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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>

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 8:37:32 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 Members of the Energy and Environmental Protection Committee,

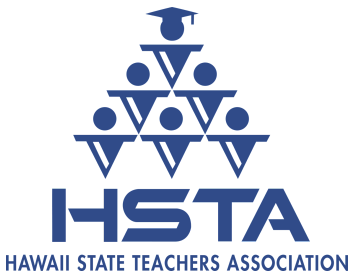
I am the Principal of President William McKinley High School and I have submitted written testimony as well on HCR 179 in opposition of both Resolutions to recommend the name change to President William McKinley High School

Mahalo

Ron Okamura

Principal

President William McKinley High School



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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

RE: HR148, URGING THE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION TO REQUEST
HCR179 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

JODI KUNIMITSU, CHAIR, HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS COMMITTEE
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

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

The Hawaii State Teachers Association's Human and Civil Rights Committee **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.

Our committee is made up of educators across the state who are passionate about racial and social justice work. We strive to promote non-discriminatory spaces for educators and learners, and advocate on behalf of our students and communities; a reflection of HSTA's value to uphold high standards of truth and ethics.

We are speaking out today because we believe the name President William McKinley High School is damaging to our students, especially those in our Native Hawaiian community. It does not matter that this name has been in place for more than a century. We cannot turn a blind eye to this dark stain in Hawai'i's history, and the continued oppression and harm it causes to this day.

Communities across the country are taking bold steps to scrutinize, change, even take down monuments, names, and mascots as we learn and understand more about colonization and white

supremacy and their devastating impacts on indigenous groups and communities of color.

It's time for Hawai'i to do the same.

Changing this school's name will not erase or diminish the impressive accomplishments, pride, and accolades of its students, alumni, faculty, staff, and supporters. The school's proud legacy never relied on a mere name, but rather the people who make up its distinguished, vibrant community. A person's love of school and love of name are not the same.

Furthermore, reverting back to Honolulu High School will have nowhere near the devastation that the naming of President William McKinley High School did in 1907. The decision to honor a man who annexed a country against the will of her queen and people reflected a larger movement to indoctrinate students and erase their cultural identity. We cannot expect Native Hawaiian students, or those of any oppressed cultures and people, to pursue an education under the shadow of a figure who robbed their elders of their own education.

The school has a tradition that discourages anyone from crossing the oval ground surrounding the statue as a sign of "respect." Whether they realize it or not, students must practice a form of reverence every time they cross the quad. We must acknowledge and dismantle the institutionalized racism that pervades our system and perpetuates generations of trauma.

Opponents will label this as cancel culture. But we believe it's an opportunity to celebrate; a chance to truly honor a great school with a better name. 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. Therefore, **we ask for your support of HR 148 and HCR 179** to change the name of McKinley High School to one that is more honorable and appropriate for our islands.

The testimony submitted by HSTA, also in support of this resolution, is available to view online at hsta.org/honoluluhigh and explains the key themes behind this movement. If you would like more information on our position or this topic, we are happy to continue this conversation.

Mahalo nui for your time and consideration to do what is right for future generations of Hawai'i's keiki.

Hawaii State Teachers Association
Human and Civil Rights Committee

Jodi Kunimitsu, State Chair
Heidi Alvarez, Kaua'i Chapter
Jill Fletcher, Leeward Chapter
Roy Hannu, Central Chapter
Kit Brizuela, Windward Chapter
Kaleo Ramos, Honolulu Chapter
Sarah Jane Larkin, Moloka'i Chapter

Brenda Palumbo, Lāna'i Chapter
Kapolei Kiili, Maui Chapter
Nicole Heinlein, Maui Chapter
Karina Hernandez, Kona Chapter
Elizabeth Sharrock, Hilo Chapter
Daphna Ehrenhalt, Hilo Chapter
Dana Gorelangton Turnbull, HSTA-Retired

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)

**Testimony of Laulani Teale, MPH
Ho'opae Pono Peace Project**



In STRONG SUPPORT of HR 148

March 17, 2021

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Rep. Justin H. Woodson, Chair

Rep. Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Rep. Nicole E. Lowen, Chair

Rep. Lisa Marten, Vice Chair

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THE THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE

Aloha Kākou,

Ho'opae Pono Peace Project is a cultural peace resource focused on building cooperative solutions in the context of Aloha 'Āina, human rights, and genuine perpetuation of Indigenous well-being and cultural continuity. We strongly support this measure, and express gratitude to all who brought it forward.

It is with great aloha for all of those connected to this magnificent school that we ask for the removal of William McKinley's name and image from its association. The often brutal colonial indoctrination this man symbolizes has created terrible wounds in the collective soul of the people of Hawai'i, and it is now time to begin healing those wounds, and liberate future generations from this suffering.

In the days in which our kupuna were literally beaten into Americanization, it was very nearly possible to create a believable illusion of the occupation and colonization of Hawai'i being a good, legitimate thing for its people, with no realistic possibility of a better way. Those days are now over. Youth are learning and recognizing the truth, and this affects their identity.

High school students of any ancestry deserve to have pride in their school. If there is something that is not right, something that might affect their sense of self or their ability to relate to one another for many years to come, then it is our responsibility as the adult community to fix that. I am grateful to those who put forward this measure, as a small but important part of that solution.

Ho‘opae Pono Peace Project is an Affiliate of the Seventh Generation Fund for Indigenous Peoples, located in Arcata, California. In the center of that town, there was a nearly duplicate statue of William Mckinley. Our Indigenous ‘Ohana in Arcata (Yurok and other Peoples connected in mo‘olelo to Kānaka Maoli) led the efforts to remove the statue from the town square, a place where much genocide had historically occurred. Eventually, they were successful, and McKinley’s statue was removed from Arcata in 2019.

Hawai‘i, which was even more directly affected by the personal actions of this man, should do the same. It is not an extreme action at all, but a respectful one that acknowledges the truths behind the historic trauma that affects us all, and begins the much-needed process of healing.

For these reasons and more, Ho‘opae Pono Peace Project asks with much aloha that this excellent measure please be passed by this committee.

Mahalo nui loa,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laulani". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Laulani Teale, MPH
Coordinator, Ho‘opae Pono Peace Project
<https://www.eapono.org>

P.S. We are always available as a peace resource for continued dialogue in the building of genuine understanding based on true respect, peace, and pono. Please contact me at any time.

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 11:25:33 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 adoption of this Resolution.

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!

House Committee on Education Re: HR 148

I support House Resolution 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.”

United Methodists are in the process of issuing a formal apology and acts of repentance for our part in the overthrow of Queen Liliuokalani and the Hawaiian Kingdom in 1893.

I stand with Hawaiians who have long called for the return of the original name: Honolulu High School. The renaming of McKinley High School in 1907 was an attempt to validate President McKinley's illegal annexation of the Hawaii islands and to indoctrinate Hawaiians and other locals to become “Americanized.”

The wrongs that were done so long ago must be righted. This small act is a way for us as a state to bring attention to the parts of our history that have been hidden, forgotten, and simply ignored. It is the way of justice that is required of our conscious, our morals, and our God.

I humbly ask the Committee on Education to vote yes on this resolution.

Sincerely,
Rev. Amy C. Wake
Trinity United Methodist Church



Committee on Education

Pō'ahā, Malaki 18, 2021

Via Wikiō

Ke Kapikala Moku'āina

415 South Beretānia Street

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

Aloha Luna Ho'omalu Justin H. Woodson, Hope Luna Ho'omalu Jeanne Kapela and members of the House Committee on Education:

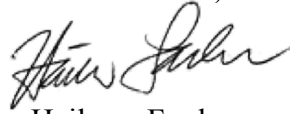
The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs **SUPPORTS** the intent of HCR 179-HR 148 and the proposed name change of the President William McKinley High School and removal of the statue of President McKinley from the premises. Our organization has long advocated for the telling of the complete and accurate history of the invalid annexation of Hawai'i, and our advocacy has focused on telling the complete and accurate history of Hawai'i with a focus on the statue of President McKinley at the high school. Thus, the Association respectfully urges the committee to **PASS** HCR 179-HR 148.

The civic club movement was founded in 1918 by Congressional Delegate Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalaniana'ole with the creation of the Hawaiian Civic Club; the Association was formally organized in 1959 and has grown to a confederation of over sixty (60) Hawaiian Civic Clubs located throughout the State of Hawai'i and the United States. The Association is the oldest

Hawaiian community-based grassroots organization. The Association is governed by a 16-member Board of Directors; advocates for improved welfare of Native Hawaiians in culture, health, economic development, education, social welfare, and nationhood; and perpetuates and preserves language, history, music, dance and other Native Hawaiian cultural traditions.

Mahalo for allowing us to share our *mana* 'o.

Me ka 'oia 'i 'o,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hailama Farden', written in a cursive style.

Hailama Farden

Pelekikena

KA LAHUI HAWAII

KOMIKE KALAI'ĀINA

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON EDUCATION AND ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

March 18, 2021

HR 148

Urging the Board of Education to change the name of President William McKinley High School

Aloha Chair Woodson, Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Kapela, and Vice Chair Marten,

Ka Lāhui Hawai'i Kōmike Kalai'āina submits the following written testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of House Resolution urging the Board of Education to change the name of President William McKinley High School.

President William McKinley was an expansionist who asserted US domination aboard and took territories like the Phillippines, Puerto Rico, Guam, and Hawai'i by either force, coercion, and fraud. The justification (that is well documented) for his expansionist policies was racist and rooted in white supremacy. President William Mckinley is quoted as saying, "That there was nothing left for us to do but to take them all, and to educate the Filipinos, and uplift and civilize and Christianize them and by God's grace do the very best we could by them..." Near the turn of the 19th century there were arguments on both sides (for and against) the US takeover of Puerto Rico, Phillippines, Guam, and Hawai'i in Congress that dehumanized the people of color who resided in these territories. The winning argument succeeded in "conquering" these territories and the total disenfranchisement of the native residents.

Much of the social injustice that Kanaka Maoli experience today stems from the fraudulent annexation of Hawai'i into the US and the signing of the 'Newlands Resolution' by President McKinley. Having one of the oldest high schools in Hawai'i named after someone who subjugated the people of the Phillippines, Puerto Rico, Guam and Hawai'i and justified his action using white colonial ideas of civilizing the 'savage' is unacceptable and an affront to all Hawai'i residents of color and most especially the native people of this land.

Sincerely,

M. Healani Sonoda-Pale
Public Affairs Officer, Ka Lāhui Hawai'i Kōmike Kalai'āina

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 12:29:59 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dean Taba	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am a class of 1981 alumni and wholeheartedly support the change of name to Honolulu High School and the removal of McKinley's statue. It is a long overdue recognition of the harm done to the Hawaiian Kingdom and People. And a very small step towards reconciliation.

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

We are submitting this testimony in support of House Resolution 148 to change the name of McKinley High School to its original name, Honolulu High School, and to remove the statue of President McKinley from the campus grounds. Our names are William Higa and Chester Naka, and we are lifelong residents of Hawaii. We're also proud graduates of McKinley High with William as past president of its senior class of 1963 and Chester as past treasurer of its junior class and later student body government.

Although not native Hawaiians and not in agreement with all of the "Whereas" statements in the resolution, we agree with the requested acts of the name change and statue removal. We understand some of our own classmates are opposed to this resolution and, while we appreciate their concerns, we believe the reasons for this name change are sufficiently persuasive.

If there are other schools that should have their names changed for whatever reason, perhaps a commission can be created to examine all of the DOE school names? In addition, we're not sure if a legislative resolution is the way to achieve this particular objective. Perhaps HSTA should directly approach the Board of Education with this request, unless there's already an established DOE procedure for changing school names?

Thank you for considering these comments.

Mahalo & Aloha_____

William R. Higa, Ph.D.
(Retired) Associate Professor, UH-Hilo
(Retired) Clinical Psychologist, Licensed Hawaii

Chester K. Naka, DDS, FAGD
(Retired) Dentist in Private Practice

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 12:40:51 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jessica dos Santos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear EDN and FIN Legislators,

I am a 14-year veteran educator teaching History in both the public school and charter school systems. I have taught Modern Hawaiian History for the majority of my teaching career. Throughout my career, I have had to look my students in the eyes and learn together with them the circumstances related to Hawai'i's political history. We look at the variety of perspectives and the evidence with fidelity. They look at me with questions, disdain, and wondering as to why the true History has been suppressed and why justice and truth have not been administered for so long. With this bill, we all have an opportunity to engage in one small step towards truth and reconciliation, having difficult but necessary discussions, and at the very least, not lying to our students regarding the non-existence of a treaty of annexation. Furthermore, we should not celebrate such lies with statues that perpetuate false narratives. As a teacher, I kept a promise to never lie to my students and to work together with them to seek the truth, even if it means having to come to the realization of how our own government has been complicit in perpetuating these lies. It is time to take steps to do what is in our power to make things right. This is one small thing we can do to accept the reality that thousands everywhere, especially our youth, just want the truth about things. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Jessica dos Santos

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 1:15:29 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ethan Porter	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass this bill

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 2:06:52 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Regina Gregory	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass this resolution! McKinley prevented the restoration of Hawaiian sovereignty after the illegal overthrow. The statue in front of McKinley High School must be removed especially because he holds a treaty of annexation, which does not exist. Students are thus being taught a false history.

Nathan Yuen
91-233 Hanapouli Cir #29T
Ewa Beach, HI 96706
808nateyuen@gmail.com

March 16, 2021

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

I strongly support HR 148/HCR 179 which aims to change the name of President McKinley High School and remove the statue of President William McKinley from school grounds.



I am a graduate of President William McKinley High School, class of 1979. When I was a student at McKinley, we were taught to have pride in school traditions. We were told to respect the statue of President William McKinley, which holds a rolled-up document that says "Treaty of Annexation", and to never step foot on the grassy oval where the statue stands.



But when traditions promote a lie, they cannot be allowed to stand. Hawaiians objected to the Treaty of Annexation and signed the Kū'ē Petitions to express their dissent. So overwhelming were their numbers that the Treaty of Annexation failed to pass the US Senate in 1897. The next year, what could not be done by law, was achieved by guile. A joint resolution named the "Treaty of Annexation" was passed and signed by President McKinley which "annexed" the Hawaiian Islands in 1898. It doesn't matter what they named it, joint resolutions do not have the force of law outside the US. There is no Treaty of Annexation. The statue of President McKinley holding the "Treaty of Annexation" is a lie.

The fraudulent annexation was an act of American business interests to take the Hawaiian Kingdom and establish sugar plantations. Slavery was outlawed in the Hawaiian Kingdom. White supremacy expressed itself in Hawai'i through the plantation system and military occupation. Among the most well-documented cases include: the hanging and lynching of Katsu Goto by white supremacists at Honoka'a plantation 1889; the "Massie Affair" in 1932, which exposed racism in the military when a Hawaiian man wrongfully accused by a socialite was murdered by white vigilantes; and the illegal internment of Japanese-American citizens, over 2,000 in Hawai'i at Hono'uli'uli Camp, and over 120,000 across the US in 1942.

The City of New Orleans took down the statue of Confederate General Robert E. Lee in 2017. The City of Charleston removed the statue of slave owner John C. Calhoun in 2020. And the US Defense Department announced in 2021 that bases named after Confederate Generals will be changed within 3 years. The time has come for Hawai'i to confront its monuments to white supremacy.

The installation of McKinley's statue in 1911 was during the peak building of confederate statues from 1889 to 1929, well after the South lost the Civil War in 1865. Confederate statues were monuments to white supremacy meant to intimidate black Americans into obedience during the Jim Crow era. In Hawai'i, the goal was to promote allegiance to the US and suppress Hawaiian national identity, language, and culture; measures designed to eradicate the practice of being Hawaiian. The statue of President McKinley is a symbol of oppression to Hawaiians.

There were many other traditions at McKinley High School, like the student code of honor we recited, the black and gold colors we wore, and the songs we sang at homecoming and football games. Some McKinley traditions like hazing, where upperclassmen embarrassed/mistreated/abused underclassmen, were found to be unacceptable and have since been banned.

McKinley Code of Honor, written by students in 1927.

