
HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO RENAME THE
RUSSIAN FORT ELISABETH STATE HISTORICAL PARK IN WAIMEA,
KAUA'I, AS "PA'ULA'ULA".

1 WHEREAS, King Kaumuali'i was born in 1780 at Pōhaku
2 Ho'ohānau at Holoholokū, Wailua, Kaua'i, to Kamakāhelei and
3 Kā'eokūlani; and
4

5 WHEREAS, Pa'ula'ula is the traditional place name for the
6 eastern bank at the mouth of the Waimea River, and was the
7 location of the royal compound of Kaumuali'i, the ali'i 'ai moku
8 of Kaua'i; and
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10 WHEREAS, on January 27, 1779, Georg Anton Schäffer was born
11 in MÜNNERSTADT, Bavaria; and
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13 WHEREAS, Schäffer studied medicine in Gottingen, Germany;
14 and
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16 WHEREAS, by 1808, Schäffer, a German National, travelled to
17 Moscow to practice medicine; and
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19 WHEREAS, in 1799, the Russian-American Company was
20 established to engage in the fur-trade, in which Russian
21 explorers were dominant in Alaska; and
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23 WHEREAS, in 1813, in St. Petersburg, Georg Anton Schäffer
24 joined the Russian-American Company as a medical physician and
25 sailed to Sitka, Alaska; and
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27 WHEREAS, on January 31, 1815, the Russian-American
28 Company's trade ship Bering was shipwrecked on the beach at
29 Waimea Bay, in front of the royal compound of Kaumuali'i, the
30 ali'i 'ai moku of Kaua'i; and
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1 WHEREAS, Kaumuali'i, the ali'i 'ai moku of Kaua'i,
2 appropriated the Bering and its cargo; and
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4 WHEREAS, in December 1815, the Russian-American Company
5 sent Georg Anton Schäffer on a mission to Kaua'i to recover the
6 Bering's lost cargo, and instructed him to receive payment for
7 the cargo, salvage what he could from the vessel, and return
8 immediately on the ship Otkrytie; and
9

10 WHEREAS, on July 1, 1816, Schäffer and Kaumuali'i entered
11 into a secret treaty, which provided for the construction of
12 forts on the island of Kaua'i, including one in Pa'ula'ula; and
13

14 WHEREAS, on September 12, 1816, in Pa'ula'ula, Schäffer
15 began construction of a stronghold, built of lava blocks, to be
16 named "Fort Elisabeth", after the consort of Emperor Alexander
17 I; and
18

19 WHEREAS, the fort at Pa'ula'ula was constructed largely from
20 a Hawaiian labor force, and with rocks from Waimea River's east
21 bank, which many Native Hawaiians consider a sacred area; and
22

23 WHEREAS, in January 1817, Alexander Andreyevich Baranov,
24 Chief Manager of the Russian-American Company, promptly
25 repudiated Schäffer and Kaumuali'i's transaction; and
26

27 WHEREAS, in May 8, 1817, less than one year after
28 Schäffer's arrival at Kaua'i, Kaumuali'i, the ali'i 'ai moku of
29 Kaua'i, and thousands of his people ran the Bavarian physician
30 and his men off of Kaua'i; and
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32 WHEREAS, the Russian Emperor informed Charles de
33 Nesselrode, a Russian Empire diplomat, that acquisition of the
34 Hawai'i Islands would be useless, that acquisition could lead to
35 "unpleasantness" in the country's relations with other powers,
36 and that the Russian-American Company should try to keep
37 Kaumuali'i's esteem and good will; and
38

39 WHEREAS, on February 24, 1818, Charles de Nesselrode
40 informed the Minister of Interior, Kozodavlev, of the Emperor's



1 decision, which Kozodavlev relayed to the Council of the
2 Russian-American Company in a letter dated March 13, 1818; and

3
4 WHEREAS, the Council of the Russian-American Company
5 decided to:

- 6
7 (1) Return to Kaumuali'i the possessions he gave to
8 Schäffer, with the explanation that the Emperor
9 already had enough possessions;
10
11 (2) Ask the Ministry of the Interior to strike a gold
12 medal inscribed "To Kaumuali'i, King of the Sandwich
13 Island of Kaua'i, as a mark of Russian friendship", to
14 be given to him on a ribbon of St. Anna; and
15
16 (3) To inform Baranov to recall Schäffer as soon as
17 possible, and to put in the hands of a wiser person
18 the matter of Russian-American Company trade with the
19 Sandwich Islands; and
20

