wrote a book entitled "Hawaiian Sovereignty: Do the Facts Matter?" which he graciously allowed me to post on my website where you can download it for free: <http://tinyurl.com/6osxwp>

Yes, the facts do matter. There are numerous falsehoods about Hawaii's history in the "whereas" clauses of this resolution, and in two

articles authored by Keanu Sai in the NEA newspaper, and in the lengthy HSTA essay:

<https://www.hsta.org/news/recent-stories/mckinley-high-school-deserves-a-name-that-honors-its-true-spirit-community-legacy/>

Shame on Hawaii's teachers for propagating such falsehoods, and especially for filling the minds of our children with them. Below are just a few of those falsehoods, with brief corrections and links to evidence proving falsehood. I know you don't have time to study these issues now, but hopefully when the legislative session is over you might take the time to learn about some of them.

By the way, an item in the HSTA essay says "According to the Alabama-based Southern Poverty Law Center, 168 Confederate symbols, including 94 monuments, were removed across the United States in 2020, virtually all of them following the killing of George Floyd by Minneapolis police officers."

I'm sure we all remember the outbreak of violence, arson, looting, and attacks on police that accompanied the "removal" of those statues and monuments in numerous cities.

Perhaps we should wonder whether the mention of those events in the HSTA essay is intended as a veiled threat that something similar might happen to McKinley High School and/or to the statue if we fail to comply with the activists' demands. That's all the more reason to stand up against such threats. Please do not knuckle under to them. It might be wise to ask each activist who testifies, to give a pledge that they will not engage in violence or vandalism, and that they will assist law enforcement in identifying, arresting, and prosecuting anyone who does. "Kapu aloha", right? Testimony from anyone who refuses to take such a pledge should be summarily rejected for the same reasons it is unwise to negotiate with terrorists.

Please vote "NAY" and consign this resolution to the trash.

Below are brief replies to specific falsehoods in the resolution (and to arguments often put forward to bolster them)

WAS THE MCKINLEY STATUE ERECTED TO HUMILIATE AND SUBJUGATE NATIVE HAWAIIANS?

Reso: "... when the statue of William McKinley was erected in 1911, several years after the renaming of the school, it was not to honor the President of the United States, but rather as a symbol to perpetuate the subjugation of Native Hawaiians and reinforce the lie that the Hawaiian islands belong to the United States of America"

Reply: There is not even any attempt to give evidence that was the motive; legislators should never endorse such bitter sentiments. And by the way, it is not a lie to say: the Hawaiian islands really do belong to the United States of America; don't you legislators agree? Didn't you take an oath to "support and defend the Constitution of the United States" against all enemies, foreign and domestic? Meet some of those enemies; i.e., the supporters of this resolution.

WHAT PERCENTAGE OF PEOPLE SIGNED ANTI-ANNEXATION PETITION?

Reso: "... eighty percent of the adult population signed the Kū'e Petitions against annexation in 1897"

Reply: There were 21,269 signatures on the petition opposing annexation. Interpolation of Census data shows there were about 39,542 full or part Hawaiians in 1897, the year of the anti-annexation petition. Thus, the 21,269 signatures on the petition represented 54% of the native population. But wait! Everyone says there were non-natives among the 21,269 people who signed the petition, although we cannot be sure how many. Well, if there were non-natives signing, then shouldn't the percentage of signers be calculated using the whole number of people in the entire population? Apparently non-natives were welcome to sign the petition, but the overwhelming majority refused. The whole population in 1896 was 109,020; in 1900 it was

154,001; so interpolation yields 120,265 as the population in 1897, which means the 21,269 signatures represent only 18% of the population. Furthermore, at that time only men could vote, and there were other important voter eligibility restrictions; so there is no relationship between petition signatures and eligible voters. But there's more to the story. In addition to the anti-annexation petition with 21,269 signatures, there was allegedly another petition containing over 17,000 signatures collected by a different organization. The trouble is, that second petition had a different purpose -- it called for Lili'uokalani to be restored to the throne! Hawaiian sovereignty activists like to add the numbers on the two petitions, for a total of around 38,000 to 39,000 signatures, which would represent virtually every native and part-native man, woman, and baby. But of course that's silly. The two petitions are on different topics. And probably everyone who signed the smaller petition (restore the queen) would have also signed the larger petition (stop annexation). Indeed, the gap of 4,000 signatures could be interpreted to mean that there were 4,000 natives who opposed annexation but also opposed restoring the monarchy and wanted the Republic of Hawai'i to continue as an independent nation under the coalition of White and Hawaiian oligarchs!

DOES U.S. JOINT RESOLUTION HAVE POWER TO REACH OUT AND GRAB A FOREIGN NATION (I.E., HAWAII)?

Reso: "... the Newlands Resolution illegitimately claimed United States annexation of the Hawaiian islands, even though such a document does not have any power or legitimacy to annex an internationally recognized nation ..."

Sai, NEA, 10/01/18: "Many government officials and constitutional scholars could not explain how a joint resolution could have the extra-territorial force and effect of a treaty in annexing Hawai'i, a foreign and sovereign state. ... In 1824, the United Supreme Court explained that, "the legislation of every country is territorial," and that the "laws of no nation can justly extend beyond its own territory... for it would be "at variance with the independence and sovereignty of foreign nations."

Reply: Annexation did not begin with the U.S. passing a resolution to reach out and grab Hawaii. Annexation began with the Republic of Hawaii offering a Treaty of Annexation to the U.S. Afterward, the U.S. Congress had heated debates about the Treaty in both the House and Senate for many months, and finally passed a joint resolution to accept it: Senate 42-21; House 209-91. Sovereignty means that a nation has the sole right to decide for itself what method it will use for agreeing to a treaty offered by another nation. In 1898 the U.S. used the method of joint resolution to accept the offer of the Treaty of Annexation from the independent nation Republic of Hawaii, just as in 1845 the U.S. used the method of joint resolution to accept the offer of the Treaty of Annexation from the independent nation Republic of Texas. See

"Treaty of Annexation between the Republic of Hawaii and the United States of America (1898). Full text of the treaty, and of the resolutions whereby the Republic of Hawaii legislature and the U.S. Congress ratified it. The politics surrounding the treaty, then and now" at

<https://www.angelfire.com/big09a/TreatyOfAnnexationHawaiiUS.html>

Further reply: The secessionists also say that the Republic of Hawaii was not a legitimate government and therefore had no right to offer a Treaty of Annexation. But in fact the Republic was the successor government of a still-independent nation of Hawaii, following the revolution of 1893 which overthrew the monarchy. The Republic got its legitimacy under international law in the same way as the Kingdom had done: by receiving formal diplomatic recognition from the heads-of-state of numerous foreign governments. After holding a Constitutional Convention and producing a Constitution, President Dole requested formal recognition. During Fall 1894 letters were received in 11 languages that were personally signed by Emperors, Kings, Queens, and Presidents of at least 19 foreign nations on 4 continents formally recognizing the Republic as the rightful, lawful government of Hawaii. One of those letters was from Queen Victoria of Britain, who had close relationships with Queen Emma and Queen Lili'uokalani. Other letters were from the Tsar of Russia, the King and Queen of Spain, the Presidents of France and Switzerland, two Crown Princes of China

under authority of the Emperor while a war with Japan was raging; etc. Even ex-queen Lili'uokalani personally signed a letter of abdication and oath of loyalty to the Republic, witnessed by her personal attorney and former cabinet ministers. Photos of all these documents, along with supporting letters from diplomatic representatives, were taken in the Archives of Hawaii and are available online at <https://historymystery.kenconklin.org/recognition-of-the-republic-of-hawaii/>

U.S. APOLOGY RESOLUTION

Reso: "the "Apology Resolution" ...acknowledges that "the Native Hawaiian people never directly relinquished to the United States their claims to their inherent sovereignty ... either through a plebiscite or referendum""

Reply: Must the inhabitants of a territory be consulted, prior to being annexed? In the annexations of the Louisiana Territory and the Territory of Alaska, the inhabitants were not consulted by France or Russia (who sold those territories to the U.S.) nor by the U.S. There were only two times when annexations of land to the United States included consulting the inhabitants of the annexed areas: Texas and Hawaii. The reason why the inhabitants were consulted in these two cases was that these were independent nations prior to annexation. In the case of Texas, there was a plebiscite in which the vote was limited to white males who had sworn loyalty to the Republic of Texas. In the case of Hawaii, the elected legislature of the Republic of Hawai'i made the commitment. When a government makes a decision, it is binding on everyone in that nation regardless of the fact that some people -- perhaps many people -- don't like it. Native Hawaiians made up only 40% of the population at the time of the overthrow in 1893, 26% at the time of annexation in 1900, and perhaps 20% today. Source: Robert C. Schmitt. Demographic Statistics of Hawaii: 1778-1965. (Honolulu, 1968) The first U.S. Census was in 1900 and it showed a total population of 154,001 of whom 29,779 were Hawaiian, 7,857 were part-Hawaiian, 28,819 Caucasian, 25,767 Chinese, 61,111

Japanese. I did not vote for President Biden, nor for either of my Senators, nor for my House Representative. But they have authority to make decisions affecting me whether I like it or not.

Reso: "the "Apology Resolution" ... acknowledges that "the Native Hawaiian people never directly relinquished to the United States their claims to their ... national lands ...""

Reply: The national lands of Hawaii belonged to the multiracial nation, not to any particular ethnic group. The government lands of the Kingdom belonged to the government on behalf of all the people, not to ethnic Hawaiians in particular. The crown lands became owned by the government in 1865 when the legislature passed a law -- eagerly signed by the King -- to issue government bonds to pay off the mortgage on the crown lands that had been made by Lota Kamehameha V and was in danger of being foreclosed, in return for the King surrendering ownership to the government.

Further reply: The apology resolution is filled with falsehoods, has produced bad consequences, and should be repealed. For details see <https://www.angelfire.com/big09/ApologyReso20thAnniv.html>

FOLLOWING ANNEXATION, WERE HAWAII PUBLIC SCHOOLS USED TO STRIP NATIVE CHILDREN OF THEIR NATIONAL IDENTITY AND BRAINWASH THEM INTO PATRIOTISM TOWARD AMERICA?

Reso: "... following the enactment of the Newlands Resolution, Hawaii's public education system was pressed into service to indoctrinate, denationalize, "Americanize," and convert generations of Hawaii's children into patriotic United States citizens"

HSTA document citing Sai 10/13/18: "To enforce the annexation, the government implemented a "methodical plan of Americanization" that "sought to obliterate the national consciousness of the Hawaiian Kingdom in the minds of the school children throughout the islands. It was developed by the Territory of Hawai'i's Department of Public Instruction and called 'Programme for Patriotic Exercises in the Public Schools.'"

Reply: Of course the local government of the Territory of Hawaii, and its Department of Education, felt it important to implement a civics education program to help school children understand their rights and responsibilities as U.S. citizens during the first decade following Annexation; just as the DOE today feels it important to mandate 4 years of "Social Studies" courses required for high school graduation. Even Kamehameha School required male students to take ROTC courses until the U.S. military withdrew its cooperation from that program in 2002 due to racially exclusionary admissions policy.

DID THE REPUBLIC OF HAWAII, OR THE TERRITORY, MAKE HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE ILLEGAL?

RESO: "... the result of the illegal annexation ... displaced Native Hawaiians, robbing them of their ... language ..."

HSTA DOCUMENT: "The government made it illegal for anyone to have a Native Hawaiian first name, or even speak the Hawaiian language in public"

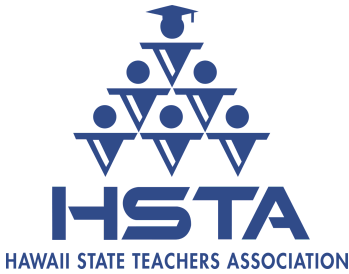
REPLY: I have thoroughly researched and disproved the often-repeated assertion that Hawaiian language was suppressed or made illegal, including a detailed rebuttal to a webpage making those assertions published by the Office of Hawaiian Education within the DOE; but DOE refuses to correct it despite overwhelming proof of falsity. For facts see "Was Hawaiian Language Illegal? Did the Evil Haoles Suppress Hawaiian Language As A Way of Oppressing Kanaka Maoli and Destroying Their Culture?" at

<http://tinyurl.com/6zrka>

and

"Holding the State of Hawaii Department of Education accountable for propagating the lie that Hawaiian language was banned" at

<https://tinyurl.com/y6phnzeh>



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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

RE: HR 148, URGING THE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION TO REQUEST
HCR 179 THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO CHANGE THE NAME OF
PRESIDENT WILLIAM MCKINLEY HIGH SCHOOL BACK TO THE
SCHOOL'S PREVIOUS NAME OF HONOLULU HIGH SCHOOL AND
TO REMOVE THE STATUE OF PRESIDENT MCKINLEY FROM THE
SCHOOL PREMISES.

THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 2021

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kapela, and members of the House Committee on Education:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **supports HR 148 and HCR 179** in urging the Superintendent of Education to request the Board of Education to change the name of President William McKinley High School back to the school's previous name of Honolulu High School and to remove the statue of President McKinley from the school premises.

As educators, we are deeply committed to supporting our keiki and our community. We are proud to live in a vibrant tapestry of cultures with shared values rooted in 'ohana and 'āina. We lift our students with knowledge, awareness, skill, and confidence; creating an environment of equity that allows every student to thrive.

Here, we explain why the name President William McKinley does not honor this commitment.

The school's name glorifies a man who illegally annexed a country against the will of her queen and people.

On Jan. 16, 1893, U.S. troops invaded the Hawaiian Kingdom, which led to a conditional surrender by the Hawaiian Kingdom's executive monarch, Her Majesty Queen Lili'uokalani. An investigation initiated by President Grover Cleveland called this invasion "an act of war."

President Cleveland agreed to restore the Hawaiian Kingdom if Queen Lili‘uokalani granted amnesty to the provisional government that overthrew her. She ultimately agreed, but unfortunately, President Cleveland did not get elected to a second term and could not restore her to her rightful position.

When McKinley took office, he proceeded to annex Hawai‘i, ignoring protests by Queen Lili‘uokalani, two Hawaiian political organizations — Hui Aloha ‘Āina and Hui Kālai‘āina — and a petition of more than 21,000 signatures from Hawaiian citizens and residents submitted by Hui Aloha ‘Āina. Hui Kālai‘āina collected an additional 17,000 signatures.

When he could not obtain a two-thirds vote in the Senate to ratify a “treaty” of annexation with the illegal Republic of Hawai‘i, McKinley pushed for a joint resolution in the U.S. Congress, a domestic measure that required a simple majority, but had no lawful authority beyond U.S. borders. McKinley signed the resolution into law on July 7, 1898.

The name reflects an indoctrination of Hawaiian students and a movement that obliterated Native Hawaiian identity in favor of American patriotism.

To enforce the annexation, the government implemented a “methodical plan of Americanization” that “sought to obliterate the national consciousness of the Hawaiian Kingdom in the minds of the school children throughout the islands. It was developed by the Territory of Hawai‘i’s Department of Public Instruction and called ‘Programme for Patriotic Exercises in the Public Schools.’”

The government made it illegal for anyone to have a Native Hawaiian first name, or even speak the Hawaiian language in public. Native Hawaiians were forced to suppress their Hawaiian cultural and national identity in favor of American allegiance.

If students weren’t “Americanized” enough, they weren’t allowed to attend high school and entered the workforce instead. In 1907, Harper’s Weekly correspondent William Inglis noted the “astounding” difference in student body from grade school to Honolulu High School: “Below were all the hues of the human spectrum, with brown and yellow predominating; here the tone was clearly white.”

Honolulu High School was the former name of what is now President William McKinley High School. The school itself was originally established in 1833 as the Oahu Charity School. Its name was subsequently changed to Honolulu Town School then Fort Street School. In 1895, it moved from Princess Ruth Ke‘elikōlani’s former residence to its current location and was renamed Honolulu High School.

The change from Honolulu High School to President William McKinley High School in 1907 and the installation of McKinley’s statue in 1911 reflect the government’s targeted indoctrination in schools.