"As a student of McKinley, I stand for honesty in all I do and say; for industry in study, work, and play; for purity in spirit, thought and deed; for courage to meet life's every need; for brotherhood of races all combined; and love for ~~God~~ and all mankind."

The statue of President McKinley normalizes a lie and is dishonest. It does not pass the Code of Honor. In 2002, a federal lawsuit forced a change to the Code of Honor because the phrase "love for God" was found unconstitutional. Standards change over time. What was acceptable at one time may not be any more.

Traditions are what we allow of the past to live in the present and continue into the future. When traditions are no longer acceptable we need to evolve. My alma mater deserves an honorable name. I strongly support HR 148/HCR 179.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nathan Yuen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nathan Yuen

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 2:20:05 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
April Nakamura	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Tearing down statues – it’s finally come to Hawaii.

Proposed as a House resolution, and strongly backed by HSTA, (by the way, doesn’t HSTA have better things to do? Also, shouldn’t they poll the teachers of McKinley High since they solely exist to represent them?) HR148 recommends changing the name of McKinley High School back to its 19th century name, Honolulu High and to remove the statue of former President William McKinley. This is because of his role in the annexation of Hawaii.

We strongly oppose this action for the following reasons:

- 1. There’s no common standard being applied. Do we cancel everyone who was directly involved in the annexation? What about statehood? How closely involved did they have to be involved? Can only people of European heritage be cancelled? What if a person of color committed a heinous crime? How bad does the crime have to be? Killing someone? What about the missionaries who supported annexation? We’re looking at you, Punahou. Also, who’s standard of morality are we using? Judeo-Christian? Postmodern? With no commonly-accepted standard, this never ends.*
- 2. History should never be erased. We don’t have to accept something as our heritage, or even morally right, to acknowledge it as our history. Rigorous debate with open minds and free speech is the way forward. What message do we send our young people that ugly and even morally derelict parts of history must be erased, white-washed? How will they learn? It’s a dangerous precedent at a philosophical and*

practical level. Whether or not the children of Hawaii benefitted from becoming American citizens is ripe for wonderful and rigorous debate. Let's have it.

3. *The name McKinley does represent the former president. But to its vibrant community, it also means so much more. It represents the shared experiences of thousands of alumni and students. It represents the stories of people who arrived in Hawaii and lived remarkable lives of service and accomplishment. These are stories of great triumph, and dare I say, stories of the American dream. To them, the word "McKinley" inspires pride in tradition. Not only will their name and letterhead be changed. So will their alma mater songs, traditions and so much more.*

Debate will continue to rage in this country about the nature of our founding, our leaders and the very soul of our place. Debate will continue to rage about the proper way to rectify wrongs of the past, especially to the Hawaiian people. But the solution is not less debate and erasing the past. Cooler heads should prevail. Raising young people to be people of courage and critical-thinking does not mean protecting them from things that may offend them.

This action would send the wrong message to young people, McKinley's esteemed alumni and the entire state.

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 2:38:23 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michele Lincoln	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Thank you for your consideration to restore the original name of the Honolulu High School. When they re-named the school McKinley High, it was a perfect example of cancel culture at that time. In this instance, it is simply righting a past wrong. Any time we have an opportunity to make something right, we should do what we can. However, I hope the statue of President McKinley will be placed in a museum or preferably at the Hawaii State Legislature property with historical information. Even though what he did was wrong, the current legislature is one of the results of his actions. History must be remembered, whether good or bad, so future generations will know and try to do better.

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

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 2:51:14 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kristin Clark	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Regarding the consideration to name McKinley HS back to its original name, Honolulu High, I fully support this measure. Words matter. Names matter. William McKinley represents an indoctrination of a devastating time in Hawaii's history. This was a time where the Hawaiian language and culture was being wiped out. To have the name of this man associated with our state as we are fighting so hard to reclaim the Hawaiian back to our state is quite offensive. The statute even has "annexation papers." We know a lot more about that today than we ever did in the past. When we know better, we do better. Restore the original name. Names matter. Thank you for your consideration.

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 3:09:03 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Maya Maxym	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this change in name as one part of a multi-pronged approach to healing the harms done by the United States government to the people of Hawai'i. Thank you.

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 3:37:55 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Manuel Pulido	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Honorable Members of the House Committee on Education,

I am submitting testimony in support of House Resolution 148. I've taken a "hard look" at renaming McKinley High School to Honolulu High School and I oppose any renaming of it McKinley High School. It's the many distinguished Alumni of McKinley that honors its true spirit, community, legacy. First of all, If any name should change, it should start with Sanford Dole Middle School. In January 1893, a revolutionary "Committee of Safety," organized by Sanford B. Dole, staged a coup against Queen Liliuokalani. This is truly the event that took the Kingdom of Hawaii from its citizens. The school's name glorifies a man who illegally overthrew a Queen and took over a country against the will of her queen and people. The name reflects an indoctrination of Hawaiian students and a movement that obliterated Native Hawaiian identity in favor of American patriotism.

Names have great significance to us, this school name is the name that we associate with what has made us great and made us contributors to our State and our Nation. A school's name should honor its greatness. For over 100 years, McKinley High has been 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 'Ä• ina.

I Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony.

Best Regards, Manuel Pulido Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army (Retired)

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 3:41:35 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rachel James	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Chair Woodsen, and fellow Committee Members,

Thank you for welcoming my brief testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of HR 148.

In the words of the HSTA, "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 'Ā• ina."

I believe this wholeheartedly and have had the honor to work with a number of the educators, students, and faculty at this remarkable institution. Changing the name of McKinley High School to better reflect the type of people who learn, educate, and administrate there would best honor the many contributions made to establish the integrity of the institution. Additionally, restoring the school's name to Honolulu High School would be a necessary statement to evidence the state's commitment to ensuring its public institutions embody the tenents of anti-racism. We know all to well that simply being "not racist" is insufficient. We can and must improve.

We are fortunate here in Hawaii to witness institutions like the Bishop Musuem, in it's current exhibit: *(Re)Generations: Challenging Scientific Racism in Hawai'i*, take a close look at how it has harmed people of Hawaii , and how it can work to remedy what is able to be remediated, and how to navigate more compassionately in the future. The Museum comments that their hope is that "this exhibit is not an end in itself, but rather aims to start conversations on how the Museum can better connect with and serve Native Hawaiian communities and stakeholders."

We know now, without a doubt, that race does not biologically exist, still this knowledge will not change our society unless we (individually and institutionally) take an active role in reshaping the ways we identify with race. We must become better orchestrators of how race influences our experiences and shapes our lives.

An effort toward this imporved orchestration of our individual and collective experiences with concepts of race can be undertaken here, with the approval of House Resolution 148.

Please vote in SUPPORT of HR 148.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of my testimony.

Thank you,

Rachel James

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 3:45:41 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leon Siu	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha members of the Education Committee:

I am here to testify in support of HR 148 and HCR 179.

Why should the name of President William McKinley High School be changed?

- In 1898, against the will of 90% of the Hawaiian people, U.S. President William McKinley directed and executed the take-over of the Hawaiian Islands by faking an “annexation.” There really is no treaty of annexation.
- The fake annexation was done under the excuse of “military necessity” so McKinley could extend U.S. naval operations and control into the Pacific.
- To manufacture support for the fake annexation, a conspiracy was hatched to turn Hawaii's schools into pro-annexation, pro-U.S. indoctrination centers. The goal was to extinguish the Hawaiian identity and nationality of Hawaii's children and change them into submissive, obedient Americans.
- Among the first acts to demonstrate U.S. superiority was to take Honolulu High School, the flagship of Hawaii’s public schools, and change its name to President William McKinley High School.
- Following this denigration, the curricula of all schools in Hawaii were altered to embrace and celebrate being American. Thus, generations of Hawaii’s children were Americanized and led to believe Hawaii was an integral part of the United States.
- McKinley’s fake annexation of Hawaii became the template for America’s abusive foreign policy, leading to international bullying, fostering regime changes and plundering nations all over the world.
- Because of McKinley’s taking of Hawaii and his other brazen international crimes; and knowing what the U.S. has done globally based on those crimes, it is not right for one of the top schools in Hawaii to continue to bear the name of McKinley.

For the sake of telling the truth and for the sake of future generations of Hawaii's children, I urge you to pass HR 148 and HCR 179. This great school deserves a better name.

Leon Siu
Hawaiian National

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 4:08:13 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chris Santomauro	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass this resolution to promote justice in Hawai`i. McKinley should not be celebrated in Hawai`i, and the continued use of his name and statue are direct examples of the continuance of white supremacy in the islands. It's time to go.

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 4:53:24 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tom Wiedenbein	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

I am submitting testimony in support of House Resolution 148. William McKinley's imperialist beliefs and actions caused immeasurable amounts of suffering across the world, and much of that suffering was in Hawai'i nei. As someone who lives nearby McKinley High, I think it is a stain on an otherwise beautiful neighborhood to have a statue of an oppressor against the Native Hawaiians located here. Hawai'i belongs to the Native Hawaiians, and to celebrate the life and deeds of William McKinley is to celebrate the brutal nature of American imperialism. For this and many other reasons, I support the renaming of McKinley High to Honolulu High and the immediate removal of William McKinley's statue. Please vote in favor of HR148.

Thank you,

Tom Wiedenbein

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 5:05:31 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lise-Michelle	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Lise Michelle Childers and I graduated from Mck*nley High School in 2015. President McKinley illegally annexed a country against the will of her Queen and people. The treaty he hold in his hand is non-existent. As an alumni I am embarrassed to have graduated from a school that holds his name. The name reflects an indoctrination of Hawaiian students and a movement that obliterated Native Hawaiian identity in favor of American patriotism. The devastating loss of Native Hawaiian identity, culture, and language has yet to fully recover. Names have a great sginificance to us, and a school's name should honor its greatness.

Mahalo,

Lise Michelle Childers

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 5:12:27 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Megan Moniz	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha e Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the committee. I stand in firm support of this Resolution. Words & names have meaning whether we like it or not. We are held accountable for the impact that our words and expressions have on others in the workplace and at school and usually in everyday life. So, similarly here. Particularly as this name in question stands in place as the main identifier for an educational institution, it is no doubt, beyond symbolic. The 25th President of the United States made a particularly pointed impact, to the detriment of native Hawaiians. The effects of still which linger to this day. The person this school is currently named after, perpetuated illegalities and wasn't even particularly good at his job. We know more now. And we know better now. It should be changed. Mahalo

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 5:20:05 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SUPPORT

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 5:30:17 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 HR148 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 20 years ago, most students emerging from Hawai'i's schools had no idea that Hawai'i had been illegally and that, therefore, 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.

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 6:05:59 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brian Hoff	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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.

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 7:28:00 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:

HR 148 is misguided by the HSTA head, Corey Rosenlee. HSTA should not be allowed to use the legislature for its own design of renaming McKinley HS. McKinley HS has been in existence for over 100 years. The school has many traditions related to the stature of McKinley in the circle fronting the administration building. It would be unfair to the McKinley graduates to have their school name 'erased' by HSTA. The 'woke' Corey Rosenlee should not be allowed to abuse his power as a union head to 'erase' the McKinley HS legacy and history.

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 7:40:42 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Hope McKeen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha 'oe

It took me a little bit to be a spokesperson for this matter as I am not from O'ahu nor have any ties to McKinley High School. After much reflection and hearing a story of Aunt Mary Kawena Pukui catching tons of flack for writing the Hawaiian dictionary which is now the cornerstone of Hawaiian Language learning and teaching, I am chiming in as a Native Hawaiian and a wahine who is a native speaker. I totally understand stand the perspective of a graduate of their pride to be from McKinley High school. I speak from the perspective of a Native Hawaiian. I am in support of this resolution for my grandchildren and everyone's grandchildren of Hawai'i for the next 7 generations. I am the product of the kÅ«puna before me that preserved 'Ike so that I could learn today. With this said, names carry meaning. We should all be supporting name changes to honor the place and people that are from Hawai'i and did pono things for Hawai'i. I'll leave you with, if not now then when, if not us then who?

Na'u nÅ•

Hope Pualani McKeen

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 7:42:04 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Aaron L Hansen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HR 148 because I believe in the power of the legislature to make amendments to civil organizations that better suit the needs of the current population. There is no need to maintain a history in the naming of buildings. History can be kept in records and classrooms and there is no need to inhibit the ability for a population to change the people and places that hold positive examples of leadership and community.

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 8:18:40 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
maelani Lee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HR148 because of the way McKinley treated the Kingdom of Hawai'i. I support removing the statue and am willing to come with Hawaiian blooded kanaka to have a ceremony on this removal.

Queen Maelani Lee

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 8:19:07 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kara Kelai	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HR148 as I would like the statue of McKinnley removed and the name changed back to Honolulu High. As a KĀ• naka Maoli, and an alumni of McKinnley High School, I found it extremely offensive to have to be constantly reminded of the lie that Hawaii was legally annexed to America. Having to graduate in front of his statue sing "Hail, Mckinney, Hail" made me nauseated to say the least, and I only participated in ceremony to make my family happy. This is why I strongly support HR148. Mahalo for your time.

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 8:28:35 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Steven Thomas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a Kanaka Maoli Patriot of the Hawaiian Kingdom, I consider the naming of any building, Highway, or the placement of any statue that honor the leaders of the occupying state an affront to our nation and our people.

McKinley High School is just the most painful for us because he was the President who supported the illegal annexation of Hawai'i.

Honolulu International Airport was working just fine.

Thomas Jefferson Elementary also needs to change.

Washington Intermediate

Roosevelt High School

ALL OF THEM!

A'ole Ka HEWA

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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HR-148

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 9:15:34 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Mather	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Committee Chair Woodson, Committee Vice Chair Kapela, and House Educational Committee Members,

My name is Jen Mather and I support this resolution.

In 1907, amidst the height of the denationalization of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, perpetrated by a belligerent, illegal oligarchy and continued by the United States government, Honolulu High School was renamed "President William McKinley High School" enlarging the physical spaces where young minds were to be annexed.

Now, as the IÄ• hui Hawai'i consciousness continues to rise and we begin to unfetter ourselves from the lies that have been perpetuated and perpetrated, we have chances, like these, to begin to clear our Kingdom's physical and mental landscapes.

Your vote is needed to return the rightful name of Honolulu High School to this place and to remove the statue of McKinley. My parents are graduates of McKinley High School - Class of '72. I've worn that Black and Gold letterman's sweater with pride in the kÄ• naka that played football and wrestled; the wahine that danced hula, sang mele, paddled wa'a. But the time has come for the name to be removed and remanded in those dark places of shameful understanding that ironically need to be spotlighted. And for our own nÄ• me'e IÄ• hui Hawai'i to stand proudly before our greatest institutions where our nationalist pride in the Kingdom can reign free.

Please support this resolution and thereby disavow the settler colonial racism of this man who only ever believed in Manifest Destiny and his own greatness.

Mahalo for your continued efforts to ensure the highest education of our keiki.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

Jen Mather

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 9:19:50 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. This person should not be honored. I stand with our IĀ• hui and the kanaka of this land. I STRONGLY support HR 148 and return to the original school name, the Honolulu High School. It's time to right a very bad wrong. Mahalo for your time on this important matter.

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 9:21:30 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Aisha Richards	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

There are more pressing issues than this right now. If you change the name of McKinley High School then you must also change ANYTHING named Dole, Thurston, etc.

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 9:23:33 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jenny Liang	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I vehemently support this bill. As a McKinley alumni I have always found the statue and name of the high school to be extremely offensive as it glorifies the president that unjustly allowed Hawaii to be annexed. I would like to see the name be changed back to Honolulu High School.

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 9:28:04 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Angelica Delos Santos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

This testimony I am submitting is in favor of House Resolution 148.

My name is Angelica Delos Santos and I am a student here on O'ahu. I have many family members and friends on this island who grew up here being proud to represent Hawai'i and all that the island have to offer. They are proud to be from the islands and what it stands for and I believe the only way to further carry on the representation is to change the name of the school from McKinley back to Honolulu highschool. McKinley has played a part in Hawaiian history that still causes a lot of hurt in people because they are reminded of the overthrow of their Queen/illegal annexation. By taking this step it will alleviate some of the pain that McKinley was a participant of when colonizing Hawai'i. By changing the name it continues to honor the part of Hawaiian history that everyone is proud to represent. A piece of Hawaiian language, culture, and identity will begin to restore by changing the name of McKinley High School to Honolulu High School and set the example for all the other schools in Hawai'i.