21 WHEREAS, the Russian government informed Schäffer that he
22 had acted beyond his authority, brought him back to Russia,
23 removed him from employment, and sent him back to Germany; and
24

25 WHEREAS, for more than forty years after the departure of
26 Schäffer, Kaumuali'i, ali'i 'ai moku of Kaua'i, and later his
27 descendants, occupied the Waimea fort; and
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29 WHEREAS, the fort was used as an administrative center,
30 prison, and a burial ground of the island of Kaua'i; and
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32 WHEREAS, the Hawaiian government completed the half-
33 finished structure and used the fort until 1864, when it was
34 abandoned and its buildings dismantled to its foundations, with
35 only its outer walls remaining; and
36

37 WHEREAS, since the creation of the fort at Pa'ula'ula, no
38 Russians have ever garrisoned the fort; and
39



1 WHEREAS, the iwi of King Kaumuali'i's grandson is buried
2 within this sacred site, along with six other Hawaiians who died
3 in battle; and

4
5 WHEREAS, in 1885, over twenty years after the fort's
6 deconstruction, George Jackson, a Hawaiian government surveyor,
7 rendered a map entitled "Plan of Old Russian Fort Waimea,
8 Kaua'i"; and

9
10 WHEREAS, the numerous names that have been given to this
11 enclosure, including "Pa'ula'ula", "Fort Elisabeth", and "stone
12 fort", reflect its cultural significance and multicultural
13 history; and

14
15 WHEREAS, in 1972, the State of Hawai'i acquired the
16 seventeen-acre property encompassing the fort structure for the
17 purpose of preserving the site; and

18
19 WHEREAS, the site, administered as the Russian Fort
20 Elisabeth State Historical Park, was designated as a National
21 Historic Landmark in 1962 and listed on the Hawai'i Register of
22 Historic Places in 1981; and

23
24 WHEREAS, in 2017, the two hundredth anniversary of the fort
25 was commemorated with a forum on Kaua'i; and

26
27 WHEREAS, in March 2018, a working group, composed of
28 representatives from various cultural and historical
29 organizations on Kaua'i, government agencies, and the Russian-
30 American community, formed to discuss the future of the site;
31 and

32
33 WHEREAS, Kaua'i community representatives believe the name
34 "Pa'ula'ula" should be honored by its inclusion in the name of
35 the site, so that the mo'olelo of this wahi pana is shared and
36 the 'āina that cares for the iwi kūpuna is honored; and

37
38 WHEREAS, on Saturday March 20, 2021, an eight-foot-tall
39 bronze statue of King Kaumuali'i, the ali'i 'ai moku of Kaua'i,
40 was unveiled at Pa'ula'ula, Waimea, Kaua'i, and symbolized his
41 return to his ancestral home; and



1 WHEREAS, various provisions of Hawai'i's State Constitution
 2 provide for the preservation and promotion of native Hawaiian
 3 culture, history, and language, including article X, section 4,
 4 which states, "The State shall promote the study of Hawaiian
 5 culture, history and language"; and

6
 7 WHEREAS, Mua 'Ōlelo Hawaii emphasizes 'Ōlelo Hawai'i place
 8 names, which should reflect the State's cultural heritage and
 9 its historical and geographical integrity; now, therefore,

10
 11 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 12 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session
 13 of 2022, that the Board of Land and Natural Resources is urged
 14 to rename the Russian Fort Elisabeth State Historical Park in
 15 Waimea, Kaua'i, as "Pa'ula'ula"; and

16
 17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Division of State Parks of
 18 the Department of Land and Natural Resources is urged to develop
 19 new interpretive signs, brochures, and websites for the site
 20 that are available in Hawaiian and English and primarily reflect
 21 the 'āina of Kaua'i's ali'i nui, as well as the rich multicultural
 22 history of the site; and

23
 24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Division of State Parks of
 25 the Department of Land and Natural Resources is also urged to
 26 collaborate with the National Park Service to update the
 27 National Historic Landmark designation of the site and
 28 incorporate its Hawaiian place name and recent research findings
 29 by scholars of history and anthropology; and

30
 31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 32 Resolution be transmitted to the Secretary of the Interior,
 33 Director of the National Park Service, Governor, Chairperson of
 34 the Board of Land and Natural Resources, Chairperson of the
 35 Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs,
 36 Administrator of the Division of State Parks of the Department
 37 of Land and Natural Resources, and mayors of the several
 38 counties.

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OFFERED BY: _____



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