An article published in The Hawaiian Star on Nov. 22, 1901, said: “It is believed that the project of erecting a local memorial to Mr. McKinley, if carried out by all classes of the Hawaiian population, and participated in by the school children, will tend to develop patriotism (sic) and

go to strengthen the interest of our people in American institutions and principles.”

This indoctrination also impacted teachers, many of whom were Native Hawaiian women forced to teach curriculum that handcuffed their personal beliefs and identity. According to a 2017 Office of Hawaiian Affairs report, Native Hawaiian teachers made up 41.1 percent of the total number of teachers prior to 1893. “The combination of non-Hawaiian teacher recruitment, lower pay for Native Hawaiian teachers, and the mandate of using only the English language in schools led to the decline of Native Hawaiian teachers,” the OHA report concluded.

The devastating loss of Native Hawaiian identity, culture, and language has yet to fully recover.

Though the overthrow and annexation occurred more than a century ago, their destructive impacts continue to fester. Those who did not live through this era may never fully understand the far-reaching damage and trauma colonization has on its people.

Americanization and the denial of Native Hawaiian names, language, and learning made many Native Hawaiians ashamed of their cultural identity. They believed they were worth less — a mentality that has been passed down and continues to cripple successive generations.

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs stated, “The practice of using Western standards to validate Hawaiian culturally-based activities and behaviors led to the devaluing of the traditional Hawaiian system and caused shame and embarrassment among Native Hawaiians. Navigating the immense cultural shifts and the depreciation of Hawaiian values and traditions caused internal moral conflicts between preserving the old and embracing the new. These effects can still be seen today.”

Public schools were established by the Hawaiian Kingdom in 1840 by King Kamehameha III. As of 1834, the literacy rate among Hawaiians was estimated between 91 percent and 95 percent. Now, one in every six adults in Hawai‘i, or more than 16 percent of the adult population, cannot read or write at a basic level.

This statistic, while not isolated to the Native Hawaiian population, indicates a disconnect from language and education. In 2016, Native Hawaiian reading proficiency percentages ranged from high of 41.2 percent in grade 5 to a low of 29.2 percent in grade 7, far below the non-Hawaiian range of 60.3 percent in grade 5 through 50.5 percent in grade 7; and the largest proficiency gap of 20.8 percentage points occurred in grade 11. This loss of literacy leads to higher dropout rates, unemployment, low wages, poverty, homelessness, and incarceration.

Continued suppression of Hawaiian culture and identity further exacerbates the challenges Native Hawaiians face today in areas including sustainability, land use, and resources management. No group should be forced to prove themselves on their own land, or left to struggle and fail.

It is our kuleana (responsibility) to restore pono (righteousness).

Changing the name of McKinley High School back to Honolulu High School restores pono and

pride to Hawai‘i, our ‘āina, and our people, especially our youth. We must teach our keiki to fully embrace their true history and identity if we want them to thrive.

This need is not exclusive to Native Hawaiians. Staying true to our values and righting our wrongs heals our ‘ohana and uplifts our entire community. We must brave the first step by removing a prominent figure who was instrumental in the harm and trauma of our collective history.

A similar change occurred in Alaska in 2015 when President Barack Obama and Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell restored the name Denali to what had been called Mount McKinley for nearly a century. Denali, or “deenaalee,” means “the tall one” in the Koyukon language, spoken for thousands of years by an indigenous Athabaskan group.

“Denali’s name has long been seen as one such slight, regarded as an example of cultural imperialism in which a Native American name with historical roots was replaced by an American one having little to do with the place,” according to The New York Times.

“There’s no denying that for some Americans, the deck’s been stacked against them, sometimes for generations, and that’s been true of many Native Americans,” said President Obama. “But if we’re working together, we can make things better.”

Names have great significance to us. A school’s name should honor its greatness.

Names are a cornerstone of our identity. In Hawaiian culture, names are chosen with great deliberation to imbue their possessors with sacred story and energy.

Eōmailani K. Kukahiko, Ph.D., a University of Hawaii at Manoa faculty member in the Curriculum Studies Department who specializes in Hawaiian language immersion, wrote, “Hawaiian names tell the stories of our people. Names are usually given by kūpuna, or to honor kūpuna. Sometimes names appear in a dream, inoa pō, yet other times as a recording of a specific event.”

McKinley High is an incredible school with impressive accomplishments and prominent alumni. It serves and supports our community. Its halls are steeped in spirit, honor, and pride. It’s important that we recognize the true source of this excellence: the students, the educators, the community, the ‘āina.

This great school deserves a better name.

McKinley High School is located in the ahupua‘a of Honolulu, in the moku of Kona, on the moku of O‘ahu. Changing the school’s name back to Honolulu High School honors its life source, the land that feeds it.

We are joining an ongoing movement across Hawai‘i and the U.S. continent.

Kahuku High and Intermediate in Windward O‘ahu: The school community council is currently vetting an independent facilitator to help change its mascot. The Hawaii State Department of

Education’s Civil Rights Compliance Branch confirmed in November 2020 “that the use of a Native American as the mascot of KHIS, the term ‘Red Raiders,’ and the ‘tomahawk chop,’ is, in fact, discriminatory, as it mocks protected classes (race, color, ancestry and national origin).” In an attempt to address concerns, KHIS made its mascot Polynesian, but the branch found the overall use of an ethnic figure problematic for the same reason. The school is also actively discouraging use of the “tomahawk chop” as a fan cheer, but will keep the name Red Raiders, according to the SCC’s Feb. 4, 2021 meeting minutes.

Central Intermediate in Honolulu, O‘ahu: In an opinion piece for Civil Beat, Kukahiko, a University of Hawaii at Manoa faculty member, calls for Central Intermediate to be named Ke‘elikōlani School. “Those unfamiliar may think that this school is located in Anywhere, USA. In fact, it is built upon the ‘āina of Akopua where once stood the grand home of Ruth Keanolani Kanāhoahoa Ke‘elikōlani, Keōua Hale,” she wrote. “As a people whose majority is several generations removed from native speakers and disparately dispossessed of land, we have accepted these insidious changes and desecration of ‘āina as commonplace.”

Ka‘ōhao Public Charter School in Kailua, O‘ahu: Lanikai Elementary Public Charter School became Ka‘ōhao Public Charter School (aka Ka‘ōhao School) on July 1, 2017. Ka‘ōhao is the true name of the area between Kailua Beach and Waimanalo Beach, which a developer called Lanikai in an incorrect attempt to say heavenly sea. “We believe that our name change represents much of what we stand for as a school. In many ways, we are tying and joining together the past, the present, and the future. We do this humbly, with cultural respect and understanding; and applying knowledge from awareness to action, the chief aim of education,” according to the school’s website.

It’s not just schools. There is a community movement to restore other place names to their inoa ‘ōiwi, such as Pu‘uloa instead of Pearl Harbor, or Maunalua instead of Hawai‘i Kai.

Kīlauea Fissure 8 was named Ahu‘ailā‘au through a process that involved the community in thorough, meaningful conversations. “Ahu‘ailā‘au, which refers to the altar of the volcano deity ‘Ailā‘au, was selected from dozens of community submitted proposals. Hawai‘i County Council Resolution 640-18 requested that the Hawai‘i Board on Geographic Names consult with the communities impacted by the eruption to ensure traditional, cultural, and family ties were considered in order to establish appropriate names for the Fissure 8 vent and any other features of the 2018 eruption of Kīlauea Volcano,” as explained in a state-issued news release.

The City and County of Honolulu’s Revised Ordinances of Honolulu, Chapter 22, Article 8 stipulates that all street names shall “consist of Hawaiian names, word or phrases and shall be selected with a view to the appropriateness of the name to historic, cultural, scenic and topographical features of the area.” This law has been in effect since 1978.

According to the Alabama-based Southern Poverty Law Center, 168 Confederate symbols, including 94 monuments, were removed across the United States in 2020, virtually all of them following the killing of George Floyd by Minneapolis police officers. “Critics argue that removing or renaming tributes to Confederate figures amounts to erasing history, the SPLC points out. But many historians — and public opinion polling — reject this concept, saying it’s time for the symbols to go, and possible to engage with this period of history in other ways,”

according to a National Public Radio report.

We ask that you support HR 148 and HCR 179 so we can right a devastating wrong, honor this school's true legacy, and move toward a better, equitable future that ensures our communities are whole and every student thrives.

Mahalo for hearing this important issue.

HCR-179

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 9:31:18 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ron Okamura	McKinley High School	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Woodson and Members of the Education Committee and Chair Lowen and the members of the Energy and Environmental Protection Committee,

My name is Ron Okamura and I am the Principal of President William McKinley High School. I am testifying in opposition of HCR179 and HR148 on Recommending Renaming McKinley High School. There are many reasons why I oppose the resolution, but will highlight some of them.

Present campus of McKinley High School was always named McKinley High School. Honolulu High School was never located on the current campus. So by saying it should revert back to it's original name it has always been named McKinley High School.

Historical aspects of the campus of McKinley High School. Several of the school's buildings are register with the National Historical Society for it's architectural designs and it history with December 7, 1941 as the main building was shot at by a Japanese airplane during the attack on Pearl Harbor. The Japanese pilot mistook the campus to be a military installation and shot at it leaving bullet holes on the front of the building and missing the statue of President McKinley.

The strong ties with the school and it's alumni. There are many notable graduates from McKinley that have gone on to become leaders of the local and global communities. The McKinley name is recognized all across the world because of the influences these many graduates have modeled. Our school is also recognized as a school of not only for it's education but for it's social development of our students. Current students are constantly reminded of what it means to be a McKinley Tiger and uphold the "pride and tradition" that our school promotes. Understanding and acceptance of differences is strong values we teach to all of students to promote the McKiley High School legacy. Thousands of student have graduated from McKinley High and many more thousands will in the future as well, by changing the name and removing of the statue would clearly change the history and culture of the school We will be a school influx without a history and that would dishonor our alumni and for our

current student to find a whole new identity would leave us with a whole generation of graduates without a true sense of belonging.

We also make sure that our students understand the past in order to make the best decisions for the future. We cannot censor things from our students just because we do not like some aspects of a person or event that has taken place. Many times for people that have been honored with something being named after them, we look back at some of the things that were done and do not agree with what they did. But we need to let our students know that what may seem very wrong today, during that person's era those things were acceptable. So our students need to see the whole picture of our past and learn from them and not just erase them from our history or we are doomed to make the same mistakes over and over again.

There are so many more reasons to why I oppose the resolution HCR179 and HR 148 but wanted to point out our prospective so that you all know that we will not give up without a fight as this would change so much history and culture not only for the school but the greater community. And as I put up the question that I always ask when this gs like this take place is: "When will this end?" Does this mean that we will have to change everything named after an individual as if you look into all their past, there somethings that upset somebody so they want that building, school, road, tunnel, beach park, gyms, parks and even stores to be renamed? So like I ask "when will this end"?

Mahalo for time.

Mahalo

Ron Okamura

Principal

President William McKinley High School

The Honorable Justin Woodson, Chair
House of Representatives
Committee on Education

Dear Chair Woodson and Members of the House Committee on Education:

I am testifying in opposition to HCR 179 and HR 148, which urges the Superintendent to request that the Board of Education change the name of McKinley High School to Honolulu High School and remove the statue of President William McKinley from the premises. I have been a faculty member at McKinley High School since 2001 where we graduate 350-450 students per year. From the first day that freshmen step foot on campus, they are literally taught the traditions at McKinley and why they should have pride in being a McKinley Tiger. At the Freshman Welcome Assembly they learn how to sing both their Alma Mater and their fight song "Black and Gold." They also learn that they do not walk across the oval (the grassy area surrounding the statue of President McKinley) until the day they graduate and that the Hall of Honor holds the pictures of respected alumni who gave back to their community and represent McKinley with pride and honor.

The proposal to change the name and remove the statue is being supported and pursued by the Hawaii State Teachers Association (HSTA) of which I am a member. They claim to be doing this for the sake of our children and teachers. I say they are unethically using this as a way to carry out a hidden agenda or someone else's agenda. How can HSTA say they are doing this for the sake of the teachers when they never asked their teachers how they felt about this? HSTA never asked me how I felt about this as a member and they definitely never asked me how I felt as a faculty member who works at McKinley High School.

They should be embarrassed to even mention the students in all of this. Our job is to educate students, provide them with information and skills that they need to grow up to be self-sufficient, community-contributing, independent adults who have the skills and knowledge to make their own decisions while respecting others in the community. Providing students with censored information about their history and their ancestors' history is detrimental not only to their own lives but to the future of Hawai'i. I do not want to live in a world that cannot look back at their history to avoid making mistakes in the present. As they say, those who fail to learn their history are doomed to repeat it. Whether looking back on successes or tragedies of the past, these historic events help us to make better choices for the present and the future.

When I think of a proposal to change a school's name, I think of how it as a proposal to change someone's identity. No one has the right to do that. Everyone in Hawai'i identifies themselves with the high school from which they graduated. When meeting someone new, "What high school you grad?" is sure to be one of the top five questions asked. I graduated from Kapa`a High School and am proud to say that now, just as I was proud to say that 25 years ago. I truly hope that I can still say that 25 years from now without having to worry that someone with no connection to my alma mater pushed so hard to change its name.

With respect to name change, my great grandfather (who was illiterate) was unable to sign his name when he immigrated to Kaua`i. As a result, they decided on the spelling of his name for him. Since then, he had a “new” last name that was passed onto his son, and then to my father, and then to me. I could of course go through steps to change my last name to what it was before the change and “right a wrong.” I would not choose to do that because this name I carry is my identity; it represents my family’s history and signifies what my great grandfather went through to be here. This knowledge has motivated me to represent my family well and to encourage my own children to be educated, independent and respectful. My dad always stressed the importance of an education to us as we were growing up. Perhaps for him, this was inspired from knowing the history of his grandfather.

What has been done in the past cannot be changed. And despite what many believe, it cannot be made right by erasing it from existence. It may have been hurtful, it may have been wrong, but these events of the past can be used for good. They can teach our children that our actions have consequences and that it is important to be educated about historic events so that the tragic ones are not repeated. For our alumni, current students, and future students of McKinley High School, they can learn that the name “McKinley” does not define them but their actions and legacies can define the name. The best way to “write a wrong” is for McKinley students and graduates to continue a life of respect, gratitude and honor so that anyone hearing “President William McKinley High School” will think of its amazing students and alumni and not the former President with whom people are upset.

I have been fortunate enough to know 20 years-worth of McKinley students. I have also met many alumni over the years as they attend school events or bring their own children to school. They all speak of McKinley High School with such pride and dignity. It is a privilege for them to graduate from this school and it is an even greater honor to speak of how their children now attend or perhaps their mom and dad attended before them. Changing the name of this high school is not in the best interest of the students. It is a quest to jump on the Cancel Culture bandwagon sweeping the nation because people do not have the common sense to look at history as the story of our ancestors. Instead, they are looking at it as something that needs to be erased because it was “wrong.” I can say with great certainty that things we think we are doing correctly now, will be thought of as wrong 10 or 20 years from now. That is because no one is perfect and there is no perfect society. We keep changing based on what we learn from our experiences. Erasing those experiences would set us up for destruction and extreme deterioration of society. I urge you to do what is right by McKinley’s students and alumni and not support HCR 179 and HR 148. Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Lisa Panquites
McKinley High School Counselor (2001-present)

HUI ALOHA ‘ĀINA O KA LEI MAILE ALI‘I

**Testimony of
LYNETTE HI‘ILANI CRUZ
Pelekikena**

**Before the House Committee on
EDUCATION**

**Thursday, March 18, 2021, 2:00pm
“State Capitol” Video Conference**

**In consideration of
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 179 / HR 148**

**URGING THE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION TO REQUEST
THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO CHANGE THE NAME OF PRESIDENT
WILLIAM MCKINLEY HIGH SCHOOL BACK TO THE SCHOOL'S PREVIOUS
NAME OF HONOLULU HIGH SCHOOL AND TO REMOVE THE STATUE OF
PRESIDENT MCKINLEY FROM THE SCHOOL PREMISES.**

HRC 179/ HR 148 outlines the historical and legal basis for restoring the original name of “William McKinley High School” to Honolulu High School. The resolution urges the Superintendent of Education to request that the Board of Education and remove the statue of U.S. President William McKinley.