Please vote in support of House Resolution 148.

I thank you for taking the time to read this and take my testimony into consideration.

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 9:32:00 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Patricia Gozemba	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

There was likely no person more responsible for the Overthrow of the Queen and the illegal annexation of Hawaii than McKinley.

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 9:55:16 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Noelani Ahia	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this bill!

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 9:57:55 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jessica Brown	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha my name is Jessica Brown and I support HR 148. It is important for McKinley High School to go back to Honolulu High School as it truly represents the people and location. President McKinley should not be celebrated in Hawai'i as he was responsible for the illegal annexation of the Hawaiian Kingdom and obliteration of the Native Hawaiian identity.

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 10:07:32 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brittney Hedlund	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in strong support of this bill. McKinley High school is a great school but, it deserves a much better name. As an educator, one of our main goals is to create an environment in which our students thrive. To have our students so strongly tie their identity to a man who illegally annexed an independent nation against the will of her Queen and her people is morally wrong. The current name reflects an indoctrination and oppression of native Hawaiian students and supporters of the monarchy and a movement that sought to obliterate kā• naka identity, language, homelands, and our entire way of existing in favor of American patriotism. It is our collective kuleana to restore pono to this school, its 'Ä• ina, and the people who are immediately impacted by this change-namely the students (our future generation of change makers and believers in a pono Hawai'i). Change the name back to Honolulu High school and restore a sense of cultural pride and cultural identity to Hawai'i , our 'Ä• ina, and our people.

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 10:12:51 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 HR 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/HR 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/HR 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

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 10:26:34 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kapulei Flores	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am submitting testimony in support of House Resolution 148. A way of recognizing the past and history of Hawai'i would be by changing the name back to its original name of Honolulu High. In Hawaiian culture names represent more than just a person. It tells a story and captures a moment in time that is carried on for generations. The current name represents a man who illegally annexed a country against the will of the Queen and her people for his own personal benefit. Changing the name would restore pride to the school, students, and people of Hawaiian. By removing the statue as well as the name it is showing respect to the people of Hawai'i and our history. I hope you all decide to make things right by taking down the statue and changing the name.

Mahalo

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 10:36:44 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 Tiger 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.

17 March 2021

House Committee on Education
Chairman Justin H. Woodson
Vice Chairperson Jeanne Kapela

HOUSE RESOLUTION 148 and HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 179

Hearing - Thursday, 18 March 2021, 2: 00 PM

TESTIMONY IN **STRONG OPPOSITION** TO **HOUSE RESOLUTION 148 AND HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 179** 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

BY MG VERN T. MIYAGI, U. S. Army (Ret) - MCKINLEY HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1966

I am submitting this testimony in **STRONG OPPOSITION** to HR 148 and HCR 179. My name is Vern T. Miyagi and I am a graduate of the McKinley High School (MHS) Class of 1966.

This resolution represents a major change to a time-honored (over 150 years) institution in Hawaii. I don't understand why this is considered necessary. I am a proud graduate of McKinley High School and a McKinley Tiger. I am not a graduate of "Honolulu High School - formerly known as McKinley High School."

The name "McKinley High School" in my view means much more than the misguided deeds of a past United States President. I understand the grievances that this President caused to the people of Hawaii during his tenure but the name "McKinley High School" now represents the many thousands of students/alumni - McKinley Tigers - that were prepared by this institution and consequently made significant contributions and sacrifices on behalf of our state and nation. The name "McKinley High School" honors them and their teachers, not a past President. Many, such as Senator Inouye, Senator Fong, Duke Kahanamoku, and Congresswoman Duckworth, have already been acknowledged.

Changing the name of our school takes away the legacy of pride, honor, and self-less service emphasized throughout its history as McKinley High School.

It is also very distressing that many of those in support of this resolution have no connection or history with our school.

Thank you for allowing me to submit this testimony in **STRONG OPPOSITION** to House Resolution 148 and House Concurrent Resolution 179.

Respectfully Submitted:
Vern T. Miyagi
Major General, U. S. Army (Ret)
(808) 294-0807
vmiyagi@gmail.com

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 10:42:48 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Aaron Takeba	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose HR148. The current and former students of McKinley High School should make the decision and not the legislature or the Board of Education.

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 10:54:40 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jasmine Balangitao	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, committee I'm in strong support of HR148. Change the name and get rid of the statue. McKinley should not be memorialize in anything. This needs to be made right.

Mahalo, Jasmine Balangitao

March 17, 2021

Aloha.

My name is Melissa Kamakawiwoole and I am a 10th grade English teacher at Mckinley High School this year. I have been long term subbing at Mckinley since 2013 and my father was the child of immigrants from China and a proud 1930 graduate of the school. He was the first in his family to go to college. He served in the army during WWII and was an interpreter with the China Theatre Search Detachment.

There were many people who I went to elementary school with who graduated from Mckinley. Mckinley was the fertile ground that gave life to their ambitions and dreams, and there is story after story of Mckinley graduates who have built successful careers and who have given back to the community unselfishly and intentionally. As evidenced from the dozens of photos lining the walls of the administration building and the yearly Hall of Honor assembly lauding the achievements of our alumni, there is so much fruit bearing in our city and state because of the alumni whose service has impacted our community in meaningful and far reaching ways.

In the past year, because of the pandemic there have been multiple challenges and difficulties in the transition to distance learning and trying to build relationships with students. To describe in detail what has happened this year would be akin to detailing a war of sorts that is going on. I have written accounts by students who have described how the mental and emotional strain of trying to keep up with doing school online was overwhelmingly stressful.

Students have had little to minimal engagement with their peers and virtually no social or athletic activities this past year. The scope of the pandemic has been hard hitting for the majority and many of them have to watch younger siblings as an added responsibility. We are seeing unprecedented anxiety and depression as students have faltered without the support and engagement of in class, face to face learning.

The next year is going to be a year of trying to rebuild and regain what we have lost in the past year. Changing the name of the school is going to be something that students will have a hard time processing. I believe it will only add to the confusion to have them return to school in the fall and see the possible removal of the statue and having the name of the school obliterated all over the campus. Implementing a name change is not going to change what is needed for our students to thrive as they return to campus. Our students need more than just a band aid fix. They need caring and compassionate teachers and

administrators who will help them acclimate back to in person learning and activities to foster engagement with each other and connection to their school.

I mean no harm or ill intention toward those who are following their heart's conviction for the name change. But they are not in the trenches with us, pouring out for students day after day, listening to their cares and concerns, wiping their metaphorical tears and sadness at the mounting losses that have torn apart their will to live and carry on. Who is going to care for them and really hear what they have gone through and give them these seeds of hope and water them in the days to come?

Ultimately, we want to focus our energies and resources on giving to our students. This is what the direction of our focus should be, not on ripping away something that they have already built an identity with. Thousands of Mckinley alumni will testify that their experience at the school had nothing to do with the former president or his annexation of Hawaii to the United States. Cultural awareness of what took place in history can still be meaningful in classes. Trying to reinstate Hawaiian language and history in our students has value but it cannot be top priority in this next chapter. I can provide statistical information showing the low reading proficiency of students, many of them ELL and Pacific Islanders who need to make gains in English which is the language that instruction is delivered in. Our 10th grade English curriculum deals with cultural identity and we affirm and validate all cultures throughout the year as well as teach the dangers of stereotypes and racism through lessons and stories that bring these issues to the table and foster meaningful dialogue.

As an end note, I just want to reiterate that the name change is a superficial fix and not the deep change and awareness that our students need to make sense of what has happened in the past year and to give them the tools that they need to move forward in the next school year.

Thank you for your time and I ask you to vote NO to oppose the name change for Mckinley High School.

Melissa Kamakawiwoole
English Language Arts
Mckinley High School, 2020-21

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 11:10:25 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.

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 11:24:18 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Janelle Chong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha! My name is Janelle Chong and I am a graduate of McKinley High School's class of 2009, and I am writing testimony in **strong support of HR 148**, the renaming of President William McKinley High School, and the removal of the McKinley statue.

A few years after I graduated from McKinley, a petition popped up to rename the school. It made the rounds and it had quite a bit of support, I believe it received a few thousand signatures, and I thought "Yes!" our community will finally right the wrong and restore a sense of righteousness here. But then NOTHING happened! It appeared as though those who had the power to make such changes decided against it, or simply ignored the ask. This was deeply saddening to me and now with this new opportunity, I am hopeful that this ask can finally be heard, and action can finally be taken so that we can heal this wrong—for it is far overdue.

In the 2008 to 2009 school year I served as the Student Body President at McKinley and one of the last things that I had to do as a part of this role helped draft speeches and the program for our commencement ceremony. When doing this I had to do some research on President McKinley and learn some interesting facts...did you know he's the 25th President of the United States? However, it wasn't until this day spent Googling William McKinley that the fact that he was the president responsible for the annexation of Hawaii became a part of my permanent memory. Alas, it was probably mentioned sometime before in my educational career, but as I sat in the cold basement of the Student Activities Room reading this to myself this bit of information finally stuck. I remember reading about this dark shared history between place and namesake and *feeling a **sense of shame** with being associated with this president for the first time*. I don't remember what I ended up writing in that speech, but I knew at the time that this type of information would certainly not be welcomed in a speech for a school known for its "**pride and tradition**."

Don't get me wrong, I am extremely **proud** to be a product of this school and remember my experiences there fondly. As the saying goes "*I am tiger born, tiger bred, and gonna be a tiger till the day I'm dead!*" Like any Hawaii kid, I love when people ask me "Where you grad?" I am proud that this school is my alma mater! I can only speak for myself, but I know that I would have much more pride in responding to that question with a name that doesn't celebrate a colonizer that illegally annexed the land of the place that I call home.

As for our **Traditions**, some folks might say that a change in name is not wanted by alumni because we shouldn't mess with something that's been that way forever. I am here as an alumnus to say that I want this name change and to make it clear to the name change would not be a detriment to our traditions. We can still rock our Tigers gear and sing our fight song "Black and Gold" (which doesn't mention the name McKinley at all by the way) at games. We can still maintain the shouts of "don't step on the oval!" to save the privilege for graduating seniors, regardless of if there's a statue of a man on it or not. These things won't change.

It will not hurt the students or alumni one bit to change the name to something that honors this unique and special place that we call home, but for some alumni, especially those who are kanaka maoli, a change of name means that we can stop perpetuating the harm that the current name inflicts. **If by changing the name of our school we can help bring to light the historical trauma that was inflicted on the Hawaiian people, and take a small step towards healing this harm, then it is absolutely worth making this change.**

I may not be Hawaiian by blood, but I was born and raised here on Oahu. As were my parents and my grandparents. My grandmother was also a McKinley alumnus. This place is my home, literally as I live within a 5-minute walk to campus. It's a place of Pride for me and I look forward to the creation of new Traditions that are pono and built on the foundation of respect for the land and peoples that came before. Let us take the first step by voting in support of this resolution and giving this special place a name that all future tigers can be proud of.

Aloha,

My name is Jodi Fong and I am a teacher at McKinley High School. I am writing to you today to ask that you please vote no in changing our school name to Honolulu High.

Voting yes will be taking the important identity of those that call McKinley High School home. In Hawaii when you meet a person from here, one of the first things you are asked is, "Where you grad?" How heartbreaking for our former students to have to say "Honolulu High." Why is this heartbreaking? It's because that is not where they graduated from. Their diploma says McKinley High School.

Some people argue that we are just changing the name back to Honolulu High, however, all the people that are associated with that name have since passed on. Those that remain have graduated with the pride and tradition of our school close to their heart.

It may sound like I am a McKinley High graduate, but I am not. When I began my teaching career in 1997 it was McKinley High School that welcomed me with open arms. My ties to the school run deep, as I have been a part of the McKinley High family for over 24 years. With the name change proposal taking place 6 years before retirement, you are robbing me of MY identity. I have served this school and it's students with all that I have and all that I am.

HSTA states that because of President William McKinley, there was a devastating loss of Native Hawaiian identity, culture, and language has yet to fully recover. While I agree with that, changing the name to Honolulu High will not fix this problem. In order to fix it, there must be systemic change to the entire state school system to ensure that every Hawaii Public School Student knows the Hawaiian language, culture and the overall meaning of being Hawaiian.

Although I'm just one person, I would appreciate the no vote to ensure that McKinley High School and it's rich tradition can continue.

Sincerely,
Jodi Fong
Teacher
McKinley High School

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 11:52:57 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Iole Siliga	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

"Changing this name restores pono and pride to Hawai'i, our 'Ä• ina, and our people, especially our youth. We must create an environment of equity that allows every student to thrive."

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 11:53:08 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Darius Kila	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I SUPPORT 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.

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 12:21:05 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Allen Moore	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a native Hawaiian and a registered voter, wish to show my support for HR 148 changing McKinley High Schools and renaming it previous 1907 name Honolulu High School . I also support removing McKinley's statue from Hawai'i nei for his participation to helping to keep Provisional Government in power and Queen Liliuokalani under arrest. President McKinley was instrumental for having pushed the annexation of Hawaii to the United States even though the 1897 Petition Against The Annexation was never reconized as being important to McKinley or Congress!

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 12:29:49 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alexander K.D. McNicoll	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in strong support of **HR148**.

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 12:30:20 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kevin Chang	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support a new name but maybe we can be more creative.

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

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 2:13:09 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kyle Kajihiro	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

I strongly support HR 148/HCR 179 urging the Department of Education to change the name of President McKinley High School and remove the statue of President William McKinley from school grounds.

Over the past year, the United States faced an important moment of reckoning with its history of racial slavery, segregation, systemic racism, genocide and settler colonialism. After years of protests against police killings of Black and Brown people, we saw the largest demonstrations in the history of the United States in the wake of the killing of George Floyd by Minnesota police officer Derek Chauvin. Years of Indigenous resistance to destructive fossil fuel pipelines across their lands and water resources culminated in a #LandBack demonstration at TĒYŪĀkášila Šákpe (Mt. Rushmore). Over many years, Latino/a communities have held massive demonstrations against the inhumane treatment of migrants and the concentration camps for undocumented migrant children and families. In response to the overwhelming demands for social justice, numerous states and local governments took steps to reform police and remove monuments to racism.

Statues of Confederate war heroes and slave owners came down. Statues of Columbus and other genocidal colonizers came down. In 2018, the City of Arcata, California removed the statue of William McKinley. It is time for the Hawai'i Department of Education to do the same.

I lead educational tours for many students and visiting scholars and activists to provide a decolonial history of Hawai'i. One of the landmarks I always discuss is the McKinley statue with its historically inaccurate Treaty of Annexation cast in bronze. The statue perfectly illustrates how the big lie of U.S. annexation has been naturalized in Hawai'i. While, I will no longer have this example to point to, the statue must come down, and the name of the school must be changed. It would be a pleasure to point to this change on my tours as a positive example of social change.

I thank you for hearing this resolution and encourage your support for its passage.

Sincerely,

Kyle Kajihira

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 4:07:16 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alexandria Brewster	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kapela, and members of the House Committee on Education, I am submitting testimony in support of House Resolution 148.

Please vote in support of House Resolution 148, as a Native Hawaiian it is harmful to have the names of colonizers glorified, to use them as any sort of example for our children is wrong.

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 4:27:21 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melissa Melendez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Changing this name restores pride to Hawai'i

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 5:50:16 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
danielle marilyn west	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

McKinley High School deserves a name that honors its true spirit, community, legacy

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

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

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

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

Honolulu High School is a much better name.

Please vote to change the name

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 6:10:19 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Namaka	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

I strongly SUPPORT HR 148/HCR 179 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.

The statue of President McKinley holding the "treaty of annexation" perpetuates a lie in Hawai'i's history. Removal of monuments of historical oppression is long overdue.

I urge this committee to pass HR 148.

Mahalo nui!

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 6:42:50 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 !

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 7:08:03 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hello,

My name is Nanea Lo. I come from Papakāleā, O'ahu currently residing in Māhala in my ancestral homeland. I'm writing in full support of HR148 and quite frankly it's about time we change the name of McKinley High School back to it's given name. I'm a former student of this educational institution and having to say I've gone there with a colonizer name attached to it pains me every time it comes up. We must honor my people and the land that this school sits on.

Support HR148.

Me ke aloha 'Āina,

Nanea Lo

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 7:21:31 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Forest Frizzell	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Committee,

I stand in full support of this resolution.

Mahalo,

Forest

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 7:27:24 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

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 7:47:27 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Rellamas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

I strongly support HR 148/HCR 179 which aims to change the name of President McKinley High School and remove the statue of President William McKinley from school grounds.

Hawaiians objected to the Treaty of Annexation and signed the KÅ«'Ä“ Petitions to express their dissent. So overwhelming were their numbers that the Treaty of Annexation failed to pass the US Senate in 1897. The next year, what could not be done by law, was achieved by guile. A joint resolution named the “Treaty of Annexation” was passed and signed by President McKinley which “annexed” the Hawaiian Islands in 1898. It doesn’t matter what they named it, joint resolutions do not have the force of law outside the US. There is no Treaty of Annexation. The statue of President McKinley holding the "Treaty of Annexation" is a lie.

The fraudulent annexation was an act of American business interests to take the Hawaiian Kingdom and establish sugar plantations. Slavery was outlawed in the Hawaiian Kingdom. White supremacy expressed itself in Hawai'i through the plantation system and military occupation. Among the most well-documented cases include: the hanging and lynching of Katsu Goto by white supremacists at Honoka'a plantation in 1889; the “Massie Affair” in 1932, which exposed racism in the military when a Hawaiian man wrongfully accused by a socialite was murdered by white vigilantes; and the illegal internment of Japanese-American citizens, over 2,000 in Hawai'i at Hono'uli'uli Camp, and over 120,000 across the US in 1942.

The City of New Orleans took down the statue of Confederate General Robert E. Lee in 2017. The City of Charleston removed the statue of slave owner John C. Calhoun in 2020. And the US Defense Department announced in 2021 that bases named after Confederate Generals will be changed within 3 years. The time has come for Hawai'i to confront its monuments to white supremacy.

The installation of McKinley’s statue in 1911 was during the peak building of confederate statues from 1889 to 1929, well after the South lost the Civil War in

1865. Confederate statues were monuments to white supremacy meant to intimidate black Americans into obedience during the Jim Crow era. In Hawai'i, the goal was to promote allegiance to the US and suppress Hawaiian national identity, language, and culture; measures designed to eradicate the practice of being Hawaiian. The statue of President McKinley is a symbol of oppression to Hawaiians.

McKinley Code of Honor, written by students in 1927.

"As a student of McKinley, I stand for honesty in all I do and say; for industry in study, work, and play; for purity in spirit, thought and deed; for courage to meet life's every need; for brotherhood of races all combined; and love for God and all mankind."

The statue of President McKinley normalizes a lie and is dishonest. It does not pass the Code of Honor. In 2002, a federal lawsuit forced a change to the Code of Honor because the phrase "love for God" was found unconstitutional. Standards change over time. What was acceptable at one time may not be any more.

Traditions are what we allow of the past to live in the present and continue into the future. When traditions are no longer acceptable we need to evolve. I strongly support HR 148/HCR 179.

Sincerely,
J. Pualeihwahiwa Rellamas

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 7:55:32 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 HR 148 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

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 8:00:51 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:

I support the move to change the name of McKinley High School back to its original name of Honolulu High School.

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 8:58:52 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Karen Kahn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing in support of HR148. Of all the symbols of colonialism in Hawaii, McKinley High School stands out. Returning to its original name, Honolulu High School, sets a new tone of respect for native Hawaiians whose land, along with self-rule, were stolen more than a century ago. McKinley completed that act, illegally annexing the islands. His statute on the campus falsely suggests there was a Treaty of Annexation, which is a myth perpetrated by the occupiers. Renaming McKinley High School and removing the statute is akin to removing Confederate statues and monuments throughout the South. It is time to rewrite the public history of Hawaii.

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 9:08:11 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Simonson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I support HR148 to change the name of McKinley High School back to Honolulu High School. My support is based on who William McKinley is in relation to the Hawaiian Kingdom and the illegal annexation of our land. His name does not deserve any honor within our "state". I also support the removal of the statue of his likeness on the campus. If the statue were to be replaced, it should be of our Queen Lilioukalani or King Kalakaua. Hawaiian voices have unfortunately been dismissed and left unheard by the colonizers of our land. This is the time for change and to correct the wrongs that were considered right back in 1898.

Mahalo for your time & consideration,

Jennifer Simonson

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 9:10:12 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dana Keawe	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support hr148

Hail, McKinley, Hail: An Argument for Addressing the Larger Issues Behind Changing the Name of President William McKinley High School

President William McKinley High School is perhaps the most well known of all public high schools in the entire State of Hawai‘i. The school, once considered the pinnacle of public education in Hawai‘i, today is the subject of an ongoing movement to have its name reverted back to a previous one, *Honolulu High School*. Proponents of this name change argue that the name McKinley High School represents a long history of American imperialism and colonialism that may be all too familiar to the citizens of Hawai‘i, as William McKinley was the U.S. president responsible for the annexation of Hawai‘i into the United States of America. However, the issue of changing the name of McKinley High School is much more complex than at first glance, and there are much larger issues that must be addressed before a change in name should even be pursued.

One of these larger issues is that the many residents and citizens of Hawai‘i are entirely unaware as to the reason why the name McKinley High School is so controversial. This is due to the lack of education of our state’s own history, namely the role of President William McKinley in bringing about the annexation of Hawai‘i into the U.S. If the goal of reverting the name of the school back to Honolulu High School is to right the wrongs of the past, rampant ignorance of Hawai‘i’s history prevents the name change from McKinley High School to Honolulu High School from being any more meaningful than the previous change from Honolulu High School to McKinley High School. In other words, the education (or lack thereof) of William McKinley’s role in Hawai‘i’s history would make a name change an act ineffective in addressing the colonial and imperialist roots of our state.

Further complicating the matter of the name McKinley High School is its historical reputation for academic excellence. Despite the history of American imperialism associated with the name McKinley High School, the fact of the matter is that the name itself holds a certain level of prestige across the entire Hawaiian Islands. Many prominent members of Hawai'i society received their secondary education within the hallowed halls of McKinley High School, including the late Senator Daniel K. Inouye, former Governor of Hawai'i George Ariyoshi, and the late Rev. Abraham Akaka of Kawaiaha'o Church, among countless other distinguished alumni. The reputation that the school holds, along with the prestige firmly embedded in the school's name, cannot be simply ignored to change the name of the school.

It *is* a fact that the school bears the name of a U.S. president known for his expansionist and imperialist views and who was ultimately responsible for the annexation of Hawai'i into the United States. However, the issue of changing the name of McKinley High School does beg the question, what is the ultimate purpose of reverting its name back to Honolulu High School? If one of the goals of changing the name of the school is to bring about justice to our state, a change in name would do little to address our state's imperialist history. As stated earlier, many Hawai'i residents are completely oblivious to the fact that the name McKinley High School is controversial in the first place, which in turn stems from the lack of education of William McKinley's role in the annexation of Hawai'i. A fully just society cannot exist in Hawai'i if the people are not educated of their history, and changing the name of the school would not necessarily ensure such conditions.

These underlying issues make the matter of changing the name of McKinley High School back to Honolulu High School much more complex than people generally make it out to be. Before the action of changing the name of the school should even be pursued, the issues of a lack

of education in state history amongst Hawai'i's population and the prestigious reputation of the school's name need to be considered and addressed. Changing the name of a school does little to address the history of American imperialism that makes up the very fabric of our state. In order for the ultimate purpose of changing the name of the school to be fully realized, proponents of the name change need to look beyond the name President William McKinley High School and take substantial action towards educating the people of Hawai'i of their history.

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 9:20:16 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

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 9:27:48 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rose Nguyen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am alumna of President William McKinley High School, Class of 2012. I can recall, with fondness, formative years spent beneath the shade of trees of the front lawn, in the W-Building and A-Building classrooms, beside friends who remain, to this day, my best friends. I owe much to the teachers and advisers who believed in my potential. I do not doubt that many of us feel similarly about MHS.

Lately I've been returning to James Baldwin's words on how critique—of a place, of a country, of a community—is grounded in a profound love: “I love America more than any other country in the world and, exactly for this reason, I insist on the right to criticize her perpetually.”

I believe that feelings of love and community ought to compel us to acknowledge ugly truths about the history of the land that nourished us and the people whose sovereignty and way of life were sacrificed so as to appropriate that land. McKinley High School is named after the United States president who advanced an imperialist, trade expansionist (i.e., capitalist) strategy in the Pacific by signing the Newlands Resolution to annex the Kingdom of Hawaii, years after Sanford Dole and other businessmen staged a coup against Queen Liliuokalani. It is time we face that this history is what we choose to forget when we attach ourselves to the name McKinley.

The question of who is worthy of our commemoration—whose statues we put up, whose names we give to our schools, streets, and holidays—is a question of interpretation. History isn't a set of fixed facts; it's also the stories we choose to tell and from whose perspectives. It wasn't until the Civil Rights Movement that white Americans erected statues of Confederates soldiers to intimidate Black Americans and remind them of a time when half of the country went to war to perpetuate their ancestors' enslavement. It wasn't until 1905, after the annexation of the kingdom, that the school was renamed to McKinley High School. The message was clear then and foggier today, clouded by a long period of forgetting: "This land is and always was 'American.'"

So today, how do we interpret history? And where do we see ourselves within that history? Do we cling to our dream of an innocent past, or do we move forward and tell another story about the past, knowing that whatever sense of belonging we found within this community is far more durable than a name? What new possibilities for community

are to be found in a name that commemorates the dispossessed, the Native Hawaiians?

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 9:34:08 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Hailey Tanaka	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am against the name change and removal of the statue at McKinley High School. This school's rich history and legacies should remain untouched. While President McKinley undeniably played a role in the annexation of Hawai'i, this very action is a central part of our history. As John Heywood wrote " Out of sight, out of mind" When you take away statues, monuments, and other physical historic pieces you risk the danger of people forgetting their history and repeating the same mistakes of the past. Please reconsider the renaming of McKinley High School. Think about the past alumni and the current students.

Thank you,

Hailey T.

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 9:41:29 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kevin Argueta	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

My name is Kevin Argueta and I am a resident of House District 5 on Hawai'i Island. I am a 5th grade public school teacher at Kahakai Elementary and support HR 148 and HCR 170 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 an educator, I am versed in restorative practices and the positive impacts that this has on our communities. The act of changing the name and removing the statue would show major progress as a community that is focused on repairing harm and making our communities more inclusive.

My union, the Hawaii State Teachers Association, published educational resources that highlight the atrocities that were committed under President McKinley and why perpetuating his name is harmful. Please go to hsta.org/honoluluhigh to learn more.

Mahalo nui for your time and consideration.

With aloha,
Kevin Argueta

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 9:44:10 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
bruce watson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The State of Hawai'i manages both lands and schools for the benefit of the populace. It does so through the Hawai'i State Department of Education (DOE) and the University of Hawai'i (UH). The Department of Education recently put forth a guide; "Nā• Hopena A'o ("Hā€") is a framework of outcomes that reflects the Department of Education's core values and beliefs in action throughout the public educational system of Hawaii" (DOE, 2015). The hopena of Nā• Hopena A'o is "to develop the competencies that strengthen a sense of belonging, responsibility, excellence, aloha, total-well-being and Hawaii ("BREATH") in ourselves, students and others" (DOE, 2015). The DOE claims that this intention has "a foundation in Hawaiian values, language, culture and history, Hā€ reflects the uniqueness of Hawaii and is meaningful in all places of learning" (DOE, 2015).

The DOE demonstrates that although policy can change quickly, beliefs and practices do not automatically happen overnight. A giant statue stands prominently on the President William McKinley High School campus in Honolulu. In his hand, the statue of President McKinley proudly holds a copy of a "Treaty of Annexation." Giving all who bare witness to this work of art, the false impression that the sovereignty of the Hawaiian Kingdom was willingly surrendered to the United States. In reality this document does not exist; the name of the school and the statue's continued prominence in an educational institution, demonstrates the lengths to which people will go to pomulgate ignorance and the delusivity of creative histories. What do we learn/teach when a school's name honors a person? What do we learn/teach when a statue is built as proof of a lie?

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 9:52:51 AM

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:

As an alumni (c/o 99) of the school currently known as McKinley High School, I am in favor of renaming the school back to its original name of Honolulu High School. the statue of William McKinley should also be removed and replaced with a statue of our Tiger mascot! The Tiger spirit shall live for eternity but the celebration of racism, colonialism and imperialism must end now!

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 9:56:54 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Curren Ohama	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This is So Powerful! I'm given inspiration to keep pushing for stronger and meaningful education. With all the history that has been covered up in Hawaii, our community has been lead through so much confusion about reality in Hawaii, it has weakened our self awareness & confidence to help our future find it's most healthiest way to go about. As it comes to light more and more, Colonization comes with multiple forms of manipulation, and we have to dismantle All of them, and is another piece to Our puzzle we must fix.

Some people view Hawaiian subjects as an isolated group, if you ask me, I believe we're all in the Hawaiian subject, we're literally all on Hawaiian land, it's all our responsibility to understand where we are. To live in Hawaii and think you have no attachment to this place is just unbelievable to me. Pass this great Bill, it will impact the students & community in a Positively Power Way.
mahalo for reading

-Curen Ohama

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 9:59:38 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. Thank you.

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 10:35:00 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kawena?ulaokala Kapahua	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

William McKinley is a man who is plainly responsible for nearly every struggle Hawaiians face today. By illegally annexing Hawai'i to the United States he empowered the white supremacists puppet government that he propped up, to disenfranchise Hawaiian Citizens, Asian Citizens, any citizen who wasn't white, he stripped them of voting power, he stripped women of their political power. It was this act that enabled later the attempt by those white supremacists in government, to enact compulsory sterilization of Hawaiian women. In many cases, Hawaiian women still suffered this medical malpractice. It was his act of annexation that ensured Hawai'i, once of the most educated nations in the world with a universal literacy rate, would instead fail to educate its citizens particularly those of color. We still see these effects today in our community as Hawaiians still have some of the lowest graduation rates and it all stems from McKinley. His act empowered the white supremacist puppet government to force people off of Hawaiian lands, to ban the Hawaiian language, to criminalize Hawaiian resistance, to strip Hawaiians of their healthcare which shortened our life spans. William McKinley empowered a genocide, an attempt to wipe out the Hawaiian culture and people. He was an imperialist who wanted to use Hawai'i as a military base from which to take over the rest of China. It is stated in history that "The McKinley Administration reactivated debate in congress on Hawaiian annexation using the argument, "we must have Hawai'i to get our share of China."" He was a racist, an imperialist, and a colonizer. His actions have caused generations of pain for the Hawaiian people. He should not be honored with ANYTHING named after him, let alone a school in which Hawaiian children learn about their history. Every student of color today whose ancestors were in Hawai'i at the time suffered because of this man, whether they were Chinese, Hawaiian, Filipino, Japanese, or all of the above. The statue of him on campus hold a "treaty of annexation" which never existed because he never ratified a treaty, he simply passed a resolution such as this one debated today. By honoring him we teach our children a false history and carry on his legacy of damaging the education of students of color. The name of the school must be changed back to Honolulu High, to honor the longstanding legacy of the school, to honor the students who learn there every day and the teachers who commit their lives to the bettering of our community, we must remove McKinley's name from the school because he did not better our community, he tried to kill it. Remove the name and remove the statue.

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 10:44:43 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

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 10:45:36 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Matthew K. Ing	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Woodsen and members of the Education Committee,

I write in **strong support** of HR148.

In Nov. 2018, Humboldt County voted to remove an 8.5-ft tall status of William McKinley that stood for more than a century. A 2019 [San Francisco Gate news article](#) described Humboldt residents' rationale:

McKinley's expansionist policies are now widely viewed as racist toward indigenous people. During his presidential tenure at the turn of the century, McKinley annexed tribal lands in the western U.S. and Hawaii in the name of Manifest Destiny.