The Hui Aloha ‘Āina o Ka Lei Maile Ali‘i strongly supports this resolution.

Ka Lei Maile Ali‘i (KLMA) was originally founded as a Hawaiian Civic Club in 2003, and later reformed as one of 8 inter-island branches of Ka ‘Ahahui Hawai‘i Aloha ‘Āina (The Hawaiian Patriotic League) in 2016. As a branch of the Hawaiian Patriotic League – newly revived from the original organization chartered in 1893 – KLMA’s mission is to honor the life and work of Queen Lili‘uokalani, Hawai‘i’s last reigning monarch. We continue to do this through educational outreach and cultural programs, particularly the dissemination of information about Hawai‘i’s history, the Queen and the people who supported her efforts and her person during and after the overthrow, including in the present time.

Hawaiian nationals throughout the Hawaiian Kingdom supported our Queen and country by signing the Great Petition against annexation in 1897, organized by the original Hawaiian Patriotic League. As a result of that petition, a second attempt at securing a lawful treaty of annexation before the U.S. Congress failed to pass. The first attempt to annex had been withdrawn by President Grover Cleveland. There was no Treaty of Annexation. Instead, several U.S. Congressmen drafted a municipal law titled “The Newlands Resolution” purporting to take possession of Hawai‘i, an action contrary to the U.S. Constitution and to International Law. The rest is the history all of us in Hawai‘i have been taught: we were “annexed” to the U.S. But there is no Treaty of Annexation to document that action.

In 2010, on American President's Day, KLMA and the Hawaiian Independence Action Alliance co-sponsored the first display of the Kū'ē Petition name signs (a total of 600) at "McKinley High School" around the McKinley statue. For the Kamehameha Day Celebration on June 12, 2010, the groups sponsored the display at 'Iolani Palace grounds, this time laying out approximately 1,100 individual name signs. Hundreds of passers-by came to view the signs, to ask questions, to create new signs with their own kūpuna names and, in the process, honoring their kū'ē and their memory. In participating with us, visitors learned about the petitions and about the true history of Hawai'i that had been erased for over a century.

A third display took place at Thomas Square for Lā Ho'ihō'i Ea, Sovereignty Restoration Day, on July 31, 2010. The project continued to grow, and on February 2012, 2,000 signs were displayed at "McKinley High School." Later that year in October 2012, the signs were displayed in Washington, D.C. at the National Mall for the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs annual convention and experienced by an international audience.

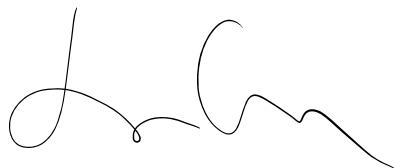
Across the United States and around the world in recent years, that has been a surge in popular movements to remove the icons, statues, and holidays that perpetuate revisionist histories of the places impacted by the violence of Euro-American imperialism. The false histories of Hawai'i are intended to strip our people of our cultural and national identity and disrupt our relationship to our 'āina and our kūpuna. We honor our kūpuna today because of their successful protest in 1897 and because their signatures and voices remind us of our continued political and legal independence and our kuleana to stand in solidarity with them.

The nonexistent "Treaty of Annexation" in the hands of McKinley statue is an affront to truth and justice. The act in 1907 of renaming Honolulu High School after an American president constitutes de-nationalization – one of many war crimes still being committed in the Hawaiian Kingdom as outlined in multiple articles of The Hague and Geneva Conventions.

We are heartened that our understanding of this accurate history is spreading, and that we are being joined by thousands of educators as represented by the Hawai'i State Teachers Association, in the call to restore the name of Honolulu High School and to remove this relic of racist, revisionist history to be placed in the public archives where it belongs.

We encourage full support for this resolution from House Education Committee members.

Mahalo nui loa,



Lynette Hi'ilani Cruz, *Pelekikena*
Hui Aloha 'Āina o Ka Lei Maile Ali'i

HCR-179

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 11:23:57 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mahealani Cypher	Koolau Foundation	Support	No

Comments:

The Ko`olau Foundation strongly supports HCR 179 and urges passage of this resolution to call upon the Board of Education to change the name of McKinley High School to Honolulu High School, its original name.

We support the historic name of this institution, and object to the imposition of McKinley's name upon the school which we consider to be an affront to the Native Hawaiian people.

Mahalo for allowing us to offer our mana`o.



COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
Thursday, March 18, 2021 @ 2pm

**Testimony of Kūpuna for the Mo'opuna
STRONG SUPPORT**

HCR 179 / HR 148 - URGING THE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION TO REQUEST THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO CHANGE THE NAME OF PRESIDENT WILLIAM MCKINLEY HIGH SCHOOL BACK TO THE SCHOOL'S PREVIOUS NAME OF HONOLULU HIGH SCHOOL AND TO REMOVE THE STATUE OF PRESIDENT MCKINLEY FROM THE SCHOOL PREMISES.

Aloha,

Mahalo nui loa for these resolutions that seek to correct a wrong and to declare with affirmation our Hawai'i state motto...

that the life of the land shall be perpetuated in truth and righteousness!

Ua mau ke ea o ka 'āina i ka pono!

HCR-179

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 9:20:08 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
shane Kaneshiro	McKinley High School	Oppose	No

Comments:

McKinley High School has been educating students for over 156 years. The identity of the students, past and present, of McKinley, will be lost if there is a name change.

One of McKinley's major contributions during WW2 was supporting the military by selling war bonds. The contribution of more than 90 percent of the student body resulted in a purchase of a B-24 Liberator Plane, a Heavy bomber, to the Air Force and naming it Madame Pele. A present value of 4.1 million dollars.

The name change will have serious ramifications. History will be forgotten. The efforts of what the students, teachers, and community had accomplished will be erased.

HCR-179

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 1:06:49 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
LIBRADO COBIAN	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

King Kamehameha had slaves also , are his statues going to be removed too ? He was a fierce conqueror and won bloody wars as many leaders in this world . Just wondering will his statues be next ? I respectfully and hope there can be a civil discussion on this . Imagine what's going to happen to all our military installations and street names in Hawaii , something to think about . <https://thehill.com/opinion/campaign/390550-how-come-progressives-arent-attacking-statues-of-king-kamehameha>

HCR-179

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 2:34:40 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
cheryl B.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support

For the last few years, some of us have been writing the BOE as well as House Reps. and senators regarding the names of schools and other places on our islands. We can no longer ignore the ignominy, hurt and pain that some of these names cause here. This is Hawai`i and though, the BIG five and the US have worked hard to get people to become good Americans, it does not mean that the people of these islands should have places renamed or changed to accomodate the USA. McKinley High had a name, fix this huge error. AND while you're at it, ask the DOE and the Hawai`i state govt. to look at other place names and the current state calendar which is also biased, filled with Christian holidays.

Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair
Representative Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair
Committee on Education

David Kawada

Tuesday, March 16, 2021

OPPOSE HCR 179, changing the name of President William Mckinley High School and removal of the statue

I am proud alumnus of Mckinley High School, former President of the Mckinley Alumni Association, former President of Tiger Resources (501 c 3 fundraising arm of the Alumni Association), and ongoing supporter of the school and its programs. **I strongly OPPOSE HCR 179**, relating to changing the name of the school and removing of the statue.

The school changed its name to “Mckinley” in 1907 because “he was influential in the annexation of the Hawaiian Islands to the United States”. I understand the passion people have regarding those historical events, specifically those against those actions. The arguments that those actions were unjust to the Native Hawaiians, and illegal within the process of annexation, have valid points. WE CANNOT JUSTIFY the changing of a school’s name based on the political perspective of historical events that occurred over a century ago. We can constantly argue that those events were unjust. But we can also argue that in the end, becoming the State of Hawaii, for which we have this legislative process, was the right thing to do.

We cannot justify this change based on the historical events occuring during a different culture, way of life, and point in time amidst that era’s global climate. Those supporting this proposal are using the benefit of hindsight to deem those events as unjust or immoral. Our education of history proves that there were many injustices all over the world. Instances of obvious cruelties, and inhumane acts are worth investigating and developing conversations. But the annexation was a political process subject to opposing perspectives. In this case, it is unfair in the present to use one sided perspective on the past as justification for this change.

When will this end? Groups will continue to use the emotions of today's current events to look into other historical people and events and pass judgement on them. Farrington, Dole, Campbell, Kaiser, street names, buildings, all could have issues on their namesakes. AS AN ALUMNUS, as are many others in Hawaii, we are, at the very least, connected to our high school as a measure of pride and identity to who we are. I am not connected to President William Mckinley, the person, but to brand that is MCKINLEY HIGH SCHOOL. That brand includes the colors, history, alumni, architecture, The Oval, the traditions, etc. The name of any brand is the most impactful identifier. If the name is changed, the brand is changed. And all of us who are connected to the brand "MCKINLEY HIGH SCHOOL" will become part of a group with an asterisk next to our name.

I OPPOSE this proposal and will not become an asterisk.

To leaders and members of the House Committee on Education:

I strongly OPPOSE the resolution to change the name of McKinley High School. Here are some of my reasons:

HISTORICAL/AESTHETIC

- Oldest public high school in the state (with the name McKinley High School since 1907).
- Multiple historic buildings on campus.
- Iconic and arguably the most beautiful campus frontage in the islands (including private schools) – the line of trees and President McKinley’s statue are integral components of that view.
- Many key figures in Hawaii’s history and growth were graduates of the school: Abraham Akaka, George Ariyoshi, Hiram Fong, Dan Inouye, Duke Kahanamoku, Arthur Lyman, Satoru Abe, as well as many others.

PERSONAL

- Both of my parents and most of my uncles and aunts graduated from McKinley High School 80 to 90 years ago.
- I graduated from McKinley in the class of 1968, with 700+ others, and was the first in my father’s family to obtain a college degree (from a mainland university). Several classmates, all from primarily blue-collar families, were accepted to prestigious colleges including Harvard, Radcliffe, Oberlin, and Antioch, as well as the University of Hawaii.
- I returned to McKinley as the Student Body advisor (1976), mathematics teacher (1975 – 1984), and Math Team coach (1977-1984).
- My three nieces sought a district exception to attend McKinley in the 1980s.

LOCAL/NATIONAL RECOGNITION AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

- McKinley’s band and drama departments were well recognized statewide for their excellent programs (Henry Miyamura and Jimmy Nakamoto are legends).
- McKinley’s Math Team became the first public school team to become champions of the Oahu Mathematics League (competitive mathematics contests) in 1979.
- The Educational Testing Service sent representatives to McKinley in the 1970s to investigate after noting that a disproportionate number of FEMALE students at the school were achieving high scores on the Math portion of the college-qualifying Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT).
- Throughout my teaching tenure at the school, we serviced many children of immigrants, primarily from southeast Asia. One of my math classes was designated “Foreign,” comprising about 25 students who spoke at least 8 different languages as their primary language at home. This was an inclusive school that embraced multiple cultures, languages, and special needs. Some became engineers, doctors, lawyers, teachers, business owners – perhaps even politicians. What they all had in common was that they were “McKinley Tigers.”

TRADITIONS

- It has often been joked that when one is asked “What school you went?” in the islands, the intent of the question is to ask what high school you went to – not college, as is often the case on the mainland. This was partly because the high school you attended gave an indication of the neighborhood you grew up in and your social/economic status. Tens of thousands of us living today are graduates of McKinley High School (NOT Honolulu High School), as were many of

our parents. We hold diplomas from McKinley High School; we rooted for the McKinley Tigers; and we stood under President McKinley's statue to have our photos taken after the on-campus graduation ceremony.

POLITICS

- It is a sad commentary about our current priorities that the House Education Committee is taking time out to discuss the issue of changing a historic school's name in this time of pandemic, when public school students have not had access to in-person learning for so long, and leadership changes in the DOE should be of paramount issue.
- I suspect that capitulating to this one request will result in a spate of resolutions to change the names of other schools in the islands where for some reason or another someone deems that the person for whom the school has been named is "not worthy." The actions here remind me of what is happening in the southern mainland, where statues and names related to the Confederacy are being removed.

Does changing the name erase the history? I think not. So why not focus on positive educational efforts to promote the history of our islands and to be thankful on how far we have come over the decades. The past will NOT change, but the future can be made better, if as a community (backed by our elected officials) we focus on what is important today and tomorrow.

I do not want to have to say as part of my life story: "I went to a local high school and spent 9 exciting years teaching mathematics there --- it USED TO BE called McKinley High School." Many important local leaders as well as ordinary people went to that school when it was called McKinley, and have fond memories of and aloha for it – are we expected to white-out our school's name from our diplomas and memories? The school has also garnered achievements and awards as McKinley High School – for its academics, band and drama programs, and beautiful campus.

I URGE YOU TO NOT CHANGE THE SCHOOL'S NAME OR SPEND ANY TIME ARGUING THE ISSUE, BUT INSTEAD FOCUS ON MORE IMPORTANT AND PRESSING MATTERS RELATED TO THE EDUCATION OF OUR LOCAL CHILDREN!

Respectfully,

Raynette R. Takizawa (McKinley High School, Class of 1968)
raynettert@aol.com

HCR-179

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 4:09:11 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dee Green	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This is such an important time to for us to ensure that children who walk into a school to learn are given every opportunity to do so with pride. Please support this resolution.

March 16, 2021

TO: Representative Justin Woodson
Chair, House Committee on Education

FROM: Carl Takamura

RE: HCR 179/HR 148

I write to express my strong opposition to HCR 179/HR 148 as a proud alum of McKinley High School.

While I do empathize with the sentiments of the proponents of this resolution, I do not agree that changing the name of McKinley High School and removing the statue of President McKinley from its campus appropriately addresses these sentiments. President William McKinley was, like so many of our country's past (and current) leaders, an imperfect person who made decisions, that in retrospect from today's perspective, could be seen as questionable or wrong. McKinley High School, the institution, has a legacy of over **150** years of graduating men and women who have served and sacrificed for our state and our nation, notable among whom is former U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye. In my opinion, the long and rich history of service and achievement of the proud alumni and students and staff of McKinley High School should outweigh the sentiments regarding the action of one man.

In closing, I wonder if we, as a state, are prepared to research and judge the backgrounds of other Hawaii schools named after former figures, such as Sanford Dole, who formed the Committee on Safety in order to overthrow the Hawaiian monarchy, and Thomas Jefferson, who was a slave owner who fathered at least six children with one of his slaves, Sally Hemmings?

Thank you for considering my thoughts on this proposed resolution.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2021

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Chair: Representative Justin H. Woodson

Vice Chair: Representative Jeanne Kapela

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

Chair: Representative Nicole E. Lowen

Vice Chair: Representative Lisa Marten

DATE: Thursday, March 18, 2021

TIME: 2:00 PM VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE

PLACE: Conference Room 312

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

COMMITTEE HEARING: HCR 179 (COMPANION 148) URGING THE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION TO REQUEST THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO CHANGE THE NAME OF PRESIDENT WILLIAM MCKINLEY HIGH SCHOOL BACK TO THE SCHOOL'S PREVIOUS NAME OF HONOLULU HIGH SCHOOL AND TO REMOVE THE STATUE OF PRESIDENT MCKINLEY FROM THE SCHOOL PREMISES.

**TESTIMONY IN STRONG OPPOSITION TO HCR 179 (COMPANION HR 148);
RELATING TO MCKINLEY HIGH SCHOOL NAME CHANGE AND REMOVING
THE STATUE OF PRESIDENT MCKINLEY**

The HCR 179 is an unwarranted attempt to revise the Islands of Hawaii legal and established history with replacing the name of President William McKinley High School and removing the statue of President William McKinley from the school premises.