If Humboldt County, including the residents of "McKinleyville," could act in solidarity with the people of Hawai'i to remove their memorial to McKinley's legacy of imperialism, I hope that we can do the same.

The Apology Resolution (US Public Law 103-150), signed by President Clinton, formally recognizes William McKinley's role in advancing the armed overthrow and subsequent illegal annexation of the Kingdom of Hawaii. McKinley's legacy is one of imperialism, war, and colonization, including his manipulation of the Spanish-American War to advance imperialist wars against Cuba and the Phillipines.

In an age of rising white nationalism, celebrations of Manifest Destiny endanger the wellbeing of BIPOC communities. McKinley's statue at the entrance of the school, with Declaration of Annexation in hand, serves to threaten and indoctrinate young people into a legacy of white patriarchal supremacy.

I support the resolution to urge the Board of Education to return the name of the high school to Honolulu High School and join other progressive jurisdictions in progressing beyond America's legacy of Manifest Destiny. We can do better.

Please vote in support of HR148. Mahalo for allowing me this opportunity to provide testimony.

Me ke aloha,

Matthew Ing

HR-148

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
Jordan Seguin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My High School a school of pride and tradition... We live now in a world of representation a world of revolutions and in a time of where the past creates the future. Where people fight for their voices to be heard. The stain of destiny of the white man is inevitable, it is deep-rooted within our society and we mustn't allow to continue and honor the legacy of those who have oppressed. History will always be in favor of those who have conquered and to those of who had the privileges. Hawai'i, alongside many other indigenous peoples, killed, enslaved, cultures taken away forcefully changing their lives and their lands abused and desecrated. Cultures were merely almost erased from them a Queen locked in her own palace by the same people who at gunpoint, forced her brother, King David Kalakaua, to sign a Constitution for the selfish economical betterment of the white man and not for the Kanaka. The name of McKinley has no pride or tradition there... It is history and we must acknowledge the past and must move forward and not make the same wrong decisions again. Those who defend, understand HIS-story of those of the white man, of those who had oppressed. We will not be the school of an oppressor or of a white supremacist. We are a school of pride and tradition, a name carries mana, and the name William McKinley has no honorable mana... We are the results of the actions made before us. And we know, especially now in these times those who were all oppressed were oppressed and there is no picking or choosing of what or who was oppressed. We can not choose as a society of what oppression is and choose who are oppressed. We have the chance to ho'oponopono, to make things right. The time is now, and we will not keep silent.

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 11:21:38 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kerry Long	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

I strongly support HR 148/HCR 179, which aims to change the name of President McKinley High School and remove the statue of President William McKinley from school grounds.

I am not a McKinley High School graduate, though I have friends and 'ohana who are, some of whom are also submitting testimony in support of this resolution. I do, however, have stakes in this issue, first as a Kanaka Maoli, second as a mother, and third as an educator. Many have included details on McKinley's violent legacy so I will focus my testimony on contextualizing the impact of this name.

Hawai'i is long overdue to expand the collective discussion on place names, building names, street names, and statues and monuments - those things that make up the political wallpaper of Hawai'i. This "wallpaper", so to speak, conveys to the community, and most importantly to our keiki, what is to be honored, aspired to, or submitted to. The legendary imperialist and white supremacist William McKinley should be none of these.

Naming is a political act. As renowned Maori scholar, Dr. Linda Tuhiwai-Smith has written in her prolific book "Decolonizing Methodologies: Research and Indigenous Peoples" about the colonial practice of naming, "Naming the world has been likened by Paulo Freire to claiming the world and claiming those ways of viewing the world that count as legitimate."

Further, scholar and author Ngugi Wa Thiongo, who has been read by the tens of thousands of students who have taken Hawaiian Studies 107 throughout the UH system over the past decades, points out that the erasure of native languages, place names, stories and arts is an intentional mechanism of colonization meant to drop what he calls a "cultural bomb". Ngugi writes, "The effect of the cultural bomb is to annihilate a

people's belief in their names, in their languages, in their environment, in their heritage of struggle, in their unity, in their capacities and ultimately in themselves. It makes them see their past as one wasteland of non-achievement and it makes them want to distance themselves from that wasteland."

We in Hawai'i know how this has played out. From the defunding of Hawaiian language medium schools in 1896, to the stories of my great grandparents' generation taking beatings in class for speaking English, to the Americanization curriculum that was implemented in Hawai'i's public schools in 1906, to massive land grabs by the sugar oligarchy, and our ongoing struggles for equity in Hawaiian medium education. This was initiated through McKinley's policies and ideology, and then further perpetuated and glorified by renaming Honolulu High School to McKinley. Fortunately, our kupuna, through the blood, sweat, and tears, and despite this violence, made sure that cultural obliteration was always incomplete.

William McKinley's legacy is political and cultural destruction and domination in Hawai'i, the Philippines, Guam, and Puerto Rico - all of which are nations from where many of Hawai'i's people descend. His legacy is white supremacy and the oppression of native peoples, and the obliteration of self-determination.

Native Hawaiians and Filipino students make up the two highest ethnicities in the DOE. What is our message to these students when we have a major high school named after the man who initiated and saw through a foreign occupations of their homelands? The message, as Ngugi writes, is that the "dependent sing hymns of praise with the constant refrain: 'Theft is holy'."

The importance of naming in Hawai'i is already conveyed through the naming protocols of new street names in Hawai'i, community efforts to normalize traditional place names and surf spots, and the student and faculty fight to change the name of Porteus Hall at UH Mānoa, named after a prominent eugenicist. This is not cancel culture. It's restoration culture, it's justice culture, and it's truth culture.

Finally, today in Hawai'i, we are beyond the point of no return in moving toward a critical mass that demands confronting and reconciling this problematic history. The movement to protect Maunakea is great evidence of this. We are too educated, too organized, and have cultivated a level of political will comparable to that of our ancestors in 1898 who mass petitioned successfully against a treaty of annexation.

Please support this resolution that, in the very least, asks the Superintendent and Board of Education to confront and become educated on an issue that is important to so many in our community.

Mahalo,
'Ilima Long

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 11:25:14 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
NORMAN SAITO	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Chairman Justin H. Woodson, and Vice Chairperson Jeanne Kapela, and House Committee on Education

I am submitting this correspondence in **OPPOSITION** of House Resolution 148, and House Concurrent Resolution 179, proposing the name change of McKinley High School's name back to Honolulu High School.

My name is Norman Saito, a 1971 Alumnus of McKinley High School, and a retired teacher of McKinley High School, and have served in the Hawaii Department Education for over 22 years. I've also served as the President of McKinley High School's Parent, Teachers, and Students Association (PTSA) for over 5 years.

As an alumnus, and former teacher, and PTSA representative of McKinley High School, I am appalled of the Hawaii State Teacher's Association's proposal to seek a name change of McKinley High School without discussing amicably with those who would be affected the most.....the Alumnus, Parents and Community, Teachers, and Students of McKinley High School.

The Hawaii Teacher's Association has claimed their commitment in supporting our youngsters and community in our shared cultures and values. However, by the their direct actions to exclude critical input from thousands of Alumnus and their family members of McKinley High School, current faculty staff and students, to propose a name change, is obviously not a shared commitment to our school, community, and McKinley's Ohana. The school's name change will immensely tear down the legacy of McKinley High School's 155 year old history, and its recognition as being the oldest and most recognized public high school in Hawaii that have significantly educated and produced leading professionals in government, businesses, and military that have shaped Hawaii, from its annexation period to what we have defined and developed Hawaii to be in this modern era.

McKinley High School prides itself of this legacy of having numerous Federal, State and community leaders, throughout its history, that have graduated from this school. A legacy that all students of McKinley High School beam in pride and ownership of the school's values, virtues, and an education to succeed as our predecessors have demonstrated and accomplished in society.

In Hawaii, it is well known that when you meet someone who have lived in Hawaii or even had ties in Hawaii, the first conversation piece is to ask that person is “what high school did you go to?” and “what year did you graduate?” This conversation piece has always been like a ritual, whether a student or an adult, young or as a “Kupuna”, to ask someone seeking commonality and showing one’s own pride of their high school they’ve attended. A name change of McKinley High School will only disenchant McKinley High School’s Ohana, past, present, and future, of their earned heritage of “Pride and Tradition” of their school.

The Hawaii State Teacher’s Association’s call to change the name of President William McKinley because of his actions that annexed Hawaii in 1898, failed to also recognize the efforts and establishment of the Hawaiian Monarchy and the United States to establish ties and protectionism, that started prior to President’s McKinley presidency, to preclude European powers from colonizing Hawaii.

The change to remove President William McKinley’s name from the high school’s name, one would ponder whether it is rightful for anyone of this generation to change the decisions of duly government and educational officials that reflected the movement, and ideals of that period of its people.

President William McKinley High School establishes the historic event when the United States annexed Hawaii in 1898. This is an educational teaching point that will always be remembered and taught that our Hawaiian Monarchy was overthrown and the Hawaiian Islands were annexed reluctantly to the United States. Through annexation, came growth, strength, and prosperity to our eventual admittance as a State into the United States in 1959.

This historical event, also marks the time in history when Hawaii moved into a new era of modernization over the years that has defined what Hawaii is today.

For these reasons, I humbly request your **NON-SUPPORT** to House Resolution 148 and Concurrent House Resolution 179.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectively Submitted:

NORMAN Y. SAITO

(808)223-2609

saitony001@gmail.com

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 11:37:18 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anna Sumida	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I SUPPORT HR 148 realizing the heavy weight of cultural trauma when a native population is marginalized and disenfranchised by a group of missionary descendants, sugar company barons, financiers, lawyers, and import merchants (think steamship companies) for financial gain...all who formed the core of the Provisional Government that supported attempts to secure annexation and overthrow the existing sovereign government. Collectively, 13 of them colluded and were called the Committee of Safety. "Committee of Safety"? Safety for whom? "Make America Great Again"? Great for whom? Looking back at McKinley's presidency, I cannot help but wonder if he and his Republican cronies were the Trump card of their time??? They wanted Hawaii to be annexed (for capital and labor interests) but were faced with opposition, legal, and peaceful opposition, thus the Ku`e Petition, etc. It was by force (guns, weapons, US military troops) that illegally overthrew Lili`uokalani. In 1993, a joint session of the US Congress issued an apology resolution...too little too late for the Hawaiian people who till today, suffer enormously from historical trauma...epigenetics...that's a whole other topic in terms of intergenerational trauma...so the enormity and devastation of it all (including loss of language!!!) pales in comparison to most or typical political criticism. Perpetuating the lie of annexation adds to the cumulative aggression of SYSTEMIC racism which is SO DIFFICULT TO DISMANTLE unless we live the truth through our actions.

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 11:42:31 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kuulei Kualaa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support the removal of President McKinley's name and likeness from the school.

Representatives and Associates:

I support and encourage Representatives to support House Resolution 148.

First, when annexation was presented for a vote before members of the US Congress, true Patriots of Congress declared that Hawaii annexation was Un-American, immoral, against the US Constitution, and in Violation of Civil and Human Rights and International Law i.e. William McKinley incorrectly applied domestic law to an international situation and violated International Law and the US Constitution.

Second, by advancing annexation and subsequent actions, William McKinley was a perpetrator of those Un-American, immoral, and diabolical actions previously described.

Third, the resulting unethical and diabolical actions by William McKinley on Kanaka Maoli/ Native Hawaiians resulted in ongoing Physical, Mental, Emotional, Spiritual, Economic, Political, Developmental, Educational, and Socio-Cultural Upheaval and Devastation. Specific examples and statistics of such destruction are too numerous to include presently.

Fourth, erecting a statue and naming an educational institution to honor a person, William McKinley, even Theodore Roosevelt, who perpetrated such an immoral, diabolical conspiracy should have never been done. Knowing the history, if anyone should have been honored, Grover Cleveland would have been more suitable.

Fifth, taking this legislative action to Right this Wrong rather than allowing violent demonstrations, which are exemplified in states, for change to prevail is just, reasonable, and suitable.

Therefore, now is the time to correct the overdue situation by supporting House Resolution 148.

Honolulu Hawaii, 3/17/21:

C. Kaui Jochanan Amsterdam

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 11:54:23 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 and 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.

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 12:01:15 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Justin Jansen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

McKinley High School's name glorifies a man who illegally annexed a country against the will of her queen and people.

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

Names have great significance and a school's name should honor its greatness.

I support doing the right thing and changing the name from one that wrongfully honors a violent, racist, colonizer - and the culture his name represents - to one that truly honors the greatness of the school.

Mahalo,

Justin Jansen

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 12:01:29 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeannine Johnson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support HR148 and HCR179 which aims to change the name of President McKinley High School and remove the statue of President William McKinley from school grounds. America has faced its racist past and in 2015 restored the name "Denali" to North America's highest peak from Mt. McKinley. It has also begun to remove Confederate monuments and flags on government property because they revered slavery and the subjugation of human beings. It is telling that in Hawai'i, the most diverse state in America, the government still sanctions the colonialism of Hawai'i's native people by allowing such blatant acts of conquest like President McKinley High School and McKinley's statute to stand.

From the outset, foreigners to Hawai'i have sought to erase Hawaiians from their land as well as our history. John Musick (1897) named his book "Hawaii...Our New Possessions" to make sure that Hawaiians knew that "Americanism predominates in the intelligent and ruling spirits of the island" and that "The American is chief in business and politics." They systematically changed Native Hawaiian place names to glorify America and their overthrowers as a tool of domination.

Changing the original name of President McKinley High School and removing the statue of President William McKinley from school grounds is not erasing history, it is restoring history. It will also acknowledge that Hawaiians still suffer from cultural and historical trauma due to the theft of their nation, culture, lands and sovereignty. Dr. Bill Rezendes (1996) describes the Kaumaha Syndrome as rooted in a collective sadness and moral outrage shared by Native Hawaiians for the loss of their culture and nation. Dr. Kamana'o pono Crabbe (1999) believes that Native Hawaiians, collectively, suffer from ho'ino'ino (broken spirit) resulting from "years of cultural conflict with Westerners, acculturative discord, and progressive cultural regress."

I ask for your strong support of HR148 and HCR179 to end of the approbation of American conquest and domination and begin the healing process for Native Hawaiians.

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 12:10:00 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alexia Young	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am a proud graduate of the class of 2008. During my time at McKinley High School, I was extremely involved in school activities including, but not limited to, the Speech and Debate Team, the National Honor Society, and Student Government. During both my junior and senior years, I served as Student Body President. I represented my school with great pride and to this day I identify as a Tiger born and bred. It is because of my deep love for my alma mater that I strongly believe the Board of Education should change the name of the school back to its original name of Honolulu High School and remove the statue of President McKinley from the premises.

With the rising tide of awareness around the systemic racism deeply entrenched in the United States, I think it is time for us to recognize that not all history should be celebrated. President McKinley's violent acts of colonization culminated in the illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian monarchy and the annexation of Hawai'i. While that past cannot be undone, we must recognize that keeping McKinley's name and statue would be not just endorsing, but celebrating his violent and racist acts. In the same way that southern states across the nation are removing confederate statues due to what they represent, we must acknowledge the trauma and harm that institutionalizing McKinley condones and we must reject it entirely.

For those who believe that removing McKinley's name and statue will somehow take away value and honor from the high school, I would suggest that it was never McKinley who made us great, but all those who came before us as evidenced by our vast Hall of Honor. In all my years as a Tiger, I never associated my pride with McKinley the man, but rather with all of my Tiger brethren. That will still be true if (and more hopefully, when) the name of the institution is changed back to Honolulu High School.

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 12:16:03 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alex Miller	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this resolution. The US's apology resolution to Native Hawaiians and recognition of the illegality of the US overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawai'i acknowledges the harm done to Native Hawaiians by the US and in particular President McKinley. We should not be celebrating this man and his legacy, especially in the Hawaiian archipelago. We must communicate to our keiki that Hawai'i is a place that challenges and opposes white supremacy and imperialism.

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 12:16:30 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

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 12:27:26 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Presley Ah Mook Sang	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support the changing of McKinley High School to the original name of Honolulu High.