A brief history, on February 26, 1894, the United States Senate Committee on Foreign Relations submitted their report No. 227 for Congressional review and approval in conformance to the adopted Senate Resolution relating to the involvement of the United States in the Hawaiian Revolution. Included in the report is the James Blount's testimony and report, together with twenty-five (25) individual sworn testimony and twenty-three (23) notarized witness testimony on the overthrow of the Queen. The Senate Committee found by a 9 to 0 vote that the United States military was not complicit or involved in the Overthrow of the Queen. And, by similar 5 to 4 vote that both Ambassadors Stevens and Blount were found to have minimum interference in the Overthrow.

On July 4, 1894 the Constitution of the Republic of Hawaii is adopted and identifies who are Hawaiian citizens: "Article 17. - Citizenship. Section 1. All persons born or naturalized in the Hawaiian Islands, and subject to the jurisdiction of the Republic are citizens thereof." And, the

Organic Act of April 30, 1900, “§4. Citizenship. That all persons who were citizens of the Republic of Hawaii on August twelfth, eighteen hundred and ninety-eight, are hereby declared to be citizens of the United States and citizens of the Territory of Hawaii. And all citizens of the United States resident in the Hawaiian Islands who were resident there on or since August twelfth, eighteen hundred and ninety-eight and all the citizens of the United States who shall hereafter reside in the Territory of Hawaii for one year shall be citizens of the Territory of Hawaii.” “Hawaiians” is the larger class of United States citizens who are legal residents of the State of Hawaii.

The United States Supreme Court decided on March 31, 2009 in the State of Hawaii v. OHA the question of the “Apology Resolution” of 1993 USPL 103-150, that “This Court has jurisdiction, the Apology Resolution did not strip Hawaii of its sovereign authority to alienate the lands the United States held in absolute fee and granted to the State upon its admission to the Union.” Also, “the State Supreme Court’s conclusion that the 37 ‘whereas’ clauses prefacing the Apology Resolution clearly recognize native Hawaiians’ ‘unrelinquished’ claims over the ceded lands is wrong for at least three reasons”. (The Court describes the three reasons in its decision.) The 1993 Apology Resolution has no standing with the United States Supreme Court.

The Kū`e Petitions against annexation in 1897 was allegedly signed by some 21,269 adults. The New York Times printed the 1895 Republic of Hawaii census that totaled 101,331 Hawaiian residents. The Ku`e Petition did net 16,331 adult male and female signatures or 16.1% of the total Republic’s population (including alleged forgeries and same person signatures) and less the 4,938 illegal signatures of minors (ages one to twenty).

The Newlands Joint Resolution included the exact language of the Republic of Hawaii’s Resolution request for Annexation by the United States and was signed by President William McKinley on July 7, 1898, following the House and Senate approvals. The Congress followed on April 30, 1900, with the Hawaii Organic Act which was signed into law annexing the Republic of Hawaii as the Territory of Hawaii.

All citizens of the State of Hawaii, from the first person stepping on the shores of the Islands of Hawaii around the year 1250 AD, are visitors. Hawaii has not had a citizen displaced, robbed of their birth right and cultural identity, nationality, language, and homes, because all citizens face the same physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual well-being in this special Islands of Hawaii.

President William McKinley’s name and a symbol must be preserved due to his direct and personal historical relationship to the Islands of Hawaii. Also, the State of Hawaii has been accepted as the 50th State of the Republic, the United States of America.

SUBMITTED BY: James I. Kuroiwa, Jr. Director Hi LECET (Ret.) LIUNA Local 368

Appointed by President George W. Bush and served two terms on the Hawaii State Advisory Committee of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission. (2007 through 2011). President and RME of Mahana Landscaping, Inc. (Hawaii Island Projects: Hyatt Regency at Waikoloa; The Ritz Carlton (The Orchids) at Mauna Lani; Hapuna Beach Resort; The Four Seasons at Kaupulehu; and other projects from 1985 through 1998). Served as the 81 mm Mortars Section Leader with

the 100th Battalion/442nd Infantry USAR (1964 to 1971) and 1st/502nd Ambl 101st Abn I Corps Vietnam (1969).

HCR-179

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 5:29:04 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Will Caron	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee,

I support HCR179 to urge the Hawai'i Board of Education to change the name of McKinley High School back to Honolulu High School. It is inappropriate for a Hawai'i school to be named after the racist U.S. President who believed in "Manifest Destiny" and who presided over the illegal annexation of Hawai'i.

No vote for annexation was ever conducted in Hawai'i. In 1897, when Hawaiians learned that the U.S. Senate was set to ratify a "treaty of annexation," 39,000 Hawaiian nationals, instead, signed petitions categorically opposing annexation. This represented the will of over 80 percent of the adult population of the Hawaiian Islands. The petition was delivered to Congress and it stopped the treaty ratification in its tracks.

After two failed attempts (1893 and 1897) to annex Hawai'i by treaty, McKinley signed a Joint Resolution of Congress (the Newlands Resolution) to annex Hawai'i in July, 1898. However, a Joint Resolution of Congress has no authority to annex a foreign country.

The result of this usurpation was to displace Hawaiians of their homeland and rob them of their identity. These losses have resulted in physical, mental, emotional and spiritual harm. William McKinley turned the Hawaiian Islands into an overseas colony, completely dependent on the U.S. for everything.

There is something particularly heinous about allowing a school, of all institutions, to be named after McKinley. For the illegal annexation to succeed, Hawaiian children (whose parents a few years before had signed the anti-annexation petitions) had to be indoctrinated into thinking of themselves as Americans instead of as Hawaiians. School curricula were tailored to accomplish this through lies about the validity of the annexation. Children were taught to believe that Hawai'i had become a part of the United States willingly.

This indoctrination regimen has been baked into Hawai'i schools for over six generations. It was so pervasive that, up until just about one generation ago, most students emerging from Hawai'i's schools had no idea that Hawai'i had been illegally annexed or that the premise of statehood is based on a lie.

Today, more than 120 years after the overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom, the damage done by this lie is great. However we can work to undo this damage through collective healing and direct confrontation of the difficult truth about Hawai'i's history. A good first step to repairing that damage is to change the name of McKinley High School back to Honolulu High School.

A key component of the indoctrination within Hawai'i's education system was to rename the flagship Honolulu school to legitimize the illegal annexation. To continue honoring William McKinley overlooks and condones the crimes he committed against the independent people and nation of Hawai'i and overshadows the noteworthy accomplishments of the school and its generations of students.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

HCR-179

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 5:57:40 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tracie Muraki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in support of the name change of McKinley High School. It is the time to right the wrongs that were done to the Kingdom of Hawai'i back in 1893. Is there much more that needs to be said except that it is your kuleana to change the name of this school, AND to remove all the names of the individuals who were part of the "Committee of Safety" who were responsible for the illegal overthrow of Hawai'i. All of those names, including Sanford B Dole, Atherton, Austin, Bailey, Castle, Dillingham, Glade, Hall, May, Jones, Paty, Thurston, and Wilcox.

Mahalo,

Tracie Muraki

Honolulu High School Testimony

Please support and vote YES on HR148 to change the name of McKinley High School back to Honolulu High School. President William McKinley executed an illegal annexation of Hawaii. There is much documentation and legal opinion proving this. At the time, renaming Honolulu High School to McKinley High School was part of this new illegal government's strategy to kill off the Hawaiian culture and force all people in Hawaii to adopt an American mindset. It was a time in world history when "might made right" was accepted more than it is today, so a majority of the population in Hawaii went along with these tactics. We now know that this was terribly morally, ethically and culturally wrong, and that the people fighting against these tactics were the heroes. What a shame to try to remove from humanity the multi-cultural mosaic pieces that enrich us all! It is way past time to eliminate all vestiges and symbols of these wrongful actions. Return the name Honolulu High School to align a proud school with its geography and better history of the city of many diverse cultures.

HCR-179

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 7:05:59 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
ann Yamamoto	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kapela, and members of the House Committee on Education.

I am a proud graduate of McKinley High School.

I think the reso presents thought-provoking reasons for changing the name of the school. However, at this time, I believe both the Legislature and the Department of Education have urgent, higher priorities, and can find better use for the taxpayer funds that would be required to implement such a change.

I urge the Committee not to move this measure forward.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

HCR-179

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 7:22:54 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
K. Bart	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am opposed to HCR 179 because the HSTA, the initiator of HCR 179, does not represent the McKinley HS community and I do not believe it is in the interest of the DOE and the BOE to rename schools in Hawaii. The graduates of McKinley HS should be heard and they should not have their alma mater 'erased' by the woke crowd of HSTA. This is short-sighted and would put the state government on a slippery slope of renaming all buildings that some people may not agree with. Why should a small number of people dictate a name change to a building that has been named for over 100 years?

HCR-179

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 8:28:43 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
kenneth kudo	New Hawaiian (facebook grou) 675 Hawaii members	Oppose	No

Comments:

As a long time resident of Hawaii, I oppose this bill with the following comments. 1. I am an American patriot who believes in the Constitution. 2. I have roots in Hawaii going back before 1900. 3. I am 74 years old, born and raised in Hawaii and I will die here. 4. For the past 3 years, I administer a facebook group of 675 Hawaii residents who study and post Hawaiian history, and who unanimously accept, agree, and support President McKinley and the validity of the U.S. acquisition of Hawaii. I testify: I have read the testimony of Dr. Kenneth Conklin, I have visited his web pages, and I agree with every word and concept of his. The future of a free Hawaii is today in jeopardy. Our strength lies in unity and this resolution seeks to undermine the values of our country and create a divisive Hawaii. Cancelling historically correct culture is a socialist/communist practice and must be cast out. Everything in this resolution is based on factually incorrect interpretations of history. Legislatures must support Patriotism ~ only that will save Hawaii and America.

CHAIR WOODSON, VICE-CHAIR KAPELA, & MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

House Resolution 148 & House Concurrent Resolution 179

Thursday - March 18th, 2021
2:00pm at Hawaii State Capitol Rm. 309 & Rm. 430 via Videoconference

IN OPPOSITION

Aloha Chair Woodson and Members of the House Committee on Education,

I am Chance K. Na'auao-Ota. I am a proud McKinley Tiger class of 2018 and I am testifying *against* House Resolution 148 & House Concurrent Resolution 179.

In today's sociopolitical climate it is easy to feel very strongly about issues deemed to be unvirtuous & over the years it has become easier to act on those feelings while also not recognizing "all" of the facts. While reading through both House Resolution 148 & House Concurrent Resolution 179 I found some statements that are commonly used in arguments against President William McKinley regarding annexation. The statements included in both House Resolution 148 & House Concurrent Resolution 179 I found to be incomplete.

For instance, what is the evidence for paragraph 3 of House Resolution 148 & House Concurrent Resolution 179? I do know for certain that there is a newspaper article with quotes from then Governor Sanford B. Dole stating the following.

"It is believed that the project of erecting a local memorial to Mr. McKinley, if carried out by all classes of the Hawaiian population, and participated in by the school children, will tend to develop patriotism and go to strengthen the interest of our people in American institutions and ideals."

-The Hawaiian Star (Honolulu, HI) 22 November 1901 pg. 1 *The M'Kinley Memorial-*

To say that the statue of William McKinley put up at the highschool of topic was to perpetuate the subjugation of the Hawaiian people is blatant conjecture, and to say that it's purpose was to reinforce a "lie," that the Hawaiian Islands were then a territory of the United States of Hawaii is a twist of the truth. Although to be fair we cannot truly know what conspired aside from what was left behind, such as the Hawaiian Star Newspaper Article mentioned above. Where it clearly shows that Sanford B. Dole's stated purpose behind the William McKinley statue was because back then it was believed that a memorial to him would develop a sense of patriotism in the people of Hawaii, as well as an interest in American ideals and institutions.

In paragraphs 4 & 5 of both HR 148 & HCR 179 the Resolutions go into a mini history lesson, where some dates and occurrences are being mixed up and mashed together. Firstly, there was a time when local Hawaii Businessmen overthrew Queen Liliuokalani in 1893, leading to the first Treaty of

Annexation which was put forth before President Harrison, but that treaty never made it because after President Harrison left office President Cleveland found out about what had happened in Hawaii and he rescinded the treaty. Cleveland called upon Congress to restore Hawaii's monarchy. Sadly they did not, leading to the formation of the Republic of Hawaii. 1897, President McKinley alongside Representatives Thurston, Hatch and Kinney put forth another Treaty of Annexation before Congress, but this treaty did not pass with only 46% support compared to the needed $\frac{2}{3}$ vote. So annexation did not happen in 1897, despite what HR148 & HCR 179 says. Yet, admittedly there were in fact petitions against the Annexation Treaty in 1897, so that was indeed correct.

The annexation of Hawaii came about when Congress put forth the *Joint Resolution of 1898*, during a time when the Spanish American war was just beginning and the need of a mid-Pacific fueling station and naval base was a strategic imperative. The *Joint Resolution of 1898* passed through the US House of Representatives on June 15th, 1898 with a 209ye - 91nay vote. Then being affirmed by the US Senate on July 6th, 1898. The House vote to me far surpasses the $\frac{2}{3}$ vote which would have been needed for annexation. My point being that not everything is as black and white as most people would like it to be.

I do not believe that past President's should have stood idly by while the Kingdom of Hawaii was turned into the Republic of Hawaii, which by the time President McKinley had the Joint Resolution of 1898 in front of him ready to sign, the Republic had been established for I believe between 3-5 years. At this point in history though there was no documented petition against annexation like there was in 1897.

In regards to paragraph 6 and 7 of HR 148 & HCR 179, colonization of Hawaii was happening long before the illegal annexation which took place in 1898. Colonization can be traced as far back as 1820 according to written documents back when the sandalwood trade and the whaling trades were prominent industries in Hawaii. To blame colonization and the uprooting of Hawaiian society solely on the annexation of Hawaii and more specifically the topic of the argument at hand President William McKinley proves a great disservice to Hawaii's true history. To be fair foreign missionaries have been coming to Hawaii long before President McKinley was a US Representative, reforming what Native Hawaiians learned so at the very least I think they should get quite a bit of credit.

The final point that was made in HR 148 & HCR 179 was that the US did in fact acknowledge Hawaii's sovereignty was never directly relinquished to the US. Although that is still to say that Hawaii's sovereignty was still indirectly relinquished when Queen Lilioukalani yielded her power to the United States of America during the Bloodless Revolution of 1893. I am not saying that what happened was right in any way, but the Queen did in fact yield her authority to the United States of America until such time that they reinstated her and Hawaii back to being sovereign, which never happened. Not under Harrison, not under Cleveland, and not under any President since. Is that to say they were bad people? Does McKinley's annexation of the "Republic of Hawaii" make him a bad guy too? To both I say no. The true bad guys in this whole ordeal were the businessmen who overthrew the Kingdom of Hawaii in 1893.

The argument we are having now in this time where the Black Lives Matter movement was prominent, and the idea of tearing down statues of people we do not approve of is apparently ideal, is the argument of whether or not people who we deem to be undeserving of being put on a metaphorical or

physical pedestal, should be removed. I mean Sanford B. Dole was the man who put forth the first Treaty of Annexation for Hawaii and pushed patriotism in the Territory of Hawaii, shouldn't we remove his name from Sanford B. Dole Middle School too? In my general opinion it would only make sense to remove the men who moved to annex Hawaii. Yet, there is no action being put forth to do so today, and the reason is clear as to why not. Sanford B. Dole did not succeed in annexing Hawaii, even though he became the President of the "illegal government" formally recognized as the Republic of Hawaii. The people like Mr. Patao and the members of Hawaii's House of Representatives who introduced this Resolution want to shame and denounce William McKinley because he succeeded, whilst still missing or choosing to ignore very important facts and pieces of history.

Even worse, they want to change the name of a school that is steeped in history and pride. Those who want to rename President William McKinley Highschool say they do not want to slight our students or past alumni such as myself, but by doing so they will rid us of many of our traditions. The proposed name change would rid us of our alma mater, possibly the Burning of the M ceremony which takes place during homecoming, & other traditions like them. I have said this in the past, but the renaming of President William McKinley Highschool should be left to the community within the High School, from the parents, to the faculty and staff, to the students and alumni, and to the members of the public who have supported our school for many years. The decision to change the name of President William McKinley High School should be left to us, not the Hawaii House of Representatives, not the Hawaii State Teachers Association, and definitely not a bunch of virtue signalling persons who feel that the name of our High School offends them and their strong sense of moral right or wrong.

Again, my name is Chance K. Na'auao-Ota and I strongly *oppose* the renaming of President William McKinley High School and the tearing down of the statue that makes my school stand out above others. We should use that statue to remind and teach future generations of the pain and wrongdoings that went on, which got the State of Hawaii and all of us to this point in our history. To learn from our past mistakes and ensure we do not forget, or repeat them. William McKinley Highschool is and will always be my high school and if the name changes, I will continue to recognize that school as such. I will continue to proudly sing the Black and Gold and my alma mater, hailing not President William McKinley, but instead the school which simply uses his name. This should not have to be said, but in today's sociopolitical climate I think it does. For it is not a name or a symbol that makes a person or a thing, it is the legacy that person or thing leaves behind.

Chance K. Na'auao-Ota

Phone: n/a

Email: cnaauao0808@gmail.com

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HCR-179

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 8:46:53 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Josiah Saifoloi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HCR179 because I don't believe that our institutions should be named after individuals who partook in the colonization and illegal annexation of the Kingdom of Hawai'i. People like William McKinley contributed to not only the illegal annexation of Hawai'i, but also to the erasure of indigenous culture and the loss of cultural identity for the generations of Kanaka that followed these actions. Thus, I support the movement to changing the name of McKinley High School and removing the McKinley statue because I don't believe that we should be glorifying and memorializing these colonizers who displaced Kanaka Maoli and their right to social and political autonomy.

HCR-179

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 9:06:13 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Malia Marquez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Kā• kou, this bill is LONG overdue. I stand with our IÄ• hui and kanaka maoli of these lands and strongly agree to rename McKinley back to its original name, Honolulu High. There is no reason to give any honor to this person. It's time to right the wrong and support HCR 179. Mahalo for your time.

HCR-179

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 10:10:14 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert Lee	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Chair Woodson and Members of the Committee on Education.

I am in strong opposition to HCR 179 and HB 148 that urges the Superintendent of Education to request the Board of Education to change the name of President McKinley High School back to the school's previous name of Honolulu High School and remove the statue of President McKinley from the school premises.

The sponsors of HCR 179/HB 148 object to President McKinley and the annexation of Hawaii. I GET IT.

Surely these sponsors recall the history of this era and the steamships that sailed the Pacific always on the lookout for safe harbors with coaling stations. Hawaii is a strategic location today as it was at the turn of the 19th Century offering safe harbors with refueling. Saipan (Commonwealth of Northern Marianas today) was ruled by Spain, Germany, Japan and the US following WWII. Guam by the Spanish and US. Further south Germany controlled Western Samoa. The Chiefs of Tutuila did not want any part of German control, so they petitioned the US Navy which allowed unfettered access to the Port of Pago Pago and the birth of American Samoa.

So if not the United States, who would the sponsors of HCR 179/HB 148 prefer from the colonizers of Europe? Spain, Germany, or part of the British Empire? Look at all the possibilities to rename McKinley High School at the turn of the 19th Century:

Kaiser Wilhelm High School

Queen Isabella High School

King George V High School

YOU CAN'T CHANGE HISTORY!

DON'T REWRITE HISTORY!

LEARN FROM THE HISTORICAL EVENTS AND DEVELOP CRITICAL THINKING!

Robert G.F. Lee

Major General

US Army (Retired)

Hawaii Adjutant General (2003-2011)

McKinley High School Class of 1966

HCR-179

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 10:36:30 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Min Soo Pata	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

As a graduate of President William McKinley High School, I completely oppose the name change to Honolulu High. First, I do not believe that the history of this State needs to be canceled. It is part of what happened in the State and it is not something to be ashamed of and hidden. It's an opportunity to teach about the history. Secondly, the imagery associated with calling it "Honolulu High" implies, in today's society, a place to get "high." It's so laughable and not appropriate for an institute of learning for our education system. The money used to remove the statue and change the name could be better used for lights in the new track and field for the students. During this economic crisis, this is not the time to be wasting money which could be better utilized for facilities, books, and/or activities which our children so desperately need. The children are mentally struggling from the psychological effects of the lockdowns. This is not the time to be wasting our precious resources for politics when the children need help and this funding could be better used for them. Mahalo!

HCR-179

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 10:38:39 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Helen Sanpei	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Representative Perruso, Eli, Ganaden, Kapela, Tam, and Wildberger. My name is Helen Sanpei and I am submitting testimony in **STRONG OPPOSITION** to HR 148 and HCR 179.

McKinley High School has been a well-respected institution in Hawaii for over 114 years; graduating students who are well known leaders in government, education, business, and the military. McKinley High School has a glorious history and great traditions with continued impact on Hawaii and the nation by current students and alumni.

For many closely associated with the school, the name McKinley High School illicit emotions of pride and personal achievement, academic accomplishments, memories, friendships, athletic competition, robotic competitions, strength, principles, ideals, and love for a school, and what it stands for. There exists a deep feeling of gratitude and loyalty to this high school for the education received and the life-long friendships made. Both will continue because the gratitude and loyalty are **to the school, its teachers, and staff** and not to the school's name. Changing the school's name will only serve to remove a part of history.

President William McKinley is a part of America's history and that cannot be changed or altered by changing the name of the school. A change in the school's name will also not change the events of the past, especially what took place 114 years ago. We definitely cannot obliterate history, but we can learn from it.

Also, it would be difficult, if not impossible, to predict the unforeseen expenses yet to come, which the school and Department of Education will need to consider and provide for. To spend money unnecessarily especially with the current financial condition of our state due to COVID 19 could only be perceived as imprudent.

Furthermore, if any decision to rename any school is proposed, it should be reserved for those who attended and were educated there and should not be a decision by any external forces. Thank you for providing this opportunity to testify.

HCR-179

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 11:08:23 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Justin S. N. Mew	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Legislators should not be involved with changing the names of schools.

HCR-179

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 11:17:24 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Odetta Fujimori	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Testimony In Opposition of H.C.R. No. 179
Re: Name Change of McKinley High School

My name is Odetta Kealalio Fujimori. I am a proud McKinley High School graduate and served as HSTA's first president in 1971.

Come, ye. 2021, and unfortunately, some house members have decided to sponsor HCR #179, to chance the name of McKinley High School. My written testimony is in opposition of HCR 179.

Granted, the "whereas(s)" of "yester-years" in HCR 179 cannot be denied, but it certainly doesn't give credence today for a name change.

"Who in the past is without sin?" ...and who's next? Will you soon go after Jefferson Elementary because President Thomas Jefferson felt it was okay to have a handful of slaves to help in the fields and in his home? He was the principal author of the Declaration of Independence, writing that "all men are created equal," even as he continued to own slaves.

Will Dole Intermediate School, named after Sanford Dole be next? Sanford Dole was an American politician who along with a group of businessmen forced a new Hawaiian national constitution on the islands during King David Kalakaua's reign and removed Queen Liliuokalani from the throne and took control of the country in 1893.

How sad! Which school will be next, based on the whim of a legislator? Surely, you have more important things to do, than to worry about school name changes.

HCR 179 has no place in this legislature's protocol. Please do not tamper with McKinley High School's name and leave well enough alone.

Thank you for allowing me to share my comments in opposition of HCR 179.

Sincerely,

Odetta Fujimori,
McKinley High School/Class of 1957
First President of HSTA

HCR-179

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 11:31:56 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robin Vanderpool	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I can prove the 'Illegal Overthrow Theory' to be a falsehood contrived by neo-royalist factions.

The Treaty of Annexation is on the DLNR website. All major countries sent letters of acceptance to the Republic of Hawaii, Liliuokalani abdicated all claims ... The Annexation, Organic act, two Reciprocity treaties and the blood, sweat and tears of all who built this great state were all done legally. President McKinley is a hero to the majority who were blessed by annexation, it's financial and military security during a time where major imperial navies were ready to annex by force. Here is some history

Here is "A BRIEF HAWAIIAN HISTORY" : The earliest trace of human activity in these islands is 1300 ad. For 400 years (1300-1700 ad) islanders from dozens of Pacific islands colonized the archipelago that came to be known as the Sandwich Isles. All natives were slaves of the Ali'i Tabu chiefs. Chief Kamehameha the 1st, John Young and Isaac Davies brutally conquered these islands with English canons, muskets and Chinese black powder (1790ad). Now 'King' Kamehameha made John Young the governor of Big Island and Isaac Davies his minister on Oahu. Kamehameha the 1st appointed Alexander Adams as the Commander of the Hawaiian Navy. He delivered shiploads of Sandalwood cut by native slaves to China. Kamehameha 2, his regents and all of the Ali'i ended the Kapu religions and removed all temples from all Islands (1820). The missionaries arrived shortly thereafter and combined all of their Austronesian dialects into one English 'Olelo' for the printing of a native newspaper. The Russians attacked (twice) along with France and England), thus the US/Hawaii protection treaties of have been in effect since 1826 to keep us safe. Kamehameha 3 created a Hawaiian Constitution which freed all native slaves and stated " all men are equal in the kingdom regardless of race color or creed ". He created the three branches of government. (1840's) He created the Great Mahele land divisions where the chiefs own their kuleanas (land) and could sell them. Kamehameha 4 passed the Alien Land Sales Act. The Ali'i (elite) sold their kuleanas (properties) then moved to town or mainland. The Ali'i (lords) displaced the Maka'ainana and Kauwa (peasants) when they sold their lands. The native Hawaiians went to the royal schools and mainland universities. They became great, loggers, teachers, lawyers, doctors, road makers, shop owners, policemen, hotel owners, musicians, statesmen etc., Kamehameha 5 created the 'unicameral legislature then died without an heir. Kamehameha the fifth left all power to the unified Nobles and Legislature. The legislature voted Lunalilo as the

Chief executor of the constitutional republic. Lunalilo died after 1 year. The Nobles and The Legislature chose David Kalakaua as chief executor of the Constitutional Monarchy. Kalakaua signed into law and stood by his final Constitution of 1886. He brought the nobles into the legislature to ensure fairness in constitutional government. He created the building codes and health dept. He brought electricity and telescopes to the islands. He traveled the World encouraging people to move here to bring wealth and labor to the islands, He ceded land and sea to the USA at Pu'uloa and Pearl (1875) for a naval base and stationed Marines there to assist the Honolulu Rifles when the riots of the 1880's and 90's were too much for them to handle. The five noble kings and Prince Kuhio were annexationists who feared Japanese, Russian and Chinese Imperial aggression. David Kalakaua, a lawyer and 33rd degree Freemason passed away unexpectedly. After swearing an oath to the 1886 constitution The Nobles and The Legislature allowed his estranged sister, 4th proxy successor, twice exiled for revolution, Liliuokalani to assume the role as proxy monarch. Liliuokalani attempted to overthrow the incumbent government by secretly staging an armed rebellion against the legal government of the Hawaiian Islands. The days of 'absolute monarchs were 50 years past. Hawaii was a democratic republic at that point. The legislature of nobles and statesmen met for 160 continuous days to deliberate her crimes and impeachment. She without question broke the laws of the land and was sentenced 5 years for treason (of which she served months in detention in her home). She willingly abdicated all claims of dictatorial powers and swore an oath to the Republic in the presence of her lawyers and family (see below). She received a large sum of money and properties and remained the governess of Oahu. All major countries , their consulates, ambassadors, kings, and presidents of the World sent letters of acceptance of the new Republic of Hawaii. The legitimate government Hawaii and the USA made powerful acts, treaties and joint resolutions towards a union. USA forgave all debts of the Hawaiian Kingdom. Prince Kuhio called for annexation and spent the last few decades of his life fighting for US Congress to pass his US/Hawaii Statehood Admissions Act which when finally accepted by the USA 93% of Hawaii's people's voted for and rejoiced in becoming the 50th state of the United States. The laws and government that the 5 noble kings (K3,4,5,Lunalilo, Kalakaua) created are still the form of government we have today. Since 1843 all men were equal and free in the kingdom. 'Hawaiian' is a multi-cultural nationality, not a race. A Hawaiian is any naturalized subject of the kingdom. All people were invited here by the kings. All big titles were signed by the kings. Equal and legal are all races of people in the Hawaiian Kingdom, Republic and State. There was no international law in 1893 nor when Kamehameha 1 waged his 20 year war and slaughtered the people of the Sandwich Isles.

THE ABDICATION LETTER AND THE OATH OF LOYALTY, BOTH PERSONALLY SIGNED BY LILIUOKALANI, ARE AVAILABLE IN THE ARCHIVES OF THE STATE OF HAWAII. Photocopies are available in file folders available on request from the librarian, and the originals are kept in a safe accessible only with the permission and direct supervision of the head Archivist.

ISLAND OF OAHU,

HONOLULU, Jan. 24, 1895.

TO THE HON. SANFORD BALLARD DOLE, President of the Republic of Hawaii:

SIR: -- After full and free consultation with my personal friends and with my legal advisors and acting in conformity with their advice, and also upon my own free volition, and in pursuance of my unalterable belief and understanding of my duty to the people of Hawaii, and to their highest and best interests, and also for the sake of those misguided Hawaiians and others who have recently engaged in rebellion against the Republic, and in an attempt to restore me to the position of queen, which I held prior to the 17th day of January, A. D. 1893, and without any claim that shall become entitled, by reason of anything that I may now say or do, to any other or different treatment or consideration at the hands of the Government than I otherwise could and might legally receive, I now desire to express and make known, and do hereby express and make known, to yourself, as the only lawful and recognized head of the Government, and to all the people of the Hawaiian Islands, whether or not they have yet become citizens of the Republic, or are or have been adherents of the late monarchy, and also to all diplomatic and other foreign representatives in the Hawaiian Islands, to all of whom I respectfully request you to cause this statement and action of mine to be made known as soon as may be, as follows, namely:

First. In order to avoid any possibility of doubt or misunderstanding although I do not think that any doubt or misunderstanding is either proper or possible, I hereby do fully and unequivocally admit and declare that the Government of the Republic of Hawaii is the only lawful Government of the Hawaiian Islands, and that the late Hawaiian monarchy is finally and forever ended, and no longer of any legal or actual validity, force or effect whatsoever; and I do hereby forever absolve all persons whomsoever, whether in the Hawaiian Islands or elsewhere, from all and every manner of allegiance, or official obligation or duty, to me and my heirs and successors forever, and I hereby declare to all such persons in the Hawaiian Islands that I consider them as bound in duty and honor henceforth to support and sustain the Government of the Republic of Hawaii.

Second. For myself, my heirs and successors, I do hereby and without any mental reservation or modification, and fully, finally, unequivocally, irrevocably, and forever abdicate, renounce and release unto the Government of the Republic of Hawaii and the legitimate successors forever all claims or pretensions whatsoever to the late throne of Hawaii, or to the late monarchy of Hawaii, or to any past, or to the existing, or to any future Government of Hawaii, or under or by reason of any present or formerly existing constitution, statute, law, position, right or claim of any and every kind, name or nature whatsoever, and whether the same consist of pecuniary or property considerations, or of personal status, hereby forever renouncing, disowning and disclaiming all rights, claims, demands, privileges, honors, emoluments, titles and prerogatives whatsoever, under or by virtue of any former, or the existing Government, constitution, statute, law or custom of the Hawaiian Islands whatsoever, save and excepting only such rights and privileges as belong to me in common with all private citizens of, or residents in the Republic of Hawaii.

Third. I do hereby respectfully implore for such misguided Hawaiians and others as have been concerned in the late rebellion against the Republic of Hawaii, such degree of executive clemency as the Government may deem to be consistent with its duty to the community, and such as a due regard for its violated laws may permit.

Fourth. It is my sincere desire henceforth to live in absolute privacy and retirement from all publicity, or even appearance of being concerned in the public affairs of the Hawaiian Islands, further than to express, as I now do and shall always continue to do, my most sincere hope for the welfare and prosperity of its people, under and subject to the Government of the Republic of Hawaii.