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 12:30:23 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dayton Kalanikumupaâ€™a Seto Myers	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hawai'i must continue to Ho'opono its history under American occupation. Renaming McKinley High School is one of many vital steps in honoring and accurately representing the true history of Hawai'i nei.

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 12:32:47 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cassandra Park	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou,

My name is Cassandra Park, I was a student of McKinley High School in 2003 and I am writing in support of HR 148. I have family who attended and graduated from McKinley in previous years. It is a large school with a lot of pride. I remember the pep rallies being the largest I've even on O'ahu.

As one of the largest and oldest public schools in Hawai'i I ask you to support HR 148 to change the name from McKinley to Honolulu High School. I feel that Honolulu High School more accurately represents the student body as well as the place in which this school resides, Hawai'i. Honolulu is a melting pot of people, cultures, and worldviews.

On the other hand, William McKinley represents annexation and the oppression of Island territories. His legacy not only perpetuates the historical trauma affecting our Native Hawaiian community, but also those in the Phillipines, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Cuba for his role in the Spanish-American War of 1898. What good had he truly brought to our people?

Honolulu High School is the original name of the school that embodies the place and students it serves. Let's make it pono again. Support HR 148.

Mahalo,

Cassandra Park

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 12:33:03 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kekuhi Haililani Kanahele	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Kakoo! Support.

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 12:38:32 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Riley Silva	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To the House Committee of Education,

I am lending testimony in favor of House Resolution 148.

Given the role that President William McKinley played in US imperialism and colonialism in the Caribbean and Pacific, but particularly in the role his administration had in legitimizing the overthrow of the legitimate government of Hawai'i at the time and in annexing by force the Kingdom of Hawai'i to the United States, I find it abhorrent that we still have a place named after him, let alone a school. It is inappropriate to continue to honor the legacy of past US imperialism in Hawai'i by continuing to maintain a place name and likeness of McKinley at this high school, and its name should be restored to its prior name.

Thank you for your time in hearing my testimony, and I hope you will consider the testimony of myself and others and do what is ultimately pono.

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 12:41:38 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
kevin landers	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

There is no treaty, never was - what is the current name and statue saying if not a bold lie?

Do better, defacto state of Hawai'i!

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 12:51:54 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ryan Willis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

100% Support removing McKinley's name and likeness from this school, and every other single public school named after a colonizing figure.

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 12:52:27 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kanoë Willis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

100% Support removing McKinley's name and likeness from this school, and every other single public school named after a colonizing figure.

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 12:53:17 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Donavan Albano	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony **in strong support of HR148 and HCR179**, which aims to change the name of President William McKinley High School and remove the statue of President McKinley from the school premises.

I am a Kanaka Maoli-Ilocano class of 2017 graduate of President William McKinley High School, and I support the renaming and removal of the statue. The work to rename buildings, streets, facilities, and statues and monuments that are rooted in institutional racism and settler colonialism has existed for years, namely by BIPOC folx, and so has the resistance to the annexation of Hawai'i. President McKinley believed in Manifest Destiny, a white supremacist belief that is intrinsically linked to American colonialism and imperialism - not only in Hawai'i, but also in the Philippines, Guåhan, and Puerto Rico. I cannot help but think that these ideologies, including the White Man's Burden, are linked to the belief in the white-savior complex as justification for U.S. imperialism. By naming a school that supports these beliefs, Hawai'i continues to memorialize white supremacy and justify the illegal annexation of the Hawaiian Kingdom, especially when the statue alludes to the treaty of annexation, which does not exist.

On graduation day, it is a tradition for McKinley High School students to walk across the oval, the platform for William McKinley's statue. During my time at MHS, I was unaware of the impacts of McKinley and what the name and statue memorializes. As a Kanaka Maoli, I grew up feeling deeply severed from my Indigenous identity, language, and culture, which has been contributed by settler colonial ontology that is a reality for many students. William McKinley's legacy involves white supremacy, settler colonialism, imperialism, and oppression and subjugation of Native peoples. We need to confront, recognize, and actively address the legacy of this problematic history.

As an aspiring educator, I affirm the goal to create an environment of equity that allows each student to thrive, especially in their identities, languages, and cultures. The glorifying and amplifying a white man who suppressed a movement that obliterated Native Hawaiian identity needs to be addressed. In honor of the words of the HSTA, please vote in support of HB148 and HCR 179 to 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.

In 1898, our ancestors mass petitioned successfully against annexation, and I, and many folx, are here today to continue honoring that legacy. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on an issue that is important to many in our community.

Mahalo,

Donavan Kamakani Albano

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 12:56:00 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 HR 148 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 "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 HR 148.

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 12:57:25 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bronson Azama	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou,

My name is Bronson Azama and I am a kamaʻāina of the ahupuaʻa of Heʻeia, and one of the Directors of the Koʻolaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club. I would like to request that this measure be passed as it rights a serious wrong for many of us in the Hawaiian Community.

The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs as some of you may remember had previously called for action regarding the removal of the McKinley statue. Some in the community would argue that this is "cancel culture" and removing of our history. Well, I would like to inform those who seem woefully ignorant to label it as such that the true cancel culture was removing the names of our places and spaces, replacing Hawaiian names with foreign names, and placing United States imperialism shrouded by absolute at the face of our children.

The name McKinley is the indoctrination of our people. He is not to be glorified in our islands nor celebrated as they do at McKinley High School. He holds the nonexistent Treaty of Annexation and represents the absolute lies and cancel of true history to replace that with the false story that justified non-existent land jurisdictions for the United States.

Returning to my comment on this not being Cancel Culture, I would like to inform those that the name Honolulu High School refers to that of the Ahupuaʻa in which it is located. How many today know the actual boundaries of Honolulu, Waikāʻā, Kapāhala, and various other land divisions in the Kona moku? I would say not too many can actually define "Honolulu's" boundaries. This is a result of our place names being canceled, our native indigenous culture being canceled in our islands.

We ought to homage to the host culture which has been in fact cancelled repeatedly by colonial and imperialistic ways. Therefore, I stand in full support of this measure to return the traditional names of this place.

I would also like to add a public comment that if the State decides to place the stature elsewhere that they remove the non-existent treaty of annexation by cutting off the hand that holds it. And then explain via signage why his hand is missing and share the true

story and history of how there is no treaty of annexation that was properly ratified, and in fact, Hawai'i continues to be illegally occupied. Let us pay homage to the true History of our islands not cancel culture that limits us to "His" story.

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 1:03:28 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Lacques	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony in strong support of HR148. The significance of the passage of this resolution acknowledges the political will for a restorative mandate of social and historical justice for those not only on O'ahu, but across all of Hawai'i.

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 1:20:46 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christy Rose Kaolulo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha

I strongly support this bill. The name and statue holding a Treaty of Annexation that does not exist continues to tell a story to future generations that the overthrow was legal. We cannot continue to lie to our future generations. We should not be honoring a man who stripped Native Hawaiians of their rights to their own lands. We cannot honor an event that imprisoned our Queen. I urge you to change the name of the school and remove the statue.

Me ke aloha

Christy Kaolulo

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 1:22:01 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.

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

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 1:34:36 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cat Orlans	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, I am Cat Orlans (Anderson). I commuted all 4 years of high school from Nanakuli, Oahu to attend McKinley. During the no child left behind days my parents got me a GE to attend a high school in town because they offered a better education than the schools on the west side where we live on Hawaiian homestead land. My first days of freshman year were of course weirded out by the Oval/Statue tradition that seemed to glorify a man that illegally overthrew the Queen of my ancestor's Kingdom. I like everyone else soon adapted to the tradition - stay off the oval! These are unique "McKinley" traditions we all know so well and hold so dear, like the lighting of the M. With a change of name I believe these traditions will still carry on. Like we see the once restricted hula these traditions of my ancestors have carried on through a loss of kingdom and identity. Much of these long standing traditions unique to this school will still survive especially when we consciously make an effort to merge it with our unique Hawaiian sense of place. I may not speak my language fluently but my Kupuna did teach me to speak up. I see this is now the time with our collective consciousness rising for the better to make things right & pono for my people. I am forever thankful for my high school 'ohana that I made during my time at this school and especially the education it provided me to attend the University of Hawaii at Manoa to finally be able learn and understand the true native hawaiian history of this place and not the colonizer history that was taught to me during my time in public school. We as a people humble ask for your support in changing the name and helping to heal some of the wounds we still carry to this day. Mahalo for your time.

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 1:37:26 PM

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

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

Comments:

Good Afternoon Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the Education committee,

My name is Chase Lee and I am a proud alumnus of McKinley High School, Class of 2003 and I also served as Student Body President my Senior year. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HR 148.

I urge you to oppose this resolution. While the original renaming of Honolulu High School for political purposes was wrong, you should also recognize the harm that would be caused by this resolution is also wrong and in this case, two wrongs do not equal a right.

The resolution implies that the renaming of the school has glorified President Mckinley and the role he played in the illegal annexation of Hawai'i. In fact it spurred the opposite, knowing that he is the namesake of our school, I strove to learn about his role in the history of Hawai'i as well as the other actions his administration took. We also do not celebrate or elevate Mckinley as a person nor did we gloss over his wrongs. The statue referenced in the resolution is also not revered, the literal oval where the statue sits actually has greater meaning as it is part of our graduation tradition.

Furthermore, we alumni throughout the last century and more have redefined and taken the McKinley name for ourselves. We're proud of our rich history, traditions, and even more proud of all our notable alumni spanning from legends like Duke Kahanamoku to the late Senator Inouye to present day role models like Senator Duckworth and even Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson just to name a few. There are countless more, just visit our Hall Of Honor, and I can't wait to see what other notable alumni the school produces. We value being connected to this rich history as well as the sense of community and belonging that we all feel when we meet fellow alumni.

Please, reject this resolution, let us keep our connection to each other and our alma mater. Give the current students the opportunity to further add to our shared rich history. And most importantly, let them and future generations continue to redefine what the name "McKinley" stands for in Hawai'i.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Chase Lee

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*

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 1:41:54 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Derek Warren	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 1:47:28 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Walter Ritte	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in support of hr148. It is the right thing to do to begin to correct some of many mistakes.

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 1:53:25 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
kit brizuela	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony in support of House Resolution 148, House Concurrent Resolution 179

THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 2021

Kit Brizuela, testifying as a citizen of Kane'ohe, O'ahu, Hawai'i

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

Aloha, my name is Kit Brizuela. I was born and raised in Hawai'i and have taught at Kahuku High and Intermediate School and since 1999.

I am submitting testimony in support of House Resolution 148, House Concurrent Resolution 179, 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 an educator, my life's goal is to contribute to the process of uplifting our society through the enlightenment and development of each and every student, to enable them to be their best self. History is to be studied and applied through the realities of today. We preserve it, but should not glorify the wrongs that were committed, whether intentionally or by mistake. Instead we should focus our energies toward correcting wrongs and producing a more equitable system that celebrates diversity, provides opportunities for everyone to feel validated and gives dignity to every life.

We now know that the education we received as Hawai'i Public School students in the 1950s and 1960s and even well before that, was purposefully designed to remove consciousness of Hawaiian culture and the true history of the illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian monarchy, with the aim of americanizing all students.

Not everyone involved in this effort knew of the harm that was happening, but there are many stories of suffering that convince us that this colonizing, racist system has resulted in much of our present situation of racial, social, and economic inequity.

Changing the school's name back to the original, Honolulu High School, and removing the statue of a person who was key in the creation of the colonial system, would communicate that we share values of 'ohana and 'aina, that we value the diverse people of our islands. It would honor the land where the school is found, and that feeds her community.

Please vote in support of HR 148 and HCR 179.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 1:56:50 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Valerie Dao	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kapela, and members of the House Committee on Education, I am submitting testimony in opposition of House Resolution 148.

As an alumnus of McKinley High School and a current teacher there, I am appalled that there is this public resolution on the name of our school, potentially to be decided by people who don't even attend our school and have never attended our school. It is not the name itself that I am opposing, but the process. Why should our name be decided by outsiders who feel offended when they drive by and see our name? Shouldn't this decision be made by the school's actual stakeholders? The name of our school is literally our identity, what people know us by and something our future employers must refer to when looking into our backgrounds. I strongly believe this is a decision that should be made internally for reasons that stem from our own needs, not a political move by a union looking to gain brownie points from the mainland. In addition, who would pay for all the costs of rebranding? Would the union and other political entities pay for it? I have many concerns that urge me to write this opposition.

Please vote in opposition of House Resolution 148

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 2:02:54 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joy McLeod	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HR148. Please change the school's name & remove the statue. Let us no longer honor someone who dishonored our Queen & correct a terrible choice for a school. Mahalo.

My name is Sam Tanigawa and I strongly urge you to consider changing the name of McKinley High School back to Honolulu High School and remove the McKinley statue from the premises. It's time we stop idolizing colonizers that promoted racist policies against *Kanaka Maoli*. It is an affront to current students to have to pass that statue and be reminded of the colonizers that stole their land. As for arguments that changing the name of McKinley High School would upset graduates. I think that's ridiculous, the school in question is a great facility that I have a family connection to. My great grandparents ran Tanigawa Studio and my grandfather (a student body president at the school) and aunties attended that High School I don't think they would have minded changing the name of their Alma Mater back to it's original name.

The Name Honolulu High School represents the district and a step towards a future where we can make amends for past injustices by removing the veneration of people responsible for generations of racist oppression from public spaces. The legislature can make a big step for *Kanaka Maoli* students and community members by passing this legislation and holding DOE accountable for creating safer spaces to confront the history of illegal occupation.

It is your responsibility to continue the dialogue on the illegal occupation and overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom by removing the statue featuring a false treaty of annexation. Please take the steps to promote justice for *Kanaka Maoli* by taking down the statue and recognizing the fraud committed by President McKinley. The name of the high school and continued presence of the statue promote the erasure of Hawaiian culture, the American indoctrination of Hawaii's youth, and prevents our community from healing from those deep cultural wounds.

Our students deserve a better learning environment than one that represents the illegal theft of their land, language, and culture. With a 9% Native Hawaiian student body, we owe it to these students to make their education free of generational trauma. We can take real steps towards this by changing the name of McKinley High School back to Honolulu High School and removing the statue of President McKinley.

Mahalo for your consideration.

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 2:27:49 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Clarence Ching	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I Clarence ku Ching, strongly support this proposed resolution.

The school's present namesake really gave the u.s.a. a black-eye when he supported an "Annexation" that never happened, yet, got a school named after him.

While those who allowed the school's name change so long ago were then in power - at this time - We know better. And justice DEMANDS that we correct a historical injustice.

Let's make things right!

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 2:31:19 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ezra Levinson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

After the last of the monuments to the Confederacy were removed from New Orleans in 2017, mayor Mitch Landrieu gave a speech. In that speech, he said that "there is a difference between remembrance of history and reverence of it."

As a high school student, I know the importance of remembering history, and of teaching it to younger generations so that the mistakes of the past are not repeated. I also know what remembering history looks like – interacting with multiple perspectives, asking questions, not treating any one narrative or source as objective fact. As a high school student, I know that the name of President William McKinley High School and its statue of William McKinley do not exist for the purpose of remembering history. They exist for the purpose of revering it.

In fact, these things exist in reverence of a very specific history, one which (as explained in the text of this resolution) is misleading and was created for a malicious purpose. Any member of this legislature who chooses not to support this resolution and the changes called for herein is, quite explicitly, expressing their support for continuing to tell a lie to the community they represent.

The ugly history of American occupation and oppression in Hawai'i must be taught and learned and remembered, but that cannot be accurately done while placing William McKinley (quite literally) on a pedestal. This is a history to remember, not a history to revere.

I support HR148, and I strongly encourage you to do so as well. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Ezra Levinson

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 2:49:14 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alani Bagcal	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair, Vice-Chair and members of the Committee,

My name is Alani Bagcal and I am writing today in strong support for HR148.

The name McKinley High School reflects indoctrination of Hawaiian students and a movement that obliterated Native Hawaiian identity in favor of American patriotism. I urge you to change the name back to Honolulu High School and remove the McKinley statue as nobody should glorify a man who illegally annexed a country against the will of her Queen and people.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of this bill.