Fifth. I hereby offer and present my duly certified oath of allegiance to the Republic of Hawaii.

Sixth. I have caused the foregoing statement to be prepared and drawn, and have signed the same without having received the slightest suggestion from the President of Hawaii, or from any member of the Government of Hawaii, concerning the same or any part thereof, or concerning any action or course of my own in the premises.

Relying upon the magnanimity of the Government of the Republic, and upon its protection.

I have the honor to be, Mr. President,

Very respectfully,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) LILIUOKALANI DOMINIS.

:

HCR-179

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 11:59:58 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tracee Nguyen	President William McKinley High School	Oppose	No

Comments:

Throughout all my four years, I have made lasting memories at President William McKinley High School. I have connected with many students and alumni, so I would like to contribute my perspective on it as well, not just as a current student but also as this school year's Student Body President.

Located in the heart of Honolulu, McKinley High School is a pillar for social interactions and events. The adult school, craft fairs, and other various events open to the public have been hosted at McKinley High. If the school were to have a name change, this would lead to a great domino effect. In the community, a name change would cause a major shift, as people and organizations all around the school would suddenly have to start addressing it by its new name. Many alumni will inevitably continue to refer to McKinley High School as it is now, and this would confuse many as time goes on. On a more technical note, everything imprinted with the name "McKinley High School" would have to be changed to fit the new one. Any student involved in sports, clubs, organizations, and even our course academies would be affected. Our school would need to have thousands of shirts, organization banners, and other merchandise reprinted. On a much larger scale, our gym, track and field, and the signs on Beretania and South King Street need to be redone. The list goes on and on, and what was just mentioned barely begins to graze the surface.

Our school has always held itself up with this one motto: "Pride and Tradition." We see it written and told to us all the time on campus, and it creates a large sense of unity in the students and its alumni. One tradition that makes McKinley unique is the "Crossing of the Oval". At freshman orientation, we are taught that no one is to step foot on the oval patch of grass in front of the Administration building, where the 25th president's statue stands. Crossing the Oval is a privilege only graduating seniors can have on their commencement day, and it is something many students look forward to during their time here. The symbolism that the statue holds is very meaningful to those linked to McKinley High School. Many argue that because of McKinley's involvement in the annexation of Hawai'i it should be taken down. One of the first things I have learned in every history class is that history should always stand and be told as it is, for society to move forward and learn from it, and for individuals to form their own opinions and improve in themselves. Every leader in history has their good and bad, yet they stand as historical figures that historians study, for us to apply to the present world. Tearing

down the statue of President William McKinley does not take away McKinley's historical significance; it merely silences it. If future generations are brought up and do not learn about the faults of history here in Hawai'i, there will be no learning from what has already happened.

Although there is much more to be mentioned and talked about on this matter, I want to highlight once more that the name change of McKinley High School will not only slight the alumni that have graduated from it, but also cause a major shift in society.

HCR-179

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 12:34:53 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Iwalani Yuanman Campbell	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Representatives,

My name is Iwalani Campbell and I am a student at McKinley High School. McKinley High Schools name should be changed because it glorifies the man who illegally annexed Hawaii against the queen and the native people. Not only does it do that but it also reflects the indoctrination of Hawaiian students to favor American patriotism. While the other side may argue about the schools pride and tradition, traditionally the schools name is Honolulu High School. Additionally how can students have pride for a man who stood for imperialism and colonialism of the Hawaiian people? About 26% of the schools population are Pacific Islander (<https://www.publicschoolreview.com/president-william-mckinley-high-school-profile#Overview>). As some one who identifies as part Hawaiian the schools name needs to change. Pride and tradition does not stem from just a name it is because McKinley is a great school. It is not his name that makes McKinley a great school it is the alumni's strength of character that have gone through it hence our hall of honor. We cannot fix the past but we change the future.

Thank you,

Iwalani Campbell

The Honorable Justin Woodson, Chair
House of Representatives
Committee on Education

Dear Chair Woodson and Members of the House Committee on Education:

I am testifying in opposition of HCR 179 and HR 148, that urges the Superintendent to request that the Board of Education to change the name of “McKinley High School” to “Honolulu High School”, and to remove the statute of President William McKinley from the premises.

Since President William McKinley High School (referred as McKinley High School or MHS) was founded in 1865 and known then as Fort Street English Day School, it was known as McKinley High School since 1905 until now in 2021. It is going on it is 116th year being known as McKinley High School by all its alumni from 1905 until the present. It was only called “Honolulu High School” for 12 years, from 1895, when The Fort Street English Day School was split into Ka’iulani Elementary School and “Honolulu High School”. In 1907 “Honolulu High School” school’s name was changed to what it is today, President William McKinley High School. In 1923 McKinley High School moved to Beretania and Victoria Streets

In 1898 Hawaii was annexed to the United States as a Territory by President McKinley signing a joint resolution to annex the Hawaiian Islands. This was an incredibly sad time for the Hawaiians because their monarchy was replaced. Hawaii remained as a Territory until it became the 50th state of our nation in 1959.

During World War I McKinley high students purchased liberty bonds and some left to fight in World War I. During World War II, MHS students volunteered at Red Cross stations, held rat extermination campaigns, and sold more than \$100,000. Savings bonds, and bought a bomber for the US Air Force.

During its 156 years, a “Hall of Honor” was developed at McKinley High School, to acknowledge outstanding citizens from McKinley High School. Here are some of the many inductees to the “Hall of Honor” who attended McKinley High School:

“Hall of Honor” Inductees Listed alphabetically by last name (year of graduation or years of birth and death). There probably are more to add to ones I have listed below:

1. [Satoru Abe](#) (1926-) – sculptor
2. [Joseph Kaiponohea ‘Ae’a](#) (1882-1914), hānai son of Queen Lili‘uokalani
3. [Abraham Akaka](#) Minister
4. [George R. Ariyoshi](#) (1944) - Governor of Hawai‘i (1974–1986); first American of Japanese descent elected governor in the United States
5. [Gladys Kamakakuokalani Brandt](#)
6. [Larry Buenafe](#) (1988) U.S. Marine Corps, Sergeant Major, first Filipino American to served as the Sergeant Major for Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 369, served in six combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan.
7. [Tammy Duckworth](#) (1985) - U.S. Army Major, and Iraq War veteran. Democratic member of the U.S. House of Representatives from the eighth district of Illinois. United States Senator from the State of Illinois
8. [Hiram L. Fong](#) (1924) - U.S. senator (1959–1977)
9. [Harry "Fuji" Fujiwara](#) (1949) Former pro wrestler, most popularly known as Mr. Fuji for World Wrestling Entertainment.
10. [Leina'ala Kalama Heine](#) (1958) – kumu hula

11. [Yuna Ito](#) (2001) - J-pop singer; In 2007 released debut album, HEART, which debuted at #1 on the Oricon charts in Japan
12. [Daniel Inouye](#) (1924-2012) - U.S. Army's 442nd Combat Team; Medal of Honor Recipient; U.S. representative (1959–1962); U.S. senator (1962–2012). President pro tempore of the United States Senate, 4th highest-ranking member of the U.S government.
13. [Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson](#) (1986–1987, freshman and sophomore year only) – Professional, actor
14. [Duke P. Kahanamoku](#) - Olympic gold medalist in swimming (1912 and 1920)
15. [Benny Kalama](#) - Musician, falsetto singer
16. [Keichi Kimura](#) - artist
17. [Wah Kau Kong](#) (ca. 1937) - first Chinese-American fighter pilot in World War II
18. [Ford Konno](#) (1952) - won four medals in swimming at 1952 and Olympic Games:
19. [Arthur Lyman](#) (1932–2002), jazz vibraphonist
20. [Masaji Marumoto](#) (1906-1995), Hawaii Supreme Court judge
21. [Fujio Matsuda](#) (1942), educator
22. [Edith Kawelohea McKinzie](#) (1925–2014), author, genealogist; traditional hula expert
23. [Leroy A. Mendonca](#) (1932-1951) U.S. Army Sgt. killed in combat in Korean War, Medal of Honor
24. [Alice Sae Teshima Noda](#) (1894-1964) - entrepreneur
25. [Frederick Pang](#) (1954), U.S. Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Manpower and Reserve Affairs), 1993–94
26. [Paul Schrier](#) (1985), actor
27. [Alfred Song](#) (1936), California State Assemblyman and State Senator
28. [John Chin Young](#) (1909–1997), artist
29. [General Vern Miyagi](#)
30. [General Robert Lee](#)

All these “Hall of Honorees” who attended McKinley High School, were chosen for having made a great contribution to humanity and to our society.

In 1980 the original quadrangle of McKinley High School was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. The architect most involved with the design of the “Spanish Colonial Revival” of the original quadrangle was Louis E. Davis.

There are 4 criterion it is significant historically about either local, state, or national history.

Criterion A. The property must contribute to a major pattern of American history.

Criterion B. Place or “person” is associated with significant people of the American past.

Criterion C. “Design/Construction” of the building needs to have great artistic value or being the work of a master.

In 1927 Student: Mun Chee Chun wrote McKinley High School’s “Code of Honor” which depicted the high standard of behavior which MHS students tried to display and maintain. The original plaque of the code was displayed in the main foyer of the Administration Building.

When alumni of McKinley High School look back to the all the over 116 years of attending “McKinley High School”, it is exceedingly difficult to think of our high school being named anything other than “McKinley High School”.

Instead, why cannot more energy be spent in getting part of the federal administration grants for Hawaii to assist the students and teachers at McKinley High School. According to the website: <https://www.usgrants.org/hawaii>, the federal administration in Hawaii spends over \$2,342,493,477. Dollars every year in elementary and secondary institutions alone in Hawaii. Why not request federal funds to help students (of any nationality: part Hawaiian, etc.) who need additional assistance at McKinley High School. Legislatures can request small business grants to assist high schoolers to work part time in small businesses to learn various trades to help with their vocational education. That website also has Hawaii Housing grants where perhaps McKinley High School Counselors can work with social workers to help those families in financial need in their community.

In conclusion, I feel that so much history is involved the buildings and the name of "McKinley High School" that are linked with former student alumni, renown alumni, and current students. Now is not a good time to consider any major changes like the name change to any High School especially with the pandemic that we are facing. Students are basically facing many psychological challenges. To have deal with their school changing McKinley High School's name, would bring added stress to their already stressed life, having to deal with academic issues because of virtual learning, and socioeconomic issues that their parents are facing due to the pandemic.

Sincerely,
Chieko Higuchi
Resident of Mililani, Hawaii
McKinley High School Class of 1966

HCR-179

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 6:41:18 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nako'olani Warrington	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

STRONG SUPPORT

Mahalo nui for HCR 179 / HR 148!

HCR-179

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 7:26:33 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jamie Dela Cruz	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Renaming of Hawai'i schools must be first and foremost be driven by the school communities, the community at large, and then supported by the DOE. A great example is the process Charter School Ka'Ā• hao went through. It started with listening to the place, its being, and the need to be pono. Going through this process without respecting those who are part of that place through history and common relationships is unacceptable.

Mahalo,

Jamie

HCR-179

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 7:59:45 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John Fitzpatrick	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Honorable Representatives,

I am in strong support of HCR 179 which would change Honolulu High Schools name back and remove the statue of a president that illegaly annexed the state of Hawaii with a simple majority vote in congress.

He was responsible for setting up an education system which "Americanized" school children and made it illegal to speak the Hawaiian language. According to a 2017 office of Hawaiian affairs these actions which also included paying Hawaiian teachers lower wages, forcing them to teach english in schools, and recruiting non-Hawaiian teachers caused a decrease of Hawaiian teachers which at the time represented 41% of educators in Hawaii. Although we continue to see a Hawaiian renaissance, the Hawaiian people still have yet to recover from the illegal acts performed by president McKenly.

Changing the name is really important because it helps us honor the place, culture, and spirit of all those that live in the Honolulu ahupua'a. It helps the Native Hawaiian Community recover from the illegal overthrow of their Hawaiian Kingdom and Queen. It helps us to continue to bend the moral arc towards justice.

Please help us to continue to make things right with those that had so much stolen from them. Change the name and remove the statue.

Ua mau ke ea o ka 'aina i ka pono!

Mahalo,

Fitz

HCR-179

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 8:01:38 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rennie Mau	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Yes, please do change the name to Honolulu High School

HCR-179

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 9:18:22 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Debbie Ng	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

The Honorable Justin Woodson Chair

House of Representatives

Committee on Education

Dear Chair Woodson

Members of the House

Committee on Education

I am testifying in opposition to HCR 179 and HR 148, urging the Superintendent to request that the Board of Education to change the name of McKinley High School and remove the statue of President William McKinley from the premises.

So much history and customs have occurred since the naming of McKinley High School. Graduates and their families are proud of being a part of McKinley HS and what it has done for the students of Hawaii and its community. This name and what it represents to the students and families is highly respected and loved. The McKinley Tigers remain in their and our hearts.

Please do not let this name change to occur.

Sincerely,

Debra Ng

Resident of Honolulu, Hawaii

Proud public school graduate of Roosevelt High School (we stand together)

Retired Educator with student and faculty ties to McKinley High School

HCR-179

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 9:36:06 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jen Jenkins	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Honorable Members,

Please pass HCR179/HR148. We need to bring back the name Honolulu High School and recognize the harms the McKinley caused in Hawai'i and other occupied nations.

Mahalo,

Jen J.

HCR-179

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 10:02:32 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Thomas Pangilinan	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE THIS RESOLUTION. This school has been in existence for over a hundred years and can be proud of all of their accomplishments. It's senseless to rename a school after all this time. It's a waste of time and money and only serve to hurt alumni and current students.

HCR-179

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 10:05:24 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Eric Nagamine	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Stop this insult to graduates of the McKinley High School. This is not american civil war cancel culture. Victors get to write History. Hawaiian government was weak and overthrown and this is now the US. Keep McKinley, McKinley.

HCR-179

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 10:30:34 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kamaka Parker	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As an educator, it is our sworn duty to teach our keiki the truth and how to morally, ethically and responsibly seek the truth. Honolulu HS should have never changed its name. If a few people can make a decision to change the name from Honolulu HS to McKinley HS, then the voices of the people can have the name changed back.

HCR-179

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 10:44:19 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dylan P. Armstrong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

RE: House Resolution 148 / House Concurrent Resolution 179

Aloha to Chair Woodsen, Vice Chair Kapela, and Members of the Committee on Education (EDN);

And also to Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Marten, and the Members of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection (EEP):

I write to you in support of the following measures: HR148, and HCR 179.

I seek for the Board of Education to restore Honolulu High School's name from its latter-day and current designated name, McKinley High School. I support the removal of the statue of Mr. McKinley from the school grounds.

As an American, it grieves me that so many of our fellow citizens are blind to the importance of this moment in history.

Two months ago, our last president's paramilitaries mounted a coup attempt against the people's vote. They disfigured and killed human beings. Let that disabuse us of the notion that any president ought to be lionized with a statue, and monumented at educational facilities.

Yesterday, a white nationalist gunned down Asian immigrants. Is there any confusion that racism is a rampant, dangerous public health problem? Ariel Durant observed that a "great civilization is not conquered from without until it has destroyed itself from within." And Abraham Lincoln too wrote that at "what point then is the approach of danger to be expected? I answer, if it ever reach us, it must spring up amongst us." There is a deluded sense of American history afoot that has sprung up amongst us. Our place names too often sanction it.

Too many Americans have misconstrued liberty to mean hegemonic freedom. The freedom to dominate and abuse others, of European-Americans over all others, of the rich over the poor, of humans over all species. To a considerable degree, Mr. McKinley also represents this here with his presidency's general sense of 'gunboat democracy.' But more than that, this is also about the blatant abuse of the people of Hawaii during

the occupation and annexation. This failure to enshrine America as a land of equal opportunity with lives of dignity for everyone is immoral. It degrades too many people here. Nationwide, this phenomenon of murderous ideology is a real danger for our country's future.

You know better. And you have a responsibility to start somewhere. Your power here in Hawaii to change this very large problem is small, but significant. This is what you can do.

Please vote for HCR179 and HR148. That will enable the state legislature to urge the Director of Education to seek the Board of Education's approval to restore Honolulu High School as its more rightful name, and vacate the status on the school grounds accordingly.

I seek justice not only for the native Hawaiian people, who have been cheated, robbed and humiliated. This is about fairness for all residents. We deserve honest landmarks, and buildings that are worth caring about. I hope that in doing so we can all be Americans equally, voluntarily, and lovingly.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kindly yours,
Dylan P. Armstrong

HCR-179

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 10:56:12 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Raechelle Villanueva	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kapela, and members of the House Committee on Education,

I am writing in strong support of HCR179. I feel that the name of McKinley High School should be changed back to its original name of Honolulu High school. Names have great significance in Hawai`ian culttre. As students of McKinley High School research the name of their school, sadly they will learn how their school is named after a President who illegally annexed the Hawai`ian Kingdown against the will of the Queen and people. Is that a legacy to be proud of?

In addition, this illegal destruction of tte sovereign kingdom of Hawai`i had devastating effects on the Hawai`ian people. Once Hawai`i was annexed, the Hawai`ian people were banned from having Hawai`ian names and from speaking Hawai`ian in public. In 1907, Honolulu High School was changed to McKinley High School. In 1911, a statute of McKinley was created and still stands today. That is further cemented the marginalization of the Hawai`ian people. To have a school named after the very President who authorized the illegal take over of the Hawai`ian Kingdom has got to be the ultimate insult to the Hawai`ian people.

I am not Hawai`ian, but I am born and raised in the islands. I have a deep love and respect for the Hawai`ian culture. I cannot imagine the trauma of Hawai`ians having to drive by McKinley High School everyday or worst, attend this school named after the very person responsible for the illegal destruction of the sovereign Hawai`ian Kingdom. What is probably worst, is that this history has been kept hidden on purpose. My own mother is a graduate from McKinley and she had no idea about the history behind the name of her alma mater. She was so shocked and dismayed when I told her the history behind the name. She told me it was never discussed when she was a student there. My mom loves the ideaa of changing McKinley High School to Honolulu High School.

That is why I am in strong support of HC179. Thank you so much for taking the time to consider my testimony.

Sincerely,

Raechelle Villanueva

HCR-179

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 11:13:40 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ted Bohlen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

President McKinley was responsible for the disputed and controversial annexation of Hawaii in 1898. His name should not be memorialized on any school in Hawaii. Please pass this House Concurrent Resolution and HR148. Mahalo!

HCR-179

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 11:38:46 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Holly Honbo	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear State Representatives:

I write in vehement OPPOSITION to a name change of McKinley High School (HCR179/HR 148). I am a public school teacher, but not at McKinley High School, nor am I a McKinley High School graduate. I was born and raised here and am the 4th generation of my family who calls Hawaii our home.

As a Hawaii State Teachers Association (HSTA) member, I ask that you ignore and dismiss the participation of the HSTA which supports the name change. The HSTA Board of Directors' decision in favor of the name change was NOT a member supported decision.

NONE of our 12,000+ members were contacted or polled by our Union leaders. The membership may have been made aware of this decision, after the fact, casually, via announcement in chapter assemblies, if at all. No comments nor responses were received from the HSTA leadership when member concerns were raised.

In fact, prior to the Board's decision, not even McKinley High School teachers were contacted or notified by HSTA representatives at all.

IF I was asked, I would have voted a definite "NO" to the name change. Inserting the HSTA in this issue serves no purpose from a labor union's perspective. Indeed, mere involvement, much less declaring a side on this issue, does not support the HSTA mission.

The mission of the Hawaii State Teachers Association is to:

- Support and enhance the professional roles of teachers;
- Advocate teachers' interests;
- Collaborate with all segments of the community to assure quality public education for Hawaii's youth; and
- Promote human and civil rights **to support and nurture diversity in our multifaceted community.**

Supporting a name change does not help teachers, improve the quality of education, advocate teacher interests, nor create more diversity at McKinley High School.

1-Who wants this change?

The mere fact that the HSTA was solicited from an outside source indicates a non-issue by Hawaii's teachers. The name McKinley High School conjures pride, identity and wonderful memories for generations of Hawaii's families. Many teachers are proud McKinley graduates.

2-Who benefits from this change?

Certainly no one from within the McKinley 'ohana: past, present, or future; and definitely not the HSTA membership or organization. McKinley has maintained a diverse and multifaceted community for over a century, and can boast a consistent student population of 1,500 with a 97% minority enrollment that achieves proficiency levels in math and reading/language arts that are above the Hawaii state average.

Students want to attend McKinley High School and teachers want to teach there. Are you aware of the esteemed men and women inducted into McKinley's Hall of Honor? They are an illustrious group which represents a tiny fraction of worthy McKinley HS alumni.

3-Why now?

1. 150 years, students, teachers, principals, alumni, and families continue to proudly wear the Black & Gold of McKinley HS. There is no shame nor stigma of being associated with McKinley High School in its 150 year-old history. Since its humble beginnings, McKinley HS boasted a culturally diverse student, faculty, and administrative population who were builders of Hawaii that toiled when we were a Territory and rejoiced when we became the 50th State. Many achievement barriers were broken by proud McKinley alumni. Indeed, we can reflect on the accolades of the 44nd Regimental Combat Team, many of whom were McKinley grads, and a hundred other soldiers who returned after the war to McKinley to finish their education.

4-What will this name change bring?

Nothing constructive, positive or beneficial to the larger constituency can replace years of pain, hurt, hard feelings or resentment by those to whom the school means the most, if you allow a change of the school's name. Why would anyone want to do this?

Have you considered that a name change would also necessarily destroy more than a century of school traditions, including a strong thread that connects tens of thousands of people, which is the McKinley alma mater? What about school colors? The gold was chosen for its association to Hawaiian royalty and black for its association to Princeton University (where many McKinley alums continued their education). Your potential responsibility in changing the name of McKinley High School will cause much unnecessary emotional destruction, loss of identity, and invisible scarring.

5- What other repercussions will a McKinley High School name change ignite?

Will the names of ALL Hawaii's schools, organizations, institutions, and buildings be subject to scrutiny and change?

Will Washington Middle School, Jefferson and Lincoln Elementary Schools be under fire as well because these US presidents were once slave owners?

Will there be a call to rename Kalakaua Middle School because King Kalakaua, the "merrie monarch", may perhaps be viewed as a poor role model for his flamboyant lifestyle or that he was responsible for the destruction of Hawaii's sandalwood groves for profit?

Will Kaimuki (translated to "ti oven") Middle and High Schools be renamed as the juice of the ti roots cooked in ovens were distilled to make liquor?

Will we resort to the mainland's safe and sterile system of naming schools: PS-1*, PS-2*, etc.>(*PS = "Public School")

Will there be a movement to take down Kamehameha's statue (which depicts him holding a weapon) because he was a ruthless warlord, a bigamist, and a misogynist who promoted incest and condoned a slave system? What of the Kamehameha Parade and highway which honor him?

Will this turn to the removal of the statues of Father Damien at the State Capitol to broaden the lines between Church vs. State? Or the removal of Liliuokalani's statue to denounce the representation of a monarchy, a system of government that does not support equality for all?

Will this, perhaps, lead to the change in Hawaii's state anthem which calls for allegiance and loyalty to Kamehameha and addresses only the Hawaiian aristocracy (lesser chiefs)?

People are people. History is history. Hues of brilliance and shades of flaws are companions. Whatever you look for, you will certainly find.

Think carefully and keep McKinley High School, McKinley High School. There is too much at stake. Additional unrest and divisive measures are NOT pono for Hawaii. Do not allow this issue to become a negative catalyst.

Hawaii has evolved to become a unique and special place where our people live with aloha: face to face, sharing the breath of life. The people of the Territory of Hawaii taught us by example how to embrace, respect and enjoy all cultures and propelled us to our place in modern history. Look at our ubiquitous beautiful multi-ethnic people, the daily food we eat, the way we speak, our very way of life. Let us continue to live, thrive, and share in our created harmony.

Supporting a McKinley High School name change will do more harm than good. Please do no harm. Do not go backwards in history. I mua.

OPPOSE the McKinley High School name change.

HCR-179

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 11:48:52 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Victoria Anderson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass this important resolution.

HCR-179

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 12:14:50 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lisa Garnett	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

The Honorable Justin Woodson, Chair

House of Representatives

Committee on Education

Dear Chair Woodson and Members of the House Committee on Education:

I am testifying in strong opposition to HCR 179 and HR 148, urging the Superintendent to request that the Board of Education to change the name of McKinley High School to Honolulu High School and remove the statue of President William McKinley from the premises.

I come from a family of proud McKinley High School graduates. I am a public school teacher with 20+ years of service. I am also a member of the Hawaii State Teachers Association (HSTA).

While attending McKinley High School, the students were made well aware of the deep rooted Pride and Traditions that have been carried on for generations. As one walked the halls of the Administration building, you were surrounded by not only the photos of distinguished alumni but, their stories of success and positive contributions to society. The annual Hall of Honor Assembly highlighted the accomplishments of the alumni honorees being inducted inspiring the student body to aspire to higher achievements. This caused us, as students, to pause and think, who in our class would one day have the honor of being inducted into McKinley's Hall of Honor? The traditions and pride felt by the students, faculty, staff, and alumni of McKinley High School were that of those who attended and worked at the school and not a reflection of the president of which the school was named after.

As a member of HSTA I disagree with their involvement in this matter. I was never asked my opinion.

Sincerely,

Lisa (Chang) Garnett

McKinley High School Class of 1991

Public School Teacher for 20+ years

Member of HSTA

Testimony in Support of HR148/HCR179, Changing the Name of McKinley High School Back to Honolulu High School

Aloha Chair(s) Woodson & Lowen, Vice Chair(s) Kapela & Marten, Members of the Committee,

Isn't it time to alleviate some of the harm done by a very racist and colonial past, that continues to hurt our islands today? Isn't it time we removed this ignoble past, and honor the actual heroes of Hawai'i who actually made a difference in improving the lives of our people! Too many of our streets and buildings are named after white colonialists who oppressed black and brown families. Why don't they bear the names of Hawai'i's real champions — the brave women and men of Hawai'i's many different ethnic groups that were a part of historic struggles to bring about a better Hawai'i, from the labor movement to land struggles in places like Kalama Valley, Chinatown, and Kaho'olawe?

Case in point, one of our most prominent high schools is named after the 25th president President William McKinley (1897-1901), the man whose administration illegally took possession of the Hawaiian islands. We are in **SUPPORT** of **HR148/HCR179**. This is a very good resolution supporting the changing of McKinley High School's name back to Honolulu High School, and we as individuals urge its passage.

Black lives matter, Kānaka 'Ōiwi lives matter, Cuban and Filipino lives matter! Yet, to William McKinley, they apparently did not matter. The McKinley administration's response to racial violence against African-Americans was minimal and token, even in the face of atrocious acts against Black Americans. For instance, when racist whites assaulted black postmasters in Hogansville, Georgia in 1897, and in Lake City, South Carolina the next year, McKinley made no statement of condemnation.

Even when a group of white supremacists violently overthrew the duly elected, racially inclusive government of Wilmington, North Carolina, on November 10, 1898, McKinley refused to send troops or federal marshals to protect Black citizens. McKinley was warmly applauded by white supremacists when he toured the South in 1898 and visited Confederate memorials, but he did not condemn the Ku Klux Klan or the racist violence against Black citizens.

President McKinley took the U.S. to war against Spain in 1898. In the aftermath of its victory, the U.S. took over the lands and governments of Cuba and the Philippines. McKinley said in an interview that he annexed the Philippines after praying to God for guidance, and received the message that he had a duty to "*educate the Filipinos and uplift and civilize and Christianize them*" (apparently ignorant to the fact that the Spaniards had the same idea two centuries earlier). He said in an interview that Filipinos could not be left to themselves because they "*were unfit for self-government*" and they "*would soon have anarchy and misrule worse than Spain's.*" The Filipinos had

fought for their independence from Spain and the newly established Philippine Republic would not bow down to the new bully on the world stage, the United States. The Philippine-American war ensued, the U.S. was led by President McKinley and the war was finished by his successor, President Theodore Roosevelt (1901-1909).

To service U.S. imperial ambitions in the Pacific, Hawai'i, after a coup against Hawai'i's legitimate and popular ruler, Queen Lili'uokalani by white elitists and businessmen, the U.S. government illegally annexed the Kingdom of Hawai'i. The United States claimed sovereign lands for military usage and took the reins of government despite various forms of resistance from citizens of the Kingdom, from the armed Wilcox Rebellion to a massive petition campaign by the indigenous people of Hawai'i, that protested the annexation of Hawai'i. This petition, now known as the Kū'ē Petitions gathered 21,269 signatures from both Hawaiian and non-Hawaiian citizens of the kingdom—quite a feat given the negative repercussions some signers faced at the hands of the illegal white-dominated government. But McKinley ignored these sincere pleas for justice and practically rushed to make an agreement with the self-proclaimed rulers to make Hawai'i a territory of the U.S.

To show how interconnected the web of colonialism can be, U.S. ships were fueled in Honolulu for transporting troops and ammunitions, for a frankly grisly genocide in the Philippines during the Philippine-American War. McKinley was very clearly a racist and a colonialist, and his actions or inaction negatively impacted BIPOC's on the continent, in Hawai'i, Cuba, and the Philippines. **He should not be memorialized.**

Until Hawai'i can agree on the name of a deserving individual— such as Nainoa Thomson, the famed navigator of the Hōkūle'a, Jack Hall, the legendary ILWU union organizer, Ah Quon McElrath, an esteemed social worker for the ILWU and champion of workers and immigrants, or George Helms, who fought to de-occupy Kaho'olawe, then Honolulu High School is a good substitute for McKinley.

Please pass HR148/HCR179 out of your committee for full approval by the House of Representatives.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Submitted by Jun Shin, John Witeck, and Justin Jansen

HCR-179

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 12:27:54 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David "Bucky" Kaopuiki	McKinley Alumni Association	Oppose	No

Comments:

My name is **David "Bucky" Kaopuiki**. I presently reside in Pacific Palisades, Pearl City. I was born and raised in the McCully neighborhood. I attended Bingham Tract school, Lunalilo Elementary School, Washington Intermediate School, and am a **PROUD 1960 GRADUATE of McKINLEY HIGH SCHOOL.**

I am **STRONGLY OPPOSED TO CHANGING THE NAME OF PRESIDENT WILLIAM McKINLEY HIGH SCHOOL BACK TO THE SCHOOL'S PREVIOUS NAME OF HONOLULU HIGH SCHOOL, AND REMOVING THE STATUE OF PRESIDENT McKINLEY FROM THE SCHOOL'S CAMPUS.**

HCR-179

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 12:33:46 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David "Bucky" Kaopuiki	McKinley Alumni Association	Oppose	No

Comments:

My name is **David "Bucky" Kaopuiki**. I presently reside in Pacific Palisades, Pearl City. I was born and raised in the McCully neighborhood. I attended Bingham Tract school, Lunalilo Elementary School, Washington Intermediate School, and am a **PROUD 1960 GRADUATE of McKINLEY HIGH SCHOOL.**

I am **STRONGLY OPPOSED TO CHANGING THE NAME OF PRESIDENT WILLIAM McKINLEY HIGH SCHOOL BACK TO THE SCHOOL'S PREVIOUS NAME OF HONOLULU HIGH SCHOOL, AND REMOVING THE STATUE OF PRESIDENT McKINLEY FROM THE SCHOOL'S CAMPUS.**

HCR-179

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 12:52:07 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lynn Murakami-Akatsuka	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose the passage of HCR 179 and that it be deferred. I am a graduate of McKinley High School and proud of the school as an alumni all these past years. To have the name of "McKinley High School" changed and have it referred to "Honolulu High School" with the removal of the statue of President McKinley from the school premises, would erase the existence of students/alumni that have received our excellent education from that institution.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition of HCR 179,

The Honorable Justin Woodson, Chair
House of Representatives
Committee on Education

Dear Chair Woodson and Members of the House Committee on Education:

I am testifying in opposition to HCR 179 and HR 148, urging the Superintendent to request that the Board of Education to change the name of McKinley High School to Honolulu High School and remove the statue of President William McKinley from the premises.