Alani Bagcal

alani.bagcal@ppvnh.org

96815

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 3:00:21 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lloyd Yamashige	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HR 148

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

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 3:11:29 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joy Yukumoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

My name is Joy Yukumoto and I am submitting testimony today in support of House Resolution 148. I am asking that you support the resolution to change the name of President William McKinley High School back to Honolulu High School and to also remove the statue of McKinley from the school's campus. William McKinley was a violent colonizer who illegally annexed Hawai'i, and both the current name of the school and the statue of McKinley continues to be extremely disrespectful, harmful, and racist to Hawaiian students, staff, and faculty of the school. Naming a school, which should be a place of learning where students feel safe and encouraged to do so and be themselves and to learn about and embrace their culture and history, after a colonizer who has committed horrible acts does not support the school's commitment to its students, its staff and faculty, and the community. No school should be named after such a person, and no student should have to have their place of learning honor William McKinley or any other colonizer like him.

Please support the renaming of the school to something that represents and respects all of the incredible people who make the school what it is and their amazing accomplishments and impact.

Please vote today in support of House Resolution 148.

Thank you so much for your time and allowing me to send in a written testimony today.

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 3:19:23 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Patricia Greene	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am Supporting the Name Change of McKinley H.S. To the Original Name of "HONOLULU HIGH SCHOOL".

Mahalo,

patricia Momi Greene

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 3:21:31 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Naomi Franklin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a recent graduate of President William McKinley High School within the past couple years, I support the name change and removal of the statue. We live in a time now where things are changing. We, as a country and society are learning from our mistakes and changing now more than ever to right the wrongs of our history as a nation and as people. In many other states, there have been school name changes due to presidents with well known ties to slavery, statues taken down of symbols and people of this country's past, things that are reminders of the slavery, genocide, racism and cultural oppression that we still see the effects of today. These cities have chosen to take these statues and symbols down to show that they stand with their citizens and acknowledge the dark history that they claim to have learned from and terrible values that they no longer uphold. It can be hard to believe the words of those in a higher office that say they stand by it's citizens when those citizens have to go to public spaces and buildings built to honor individuals that have had a significantly negative impact on the history of the United States.

When it comes to history and values, McKinley High School is no exception. The school's motto is "Pride and Tradition" and each year they honor alumni of the school who have gone on to have many wonderful achievements, be true inspirations, and help in their communities every day. The school also has an Alma Mater with the lyrics praising the late president for being an honorable person with pride and integrity, "Hail McKinley Hail". In the past the school has released statements that they acknowledge the late president's actions, but they do not hold the name values and uphold and instill better values and morals into their students, keeping that pride and tradition alive and well.

While the school works to instill these admirable values into their students, much like many other cities and schools mentioned prior, it can be hard to believe these words as it appears contradictory, especially when students of Native Hawaiian descent and their families must pass by the statue every day, are reprimanded for stepping on The Oval in which the statue stands, and go to a school with the name of a man who played a significant part in the erasure of Hawaiian culture in the islands and supported the illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom. I think it is important to note that changing the name of the school DOES NOT erase its history. Changing the name and removing the statue does not erase all the accomplishments and contributions of its current students

or it's graduates. It doesn't change the values the school runs upon and will continue to instill moving forward.

Changing the name of the school to Honolulu High School reflects the respect and solidarity the school has to its students, and community, especially those of Native Hawaiian descent. Furthermore, it is an appropriate name that reflects the name of the ahupua'a that the school is located in. It says to students and to the community that they work hard to positively contribute and no longer uphold the same values of late President William McKinley, and therefore, do not need to honor him in the same way that the school used to in it's past. Changing the name of the school and removing the statue from school grounds is another important step in the right direction of writing the wrongs of history and lets the community and people that the school serves know that they are heard, welcome, and actively trying to be better every day.

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 3:41:29 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elton Miyagawa	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

As proud graduate of McKinley High School and a life long resident of the area, I am appalled the rash of "cancel culture" has fallen upon my beloved school. Dan Inouye is rolling over in his grave. No one is free of any skeletons.

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 3:45:54 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Scott Slagle	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Scott Slagle and I am submitting this testimony as a private citizen. It is more than "well documented" that President McKinley was a racist individual. I, as a haole, have been urging my Hawaiian family members to pressue the legislature to change the name of this school for a long time. I am **STRONGLY** in favor of changing the name of this school back to Honolulu High School or better yet,, RUTH High School! Make a wrong, right!

IMUA!

Scott Slagle

Testimony of David B. Rosen in Opposition to HR 148 and HCR 179 (2021)

Hearing: March 18, 2021; 2 p.m.

To: Chair Woodson
Vice Chair Kapela
Members of the House Committee on Education

cc: Rep. Gene Ward
Sen. Stanley Chang
Sen. Chris Lee

My name is David B. Rosen. I am an attorney and Hawaii public school graduate. I am submitting testimony in **opposition** to House Resolution 148 and HCR 179.

With all of the serious problems facing our State and educational system, it is unfortunate that the Legislature would expend its limited resources considering whether President William McKinley High School should be renamed, and President McKinley’s statue should be removed. However, since this committee has decided to give credence to this issue by giving it a hearing, the Committee should be presented with facts instead of the blatant falsehoods stated in the Resolution itself and in testimony submitted by the Hawaii State Teachers’ Association (HSTA).

Although a prior school location, which had earlier been named Honolulu High School, also bore McKinley’s name, **the current school location, which opened in 1923, has always been named the President William McKinley High School.** See the website of the McKinley High School’s 150-year celebration (<http://www.mhs150years.com/about.html>). As such and contrary to what is asserted in testimony submitted by the HSTA, the naming of McKinley high school is not “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[.]”¹

¹ For the same reason, the recent federal decision to recognize Alaska’s tallest mountain by its native name, Denali, instead of as Mount McKinley, is not analogous.

The decision to name the school after McKinley was in recognition of his instrumental role in annexing the Hawaiian Islands and creating Hawaii's path towards statehood, and to honor him following his assassination in 1901. For these reasons, there can be no dispute that President McKinley was a historically relevant and important figure in Hawaii history.

Despite this, McKinley's detractors seek to blame him for the overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom, which took place in January 1893 – two presidents before McKinley assumed office in 1897. What they ignore is that by the time McKinley became president, the Republic of Hawaii had established itself as the legitimate government of the Hawaiian Islands and had been internationally recognized by every country with a connection to Hawaii excluding Great Britain. The Republic of Hawaii had also made clear that, while it supported annexation by the United States, it would defend itself and would not return control to the monarchy despite previous demands by the United States, a threatened military invasion by the United States, Great Britain, and Japan in December 1893, and an armed revolt by pro-monarchists in 1895.

Thus, when McKinley became President, there was no kingdom that he could have "restored" absent his declaring war against the Republic of Hawaii, which he lacked the authority to do. Further, there is no historical basis to accuse McKinley of being anti-Hawaiian. To the contrary, the rights of all of Hawaii's inhabitants improved significantly after annexation. Also, had Hawaii not been annexed, there is no reason to believe that the Hawaii Kingdom would have been restored, or what its fate might have been (a takeover by the Japanese Empire was a serious concern).

While many Hawaiians continue to feel pain and anger over the overthrow, stripping McKinley's name and statue from one of Hawaii's most historic schools is not going to heal those feelings. Rather, it is only going to add fuel to an anti-American and revisionist-history movement that is not supported by actual historical events.²

² Unlike other individuals who have recently *and rightfully* had their names stripped from public schools and institutions, McKinley was not a confederate traitor, he was not a vocal racist, he did not own slaves, and he was not involved in the overthrow of the Hawaiian government. Earlier this year, the Trump administration's 1776 Commission, came out with a report arguing how American

Among the patently false statements made in the Resolution itself are the following:

1. “[T]he name of Honolulu High School was changed to President William McKinley High School in 1907 as a key component of the political indoctrination strategy to deliberately convince the people living in the Hawaiian Islands that they are American” (Resol., ¶ 2).

No evidence of the above statement is offered. To the contrary, it is a historical fact that Hawaii became a territory of the United States in 1898, and the Hawaiian Organic Act, enacted in 1900, expressly recognized that all inhabitants of the Hawaiian Islands were American citizens thereafter. Thus, there would have been no need to convince them of this.

2. “[W]hen 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 (Resol., ¶ 3).

history *should* be taught in public schools. Historians overwhelmingly slammed that report as being untethered from historical facts and reality. The false assertions made in this Resolution are no different.

It is frightening that elected officials and HSTA “educators” would support and further the teaching of such lies to further their own political agenda. See oral statement of Jodi Kunimitsu (the chair of the HSTA’s Human and Civil Rights Committee) asserting McKinley was involved in the overthrow and making other false statement repeated in HSTA’s testimony:

<https://www.hawaiipublicradio.org/post/proposal-rename-mckinley-high-school-introduced-legislature#stream/0>). It is noteworthy that Ms. Kunimitsu, who appears to be leading HSTA’s support for the Resolution, is from Maui and has no apparent connection to McKinley High School. Just as I am sure she would not appreciate my comments on Baldwin High School’s name, her involvement in seeking to rename a school in Honolulu is disrespectful.

No evidence of the above statement is offered. To the contrary, it is a historical fact that, in 1911, the Hawaiian Islands did belong to the United States of America.

3. “[T]he fabricated "Annexation Treaty" perpetuates the allegation that people in the Hawaiian islands wanted to become Americans, even though eighty percent of the adult population signed the Kū‘e Petitions against annexation in 1897” Resol., ¶ 4).

It is accepted as historical facts that the petitions against annexation were signed by 21,269 mostly native Hawaiians (including many who were under 18 years old), and that this represented approximately half of the 39,000 native Hawaiian and mixed-blood persons reported by the 1896 Hawaiian Commission census. However, it is also a historical fact that the total population of the Hawaiian Islands in 1896 was 109,020. So, the assertion that even a majority of the population opposed annexation is not supported. Moreover, when Hawaii became the 50th State in 1959, the support of its citizens, including native-Hawaiians, was overwhelming, with 93% approving.

4. “[O]n July 6, 1898, President McKinley committed fraud to continue the occupation of the Hawaiian islands by the United States by signing a Joint Resolution of Congress, entitled the "Newlands Resolution" that purported the annexation of Hawai‘i” (Resol., ¶ 5).

No evidence of any “fraud” is offered. To the contrary, it is a historical fact that, in 1898, the Newlands Resolution was passed by a two-thirds majority in both the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, and was then signed by President McKinley.

5. “[T]he 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 with official treaties in eighteen foreign states dating as far back as 1846” (Resol., ¶ 6).

This is a discredited legal assertion. Irrespective of anyone’s opinion, it is a historical fact that the United States did annex (take control of) the Hawaiian Islands in 1898 and has not relinquished control since.

6. “[F]ollowing 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” (Resol., ¶ 7).

No evidence of the above statement is offered. However, the assertion that it is a bad thing that Hawaii's public education system created “patriotic” citizens is troubling and speaks to the anti-American politics of those supporting the Resolution.

Likewise, the testimony of the HSTA in support of the Resolution is also based on the same types of egregious falsehoods:

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

The United States Congress annexed the Hawaiian Islands together with the consent of the Republic of Hawaii. There was nothing illegal about this despite the discredited arguments of a small group who continue to refuse to recognize Hawaii as part of the United States.

8. “McKinley . . . ignore[ed] 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.”

While many native-Hawaiians did strongly oppose annexation and wanted the monarchy restored, there is no evidence that this group was a majority of all of Hawaii’s residents or that “*an additional 17,000 signatures*” were collected opposing annexation. This may seem like an insignificant distinction, but if left unrefuted these types of falsehoods have a tendency to be repeated and become accepted as “facts”.

9. “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.’”

There is no evidence that President McKinley or the United States had any role in encouraging patriotism towards the United States in Hawaii – not that that would have been objectionable. However, the assertion that Hawaii’s public schools encouraged patriotism in an effort to assimilate native-Hawaiians is not supported. As discussed in an incredibly racist (anti-Japanese) *Harper’s Weekly* article published in 1907, which is referred to in HSTA’s testimony, the target of these actions were local Japanese as evidenced by the subtitle of that article: “How The Island Territory Has Solved The Problem Of Dealing With Its Four Thousand Japanese Public-School Children”. See https://hawaiiankingdom.org/pdf/1907_Harpers_Weekly.pdf.]

10. “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.”

These are some of the most often repeated lies about Hawaiian history. First, the 1860 Act to Regulate Names, which mandated a Christian first name, was enacted by King Alexander Liholiho (aka King Lot or Kamehameha V), not by the Republic of Hawaii or the United States.

Second, speaking the Hawaiian language (or any other language) in public was never banned in Hawaii. In fact, Hawaiian language newspapers continued to exist until the late 1940s. Well before the overthrow, the Kingdom’s Board of Education had adopted a policy of restricting teaching and speaking in public schools to English. At the time of the overthrow, less than 3% of public school instruction was in the Hawaiian language. In 1896, the Republic of Hawaii formalized this policy by enacting a law (Act 57) to make English the language of instruction in all public schools.

However, under that law other languages, including Hawaiian, were expressly allowed to be taught as “second” languages. These policies far predated annexation, or anything done by President McKinley. In fact, in 1919 (after annexation), the Hawaii Territorial Legislature mandated that Hawaiian language be taught in all public schools, as an elective.

11. “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.””

This statement is false. There is no suggestion in the *Harper’s Weekly* article that any student was excluded from high school because they were not “Americanized” enough. What is asserted in the article is that the desire “to prevent the mingling of grown Japanese boys in classes with American girls[]” was the motivation for restricting admission to certain high schools, and the English Standard School System was the vehicle used to implement that policy. While incredible racist and offensive, there is no indication that this policy had anything to do with President McKinley.

12. “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 mokupuni of O’ahu. Changing the school’s name back to Honolulu High School honors its life source, the land that feeds it.”

Changing the name of McKinley High School does not honor anyone, just as retaining the name does not harm or insult anyone. However, the movement to strip away all English names from public buildings and institutions is harmful. If successful, efforts to rename other schools - Roosevelt, Jefferson, Washington, Campbell, Castle, Farrington, Kaiser, Baldwin, etc. - should be expected. Efforts to remove Captain James Cook’s statue and name from locations on the Island of Hawaii are ongoing. Following the same logic, naming anything after President Barack Obama would not be possible, and the renaming of Thomas

Square and the Daniel K. Inouye Honolulu Airport would appear to be required.

In sum, any effort to change the name of McKinley High School should originate from that institution's community (in particular, its alumni and students) and not from the Hawaii Legislature or the HSTA. There has been no indication that that has occurred. **Please reject this Resolution.**

Mahalo,

David B. Rosen

Email: rosenlaw@hawaii.rr.com

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 5:23:21 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lanny Sinkin	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

Changing the name of the school and removing the statue are small steps in one sense. Yet in terms of acknowledging the true history, such action would be a giant step toward reconciliation.

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 6:56:19 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ramona Hussey	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Representatives I urge your support for this Resolution to ask the Superintendent to remove the statue of McKinley and rename the High School. The statue is demonstrably false, as it wrongly proclaims there was a treaty of annexation. And to honor an American President who had a negative role in Hawaii's history is also a wrong. This resolution is the first step in righting this wrong.

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 9:22:11 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sherry Pollack	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

In STRONG SUPPORT!

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 9:22:30 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 (HR148). 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 (HR148).

Thank you for listening and for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Jan Pappas – Aiea, Hawaii

PA NAKEA LAW GROUP

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Honolulu, HI 96822
(808)308-2654
panakealaw@me.com

March 17, 2021

To: Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kapela, &
Members of the House Committee on Education
cc: Amy Perruso, HI House Rep (repperruso@capitol.hawaii.gov)
From: Elizabeth Ho'oipo Pa Nakea, Castle High School Teacher
RE: Testimony in Support of House Resolution 148 &
House Concurrent Resolution 179

Date: March 17, 2021

Aloha, I am Elizabeth Ho'oipo Pa Nakea; I was born and raised in Hawai'i, have been a teacher at Castle High School for the last seven years, and a lawyer since 1986, when I graduated from William S. Richardson School of Law. I am working with the HSTA Human and Civil Rights Committee. As such, I agree and wish to adopt the testimony of the Hawai'i educators who wish to change the name of McKinley School through support of House Resolution 148, and would further support the removal of McKinley's statue entirely. The significance of this name in association with my grandmother's, Elizabeth Pa's, and other family's members' school, has a negative and harmful effect on many students, and the community, including those of Hawaiian ancestry, like myself.