During my initial year (1978) as principal of William McKinley High School, the principals of schools which bore the names of individuals, e.g., Wallace Rider Farrington High School, were instructed by the then Superintendent to use the full name instead of just Farrington High School.

Unfortunately for those associated with McKinley, the school has an unpleasant association with "President William McKinley" – the President of the United States when Hawaii was annexed as a territory.

I have the same sense of belonging to McKinley as the Native Hawaiians for Hawaii. I am a former student of the school – graduating in June, 1952. My lifelong dream was to return to my alma mater as principal. In September, 1978, I started my initial year as its principal.

McKinley was unofficially named "Tokyo High" because of the many Japanese-Americans enrolled in the school. Although the population of Polynesians, e.g., Samoans, Tongans, increased, I wanted a mixture of ethnicities. Hawaii was always noted to be the "Melting Pot of the Pacific." Much can be done by everyone living in Hawaii to promote that goal. The Native Hawaiians who wish to have a name change for the school can place their efforts toward world peace.

I presently live in a senior living home in Redwood City – some 100 miles south of San Francisco, CA. My late wife and I were always involved in school activities and class reunions. We will always be a part of the McKinley 'Ohana.

Sincerely,

Richard S. Sakamoto
McKinley High School, Class of 1952
Principal 1978-1988

HCR-179

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 1:33:52 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Howells	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HR148 / HCR179

Hawaii State Legislature,

Please change the name of Mckinley HS to a Hawaiian name.

and remove the statue of Mckinley from the HS grounds.

Mahalo,

Michael Howells

Manoa

Aloha nō e House Committee on Education,

I am in support of HR 148 and HCR 179 in urging the Superintendent of Education to request the Board of Education to change the name of President William McKinley High School back to the school's previous name of Honolulu High School and to remove the statue of President McKinley from the school premises.

In 2015, I was looking at ways for people in Hawai'i to know its true history. In doing so, I fell upon President William McKinley. I found that the school in Honolulu that was named after him wasn't *always* named that. I thought, "Why in the world would anyone want to change the name of a school called Honolulu High School and replace it honoring this man? Especially in Hawai'i!" Turns out, it was a deliberate strategy to kill the Native Hawaiian consciousness and revive it with American patriotism. This *needed* to be made aware of and corrected. There was, and is, only one way: rename President William McKinley High School and remove his statue from the school premises.

At first, I started a petition to restore the original name of Honolulu High School, but soon, it came to a halt as the support was not there. In 2020, I was contacted to see if I would be willing to revive the petition, but also add the removal of the statue, which I did. This led to creating the group, Right Our History Hawai'i (ROHH), whose focus is to advocate for Hawai'i's true history. There were multiple communication efforts with the DOE Superintendent to see if she would be willing to support BOE Policy 301-8, Naming of Schools and School Facilities: "The name of a school shall be recommended by the Superintendent of Education. The recommendation, with its supporting reasons, shall be submitted to the Board of Education for approval." She did not respond once.

That is why HR 148 and HCR 179 is now in legislation. That is why I truly appreciate HSTA's Resolution to help the Superintendent do the right thing.

There are a million reasons why William McKinley does not deserve to be attached to *any* school or building in Hawai'i, but the main reason is this: he unilaterally and illegally annexed an independent country against the will of its citizens and Queen. It was a deliberate strategy to kill the Native Hawaiian consciousness and revive it with American patriotism.

To be very clear, this should not, by any means, be a slight to the students, graduates, and memories of President William McKinley High School. A name change and the removal of the statue does not diminish the school's achievements. Neither does it diminish its ethos or the interests of the alumni. The accomplishments and history will never be erased. Their great school deserves a better name.

This is an opportunity for good change. This is an opportunity to support and uplift the esteem of Native Hawaiians to say that their history and culture means something.

Mahalo for your valuable time and consideration. If you would like more information on the movement, please visit <https://rightourhistoryhawaii.com/>.

Mahalo nui,
Aoloa Patao

The Honorable Justin Woodson, Chair
House of Representatives
Committee on Education

Dear Chair Woodson and Members of the House Committee on Education:

I am testifying in **opposition** to HCR 179 and HR 148, urging the Superintendent to request that the Board of Education to change the name of McKinley High School to Honolulu High School and remove the statue of President William McKinley from the premises.

I come from a long line of McKinley graduates. Both sets of grandparents and most of their siblings, my parents' cousins, my sisters, my late husband and I are all proud graduates of McKinley. Ever since I moved back from California, I have been hoping my twins will have a chance to graduate from McKinley.

McKinley High School has been steeped in tradition. As students, we learn about the history OF THE SCHOOL, what students and graduates before us have accomplished with limited means and that anything is possible after graduating from McKinley. Our alumni include a Governor, US Congress Members, Olympians, Educators, Decorated Veterans, Scientists and Entrepreneurs, to name a few.

This school has been in existence for over 150 years. It has been known longer as McKinley High School than any other name. The school was named as a memorial to an assassinated president and not because of his involvement in annexing Hawaii. Whenever a death happens, everyone is on board with naming/re-naming places or creating events in the deceased person's memory. Changing McKinley High School's name will not change history.

Why are we spending so much time on this issue with the pandemic still going on? Why are we not working on getting public school students back in school, getting people fed and the economy back on track. One of the reasons my late husband and I moved away was because of the high cost of living. Shouldn't our time and energy be spent working on current issues instead of trying to change the past?

Sincerely,

Lisa-Anne Mitsuka Chan
McKinley High School Class of 1991
McKinley Alumni Association Recording Secretary
Editor, *The Alumni Pinion*

HCR-179

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 1:41:41 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susie Chun Oakland	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Chairman Woodson and Members of the House Committee on Education:

I **OPPOSE** HCR 179/HR148, URGING THE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION TO REQUEST THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO CHANGE THE NAME OF PRESIDENT WILLIAM MCKINLEY HIGH SCHOOL BACK TO THE SCHOOL'S PREVIOUS NAME OF HONOLULU HIGH SCHOOL AND TO REMOVE THE STATUE OF PRESIDENT MCKINLEY FROM THE SCHOOL PREMISES.

McKinley High School is very special to me and thousands of other people in our State and around the world. We are extremely proud graduates of this public educational institution in Hawaii and love our alma mater, McKinley High School, very much. Please do not consider changing our school's name nor removing the statue of President William McKinley as they are in

McKinley has such a wonderful and rich history with decades of outstanding accomplishments of its students, its faculty, and its alumni. The deep traditions of our school, which we cherish, are intertwined with the name McKinley High School. The introduction and hearing of this legislation has saddened and deeply hurt us.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Me ke aloha pumehana,

Susie Chun Oakland

McKinley High School Class of 1979

HCR-179

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 1:59:36 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Agena	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Woodson and Members of the House Committee on Education:

I am testifying in opposition to HCR 179 and HR 148, urging the Superintendent to request that the Board of Education to change the name of McKinley High School to Honolulu from the premises.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Agena

Former teacher at McKinley High School

HCR-179

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 1:59:52 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ronya Malae	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Ronya Malae

McKinley High School, Junior

Wednesday, March 17, 2021

Support of Bill HCR 179

Aloha Mai Kakou,

My name is Ronya Malae, I am a Junior at McKinley High School and am in support of Bill HCR 179 and HR 148. It is important for our school to be renamed "Honolulu High School" as it truly and respectfully represents the location and our people. President William McKinley should not be celebrated in Hawai'i as he was responsible for the illegal annexation of the Hawaiian Kingdom and obliteration of the Hawaiian Identity.

Yes, "The name does not make the school, the people do." However, what message is sent to our future generation and leaders of Hawai'i if we continue to use the name behind years of lost culture, lost opportunities and lost traditions? Traditions that make Hawai'i what it is.

At Mckinley, we are built on “Pride and Tradition.” We continue to keep traditions alive and well, here. I’d be more proud of a school renamed Honolulu High.

Mahalo Piha

HCR-179

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 2:03:03 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nikos Leverenz	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I write in strong support of this resolution.

I am a Filipinx-American born and raised in Honolulu who is the grandson of a McKinley High School graduate back when the school was known as “Tokyo High” because of Honolulu’s policies that forwarded racial and ethnic discrimination in housing.

My grandfather emigrated from Manila in the early 1930s with his father, who was recruited to be the first Filipino detective with the Honolulu Police Department to help quash labor organizing on sugar plantations. Some of his union-busting activity on behalf of the Big Five is chronicled in Ronald Takaki’s “Pau Hana: Plantation Life and Labor in Hawaii.”

Others in support of this measure will note the legacy of William McKinley with respect to the overthrow of Hawaii’s constitutional monarchy and the subsequent maltreatment of Native Hawaiians by a territorial government that was expressly rooted in white supremacy. Native Hawaiians face a range of lasting incidents of this white supremacist legacy, including disproportionate involvement in the state’s criminal legal system and continued underrepresentation in state and county governments and Hawaii’s learned professions.

Yet is also important to note the imperialism of McKinley and his successor, Theodore Roosevelt, who embarked upon an express policy of imperialism during their administrations. [The impact of U.S. imperialism was especially acute in the Philippines](#), with hundreds of thousands dying in defense of their homeland and right to self-determination. On this front I recommend Leon Wolff’s Parkman Prize winning “Little Brown Brother: How the United States Purchased and Pacified the Philippines” and Gregg Jones’s [“Honor in the Dust: Theodore Roosevelt, War in the Philippines, and the Rise and Fall of America’s Imperial Dream.”](#)

Mark Twain put it very well in the New York Herald on October 15, 1900 regarding the American subjugation of the Philippine archipelago: “I have read carefully the treaty of Paris, and I have seen that we do not intend to free, but to subjugate the people of the Philippines. We have gone there to conquer, not to redeem... It should, it seems to me, be our pleasure and duty to make those people free, and let them deal with their own

domestic questions in their own way. And so I am an anti-imperialist. I am opposed to having the eagle put its talons on any other land.”

I am also the son of a Roosevelt graduate. Please restore the name of Honolulu High and endeavor to find a more historically and culturally appropriate name for Roosevelt High.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

LATE

The Honorable Justin Woodson, Chair
The House of representatives
Committee on Education

Dear Chair Woodson and Members of the
House Committee on Education:

I am testifying in **opposition** to HCR 179 and HR 148, to change the name of McKinley High School and remove the statue of President William McKinley from the premises.

I attended an Educational Institution called McKinley High School. It gave me a thirst of knowledge to this day. It has continued to have me participate in Public Service. It has given me my Ethical and Moral foundation. "No make stink for McKinley".

Whenever I pass the school on King Street, I look up the great lawn and see the buildings where I studied. Within the walls are lined a host of leader of this Community in the Hall of Honor.

Is that the History you would like to tear down? No, you build on it with the good and the bad memories.

For those who support these two Resolutions, “Let it rest”. Fight some other more relevant fights.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Helen Y. Rauer
Class of '51 McKinley HighSchool
President, McKinley High School Alumni
March 17, 2021

Testimony submitted by Wilmar B. Alvarado
Re: HCR 179

I am an alumni of McKinley High School, the 125th graduating class in 1990. I am a proud graduate of McKinley High School. I do not glorify President William McKinley. I glorify and honor the accomplishments performed and achievements earned by the many alumni, administrators, teachers, staff and current students from McKinley High School.

The name of President William McKinley may be a lightning rod in regards to the indoctrination of the Hawaiian students and the movement to obliterate the identity, culture and language of the Native Hawaiians in the early 1900s, but it is not sole factor of this. I would like to offer that the children from the early missionaries that were the authors of the overthrow of the Hawaiian Monarchy which occurred in 1893 during the term of President Grover Cleveland and the founders of the Big Five have as much, if not more, influence as to the indoctrination and obliteration of the Hawaiian identity, culture and language than President William McKinley. I would also like to think that the Native Hawaiian culture and language is not lost, in fact the renaissance of the Native Hawaiian history, culture and language is growing stronger and stronger. I believe that it is one's responsibility to know, to learn and to educate oneself of the history so that the future can be right. The HSTA states that it wants to restore righteousness or pono. To restore is to repair or fix; the name does not need to be repaired or fixed. The greatness of McKinley High School is and has always been forged by the alumni, students, administration, faculty, staff and the community. The name of McKinley High School should not be changed.

Should the name of McKinley High School be changed, what about others schools with historic names? Roosevelt High School? Farrington High School? Campbell High School? Jefferson Elementary School? Washington Middle School? Kaiser High School?

A historian, Harold Holzer, in a CBS News article on January 27, 2021 <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/san-francisco-renaming-schools/>, commented about the city of San Francisco and the changing of school names. Mr. Holzer cautioned against what he called "a danger of excess" if the country takes a wrecking ball to its past. "I think there's a danger in applying 21st-century moral standards to historical figures of one or two centuries ago," he said. "We expect everyone to be perfect. We expect everyone to be enlightened. But an enlightened person of 1865 is not the same as an enlightened person of 2021."

What happened to learning from the past and using that knowledge to create and influence change? It seems today's world wants to change the past. By doing that the world is just keeping its focus on the past.

Sincerely,

Wilmar B. Alvarado

HCR-179

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 9:15:19 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Janet Pappas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear EDN and FIN Chairs, Vice Chairs and Committee Members,

I support this resolution. Here is one reason why. This is Queen Liliuokalani's statement after her imprisonment and the illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian government:

I, Lili'uokalani, by the Grace of God and under the constitution of the Hawaiian Kingdom, Queen, do hereby solemnly protest against any and all acts done against myself and the constitutional government of the Hawaiian Kingdom by certain persons claiming to have established a Provisional Government of and for this Kingdom. That I yield to the superior force of the United States of America, whose Minister Plenipotentiary, His Excellency John L. Stevens, has caused United States troops to be landed at Honolulu and declared that he would support the said Provisional Government. Now, to avoid any collision of armed forces and perhaps loss of life, I do, under this protest, and impelled by said forces, yield my authority until such time as the Government of the United States shall, upon the facts being presented to it, undo the action of its representative and reinstate me in the authority which I claim as the constitutional sovereign of the Hawaiian Islands.

January 17, 1893

Later, President McKinley unlawfully annexed Hawaii, completely ignoring the Queen's requests for her re-instatement and a vote taken by the Hawaiian people (80% voted NOT to be annexed).

I feel it is only right to return the school's name to its original name, Honolulu High School, out of respect for the Hawaiian nation.

Please support this resolution (HCR170).

Thank you for listening and for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Jan Pappas – Aiea, Hawaii

HCR-179

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 9:15:32 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Pablo Wegesend	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Pablo Wegesend, a 1999 graduate of the school currently known as McKinley High School. I bleed the school colors Black & Gold. I am a major fan of the school's Tiger spirit. The school is the home of some of my very wonderful memories. I have organized the 15h & 20th year reunions for my classmates. Nobody can question my school spirit. However, I believe it is time to give the school back its original name of Honolulu High School.

McKinley High School was named after William McKinley, who was the US president when Hawaii was annexed into the American empire without the consent of the Hawaiian people.

Imagine how it feels to have your country taken over, and to have the conquering leader have his name and a statue on the high school located in the urban center where everyone can see it! The name & the statue is like a middle finger towards the Hawaiians who protested against the conquest and annexation of Hawaii. We as the people of Hawaii should no longer accept that white supremacist imperialist middle finger in silence.

It is time for Hawaii to take a stand against white supremacy, racism, colonialism and imperialism.

It is time to take down the statue of William McKinley. It is time to remove his name from the school and rename it Honolulu High School.

Please pass HR 148 and HCR 179 to make that a reality.

Sincerely,

a proud Honolulu Tiger (c/o 99)

Pablo Wegesend