As you should know, the statue is a bold-faced LIE, teaching untruths, because the "treaty" was never legally adopted by the U.S. Congress; i.e., U. S. laws for treaty adoption were not followed, and it was not passed by Congress as required. The U.S. legislature at the time was negotiating with the provisional republic, which was officially declared by President Grover Cleveland to be "neither de jure nor de facto". It was, as one man described, "bogus, a diplomatic fraud between the McKinley administration and a sham Hawaiian republic that was just a front for the American sugar industry." Also, it is a violation of international law for the United States to impose United States law on the Sovereign State and Constitutional Monarchy of Hawai'i. Moreover, the Ku'e Petitions provide clear evidence that the majority of Hawaiians were against annexation to the United States.

Hence, the United States erroneously claimed that under McKinley's leadership, they legally annexed the independent Republic of Hawaii in 1898. The United States wanted Hawaii to acquire its islands and because it was a port way to China, East India and Asia. Not only did they want the islands, but they wanted their naval base, for WAR, so they would have another advantage to help defeat the enemies they were warring with. The United States knew that Hawai'i had lots of tropical fruits (pineapple) and sugar, which were the resources that they wanted. They knew that if they annexed Hawaii, they would be able to take some of their popular resources. This resulted in the Sugar Trade. As a result, Hawaii lost its independence, unwillingly became a United States territory, gained a larger population of foreigners than kanaka maoli (native Hawaiians), and lost much of its culture (the ability to communicate with their mother tongue included).

Many of us locals oppose this reminder of McKinley's imperialism in Honolulu, Hawai'i, and his history related to genocide of native populations in the pursuit of Manifest Destiny and expansion into yet uncolonized areas. His poor treatment of the indigenous peoples whose lands were the focus of the expansionist policies of the U.S. government at the time should not be celebrated with a statue in a place that

promotes ALOHA, and encourages living ALOHA; not WAR! After all, WAR, what is it good for?

The question of whether McKinley's statue must fall or remain is not a matter of history alone. It is part of the process of reckoning with the ongoing injustices of the U.S. illegal occupation of Hawai'i in the present in order to work toward freedom and reconciliation for the future.

"Removing a statue, monument, or place name does not erase history. It serves as a reminder that the future is not cast in stone."

R. Rose-Redwood & W. Patrick

We should never underestimate the emotive importance of statues and what they mean in our society. They are a reminder of the people our society considered great, people worthy of respect and looking up to. That is why we put them on pedestals and honour them in central places in our towns and cities, so future generations will pay tribute to them."

S. Ebrahim

Since the first of these people stepped off the Mayflower, they made their way across the continental U.S., through Central and South America, and around the world, by lying, stealing, double-talk, and jingoistic justification of their actions. But then, as today, their lies remain simply that, lies; and their claim to have the power to decide the future of our 'aina is based on layers of lies and the continued pretending that they have proper title to this 'aina. Whereas, the truth is that they have the title of thief.

My final thought to leave you with is: with all the injustice we Hawaiians have faced, do you truly think it's appropriate to glorify a man that harmed our Queen, her Constitutional Monarchy, and her people, and continue the lie the statue presents to the people of Hawai'i and the world? Please vote in support of House Resolution 148. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 10:07:37 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
isaac nahakuelua	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please **support HR 148**. Abraham Lincoln said: "*Don't interfere with anything in the Constitution. That must be maintained, for it is the only safeguard of our liberties. And not to Democrats alone do I make this appeal, but to all who love these great and true principles.*" August 27, 1856 Speech at Kalamazoo, Michigan.

President McKinley violated these principles by signing a joint resolution to acquire a friendly country, the Hawaiian Kingdom. As a Native Hawaiian social worker and as an infantry combat veteran of the U.S. Army, I ask that we make Hawai'i an example for the world. We, the Hawai'i people, will uphold and support righteous deeds with motivation from proper principles shared by President Abraham Lincoln.

Not supporting **HR 148** promotes the principle of not doing the right thing and ignoring a chance to correct a mistake. Ho'oponopono, to make right. Please, let's make it right and **support HR 148**.

Mahalo,
Isaac Kawika Nahakā'elua

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 10:09:09 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Imialoaa Richardson	Mckinley High school Hsta member AND ALUMNI	Oppose	No

Comments:

My name is Imialoa'a Richardson, I am Proud, prideful, and honored graduate, coach, and teacher of McKinley High school. I AM ALSO NATIVE HAWAIIAN. I oppose to changing the name of my school because the past mistakes that Mr. McKinley had made have no weight on who I am. Mr. McKinley needed to do what he needed to do. King Kalakaua did what he needed to do, so did Queen Lili'u, as well as Mr. Obama, and Mr. Trump. Like this pandemic we cannot control what others do. We only need to look at ourselves. There are many people in the school that teach with me that don't agree with Mrs. Laverne Moore on this issue of the name change. So following suit, I cannot control anything else but me. I love McKinley my wrestlers who are champions like myself will forever carry the name of McKinley wrestling because we were brought together by our loving and caring teachers that served us. My former football team mates and wrestling mates who have passed would oppose of this too. We were not taught that McKinley is a bad name. No one says that in school. I would assume that is was from people who don't have ties to what McKinley stands for. It isn't annexation. It's education, pride and tradition. There have been so many years that we have had people honored for their great duties in the community. Duke Kahanamoku, Daniel Inoe, Governors, teachers, you name it they are all honored. Our hall of honor. In Hawaiian I know how much a name means. I live it everyday, Imialoa'a means to discover. I discover something everyday. Today I discovered that we together can overcome a name and be better for what it stands for when you can have all the collections of good that come out of McKinley. Yes he did what he did it was wrong. However, that is not what we promote when we send kids out in the world and you can ask any teacher at McKinley if they teach not to have pride in the school they attend. I love McKinley, it has made me into the person I am today. We don't need a name change we need an attitude change for acceptance. COVID sucks. Lets not make 160 years of success not be glorified because a few Hawaiians cannot come to grips that Kalakaua and Liliuokalani made good decisions to have America protect us from every other nation that probably would have killed us off themselves anyways. I am thankful for this opportunity to speak thank you. GO TIGERS OF McKinley.

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 10:12:18 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ana Kahoopii	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

In STRONG SUPPORT of HR 148

March 17, 2021

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Rep. Justin H. Woodson, Chair

Rep. Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Rep. Nicole E. Lowen, Chair

Rep. Lisa Marten, Vice Chair

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THE THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE

Aloha Kakou,

I am writing to support HR 148 petitioning that the statute of William McKinley holding the fabricated "Annexation Treaty" be removed from the school grounds and the school return to its original name "Honolulu High School". This statue perpetuates the allegation that people in the Hawaiian islands wanted to become Americans, even though eighty percent of the adult population signed the KÅ«'e Petitions against annexation in 1897.

Historical accuracy is critical. President McKinley committed fraud to continue the occupation of the Hawaiian islands by the United States by signing a Joint Resolution of Congress, entitled the "Newlands Resolution" that purported the annexation of Hawai'i. 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 with official treaties in eighteen foreign states dating as far back as 1846.

Public Law 103-150, informally known as the "Apology Resolution" acknowledges that "the Native Hawaiian people never directly relinquished to the United States their claims

to their inherent sovereignty over their national lands, either through a plebiscite or referendum. This acknowledgment gives us a starting point to begin righting the wrongs that have been perpetuated for over 125 years.

Respectfully requesting the removal of this statue and restoring the school's original name is a modest action that acknowledges the truths behind the historic trauma that impacts all of us, and begins a sincere and intentional process of healing.

With the deepest aloha, I request that this excellent measure be passed.

Ua mau ke ea o ka aina I ka pono,

Nawahine-Kaho'opi'i

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 10:26:13 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Caterina Desiato	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Why honor here in Hawai'i nei, with historical inaccuracy, the author of what is likely the most unjust act against this land and her people? Whatever one thinks about the future of Hawaiian governance, in order to find a good, farsighted, and consensual way forward, it is necessary to take an honest look at history and have a shared understanding of what has happened. Naming a Hawaiian school after McKinley and leaving this statue in the current context does the opposite of that. The place for this statue is a museum that explains its inaccuracy and offers context from a perspective that takes deeply into account both local history and international relations.

Indeed, as you probably know, prior to McKinley, the overthrow of Hawai'i had been recognized as a wrong act of war by the US President and Senate on the basis of the Blount Report and the massive petition with which the Hawaiian people had strongly expressed themselves against any form of annexation to the US. McKinley decided to ignore all of that and annexed Hawai'i without any legal grounds. No treaty of annexation has ever been signed between Hawai'i and the US. Yet, the statue presents in the hand of the US president a Treaty of Annexation that never was.

Mahalo,
Cat

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 10:47:35 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alesa Ainalani Kneubuhl	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support the bill to urge the superintendent of education to change the name of William McKinley Highschool back to the name Honolulu Highschool and take down the statue of William McKinley. His monument perpetuates white supremacy and is not an accurate depiction of one who should be memorialized for his tenants regarding the illegal occupancy of Hawaii.

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 11:33:09 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ekini Lindsey	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I SUPPORT BILL HR148!!!

In 1993 President Bill Clinton signed into legislation, an apology for the U.S. role in the 1893 overthrow of the Hawaiian monarchy. The apology, meant as a means of reconciliation with Native Hawaiians, acknowledging the historic significance of this horrific event, therefore, with this historical apology in place, there is an urgency to remove President William Mckinley's statue, and the immediate change of the school's name because of Mckinley's direct involvement he publicly avocated upon on January 17, 1893!!!! It is ethically, morally, and humanely correct to pursue in SUPPORT FOR BILL HR148

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 8:53:42 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kaliko Amona	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I'm writing in strong support of HR 148/HCR 179, which aims to change the name of President McKinley High School and remove the statue of President William McKinley from school grounds. Please pass this important resolution.

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 10:11:28 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jean StavRue-Pe'ahi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Jean StavRue-Pe'ahi, I am writing in support of HR148 and to change the current name of McKinley HS back to Honolulu High (or an appropriate Hawaiian name) and to remove the statue of McKinley on their front lawn.

The current name and statue glorify the name of someone that assisted in the illegally overthrew the Hawaiian Monarch (Queen Liliuokalani). As a parent of two Kanaka Maoli children and a resident of Hawai'i for almost 40 years, I cannot believe this has not already been done. The name and statue are constant reminders of systematic racism and an attempt to obliterate Hawaiian people, culture, language, and overall well-being. The name and statue are symbolic of an attempt to create more patriotic citizens and in turn, are constant reminders of a damaging past and generational traumas. Additionally, the statue is inscribed "Treaty of Annexation." We all know that no such treaty exists, Hawaii is illegally occupied this inscription just further damages everyone- Americans and Hawaiians. The attempt to lie generation after generation must stop.

I had the opportunity to be part of a group that quietly protested the statue and name on the school grounds in Feb 2011. A small group, yet we were able to visually post signs of some names of those that signed the Ku'e petitions. My daughter was 10 months old then, she is 10 years old now. Please don't let another 10 years slip by without making this change. It is time to make the right decision and make a change.

My husband is a Kanaka 2001 McKinley HS graduate and was a soccer player for the HS team. He is not a proud Tiger, in fact, he does not feel he has any connections to his alma mater. How can one have pride in a school that has done so much "silent damage?" Visually "seeing" the statue and making it a privilege to walk across the statue circle lawn as a senior is mentally damaging.

Making this change now can also be symbolic. It is time to make this right, it is our responsibility/kuleana. Removing the statue and changing the name to something more appropriate is also about making history, although this will not erase history, it is a move forward towards the healing of a people...generational healing.

Mahalo for your time.

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 11:09:24 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Peter Thoenen	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I urge you to vote no on this resolution.

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 11:51:21 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tara Rojas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am submitting the following written testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of House Resolution urging the Board of Education to change the name of President William McKinley High School.

President William McKinley was an expansionist who asserted US domination aboard and took territories like the Phillipines, Puerto Rico, Guam, and Hawai'i by either force, coercion, and fraud. The justification (that is well documented) for his expansionist policies was racist and rooted in white supremacy. President William Mckinley is quoted as saying, "That there was nothing left for us to do but to take them all, and to educate the Filipinos, and uplift and civilize and Christianize them and by God's grace do the very best we could by them..." Near the turn of the 19th century there were arguments on both sides (for and against) the US takeover of Puerto Rico, Phillipines, Guam, and Hawai'i in Congress that dehumanized the people of color who resided in these territories. The winning argument succeeded in "conquering" these territories and the total disenfranchisement of the native residents.

Much of the social injustice that Kanaka Maoli experience today stems from the fraudulent annexation of Hawai'i into the US and the signing of the 'Newlands Resolution' by President McKinley. Having one of the oldest high schools in Hawai'i named after someone who subjugated the people of the Phillipines, Puerto Rico, Guam and Hawai'i and justified his action using white colonial ideas of civilizing the 'savage' is unacceptable and an affront to all Hawai'i residents of color and most especially the native people of this land

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 11:57:03 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Hayden Winchester	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Greetings,

I **SUPPORT HR 148** which seeks to rename William McKinley High School to Honolulu High School and to immediately remove the statue of William McKinley because it is a symbol of American racism, imperialism and a reminder of the ongoing belligerent occupation of Hawaii by the U.S.

William McKinley was a racist annexationist who manufactured the seizure of Hawaii as a necessity of war and justified with American exceptionalism. He supported the illegal and immoral overthrow of the friendly Hawaiian government and used his authority to suppress, control and exploit Hawaii for US domination. During the subsequent Americanization of Hawaii, Hawaiian language was outlawed, culture degraded and national memory supplanted by a foreign American educational program which fractured the national consciousness of Hawaiians and normalized the myth of annexation and statehood to a surging population of Americans settling in Hawaii.

To allow the name and legacy of William McKinley to remain as it is would be a terrible reflection on our sense of history, justice and our moral codes.

The time has come for Hawaii to catch up with the rest of the global community who have united in spirit and action to tear down racist and imperial symbols around the world.

It is never too late to do right. Remove the name, remove the statue. Please support HR 148.

E mau ke ea o ka aina i ka pono,

Hayden Winchester

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 12:02:50 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jazzmin Cabanilla	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I submit this testimony in SUPPORT of changing the name of Mckinley High School.

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 12:07:46 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Keiko Gonzalez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

The haumāna deserve a school name they can be proud of, one with a more pono history. Please support this bill.

President McKinly signed a joint resolution named the “Treaty of Annexation,” which “annexed” the Hawaiian Islands in 1898, against the overwhelming objections of Hawaiians who signed the Kāhā Petitions.

Mt. McKinley in Alaska was changed back to its original name, Denali. We can do better here too.

Mahalo,

Keiko

HR-148

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 12:12:05 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
sharon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am submitting the following written testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of House Resolution urging the Board of Education to change the name of President William McKinley High School.

President William McKinley was an expansionist who asserted US domination aboard and took territories like the Phillipines, Puerto Rico, Guam, and Hawai'i by either force, coercion, and fraud. The justification (that is well documented) for his expansionist policies was racist and rooted in white supremacy. President William Mckinley is quoted as saying, "That there was nothing left for us to do but to take them all, and to educate the Filipinos, and uplift and civilize and Christianize them and by God's grace do the very best we could by them..." Near the turn of the 19th century there were arguments on both sides (for and against) the US takeover of Puerto Rico, Phillipines, Guam, and Hawai'i in Congress that dehumanized the people of color who resided in these territories. The winning argument succeeded in "conquering" these territories and the total disenfranchisement of the native residents.

Much of the social injustice that Kanaka Maoli experience today stems from the fraudulent annexation of Hawai'i into the US and the signing of the 'Newlands Resolution' by President McKinley. Having one of the oldest high schools in Hawai'i named after someone who subjucated the people of the Phillipines, Puerto Rico, Guam and Hawai'i and justified his action using white colonial ideas of civilizing the 'savage' is unacceptable and an affront to all Hawai'i residents of color and most especially the native people of this land.

https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/measure_indiv.aspx?billtype=HR&billnumber=148&year=2021