

MAR 11 2022

SENATE CONCURRENT 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 Kamakahelei 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
15

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
22

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



1 Waimea Bay, in front of the royal compound of Kaumuali'i, the
2 ali'i 'ai moku of Kaua'i; and
3

4 WHEREAS, Kaumuali'i, the ali'i 'ai moku of Kaua'i,
5 appropriated the Bering and its cargo; and
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7 WHEREAS, in December 1815, the Russian-American Company
8 sent Georg Anton Schäffer on a mission to Kaua'i to recover the
9 Bering's lost cargo, and instructed him to receive payment for
10 the cargo, salvage what he could from the vessel, and return
11 immediately on the ship Otkrytie; and
12

13 WHEREAS, on July 1, 1816, Schäffer and Kaumuali'i entered
14 into a secret treaty, which provided for the construction of
15 forts on the island of Kaua'i, including one in Pa'ula'ula; and
16

17 WHEREAS, on September 12, 1816, in Pa'ula'ula, Schäffer
18 began construction of a stronghold, built of lava blocks, to be
19 named "Fort Elisabeth", after the consort of Emperor Alexander
20 I; and
21

22 WHEREAS, the fort at Pa'ula'ula was constructed largely from
23 a Hawaiian labor force, and with rocks from Waimea River's east
24 bank, which many Native Hawaiians consider a sacred area; and
25

26 WHEREAS, in January 1817, Alexander Andreyevich Baranov,
27 Chief Manager of the Russian-American Company, promptly
28 repudiated Schäffer and Kaumuali'i's transaction; and
29

30 WHEREAS, in May 8, 1817, less than one year after
31 Schäffer's arrival at Kaua'i, Kaumuali'i, the ali'i 'ai moku of
32 Kaua'i, and thousands of his people ran the Bavarian physician
33 and his men off of Kaua'i; and
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35 WHEREAS, the Russian Emperor informed Charles de
36 Nesselrode, a Russian Empire diplomat, that acquisition of the
37 Hawai'i Islands would be useless, that acquisition could lead to
38 "unpleasantness" in the country's relations with other powers,
39 and that the Russian-American Company should try to keep
40 Kaumuali'i's esteem and good will; and
41



1 WHEREAS, on February 24, 1818, Charles de Nesselrode
2 informed the Minister of Interior, Kozodavlev, of the Emperor's
3 decision, which Kozodavlev relayed to the Council of the
4 Russian-American Company in a letter dated March 13, 1818; and
5

6 WHEREAS, the Council of the Russian-American Company
7 decided to:
8

- 9 (1) Return to Kaumuali'i the possessions he gave to
10 Schäffer, with the explanation that the Emperor
11 already had enough possessions;
12
- 13 (2) Ask the Ministry of the Interior to strike a gold
14 medal inscribed "To Kaumuali'i, King of the Sandwich
15 Island of Kaua'i, as a mark of Russian friendship", to
16 be given to him on a ribbon of St. Anna; and
17
- 18 (3) To inform Baranov to recall Schäffer as soon as
19 possible, and to put in the hands of a wiser person
20 the matter of Russian-American Company trade with the
21 Sandwich Islands; and
22

23 WHEREAS, the Russian government informed Schäffer that he
24 had acted beyond his authority, brought him back to Russia,
25 removed him from employment, and sent him back to Germany; and
26

27 WHEREAS, for more than forty years after the departure of
28 Schäffer, Kaumuali'i, ali'i 'ai moku of Kaua'i, and later his
29 descendants, occupied the Waimea fort; and
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31 WHEREAS, the fort was used as an administrative center,
32 prison, and a burial ground of the island of Kaua'i; and
33

34 WHEREAS, the Hawaiian government completed the half-
35 finished structure and used the fort until 1864, when it was
36 abandoned and its buildings dismantled to its foundations, with
37 only its outer walls remaining; and
38

39 WHEREAS, since the creation of the fort at Pa'ula'ula, no
40 Russians have ever garrisoned the fort; and
41



S.C.R. NO. 119

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



S.C.R. NO. 119

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,
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11 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
12 Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2022, the
13 House of Representatives concurring, that the Board of Land and
14 Natural Resources is urged to rename the Russian Fort Elisabeth
15 State Historical Park in Waimea, Kaua'i, as "Pa'ula'ula"; and
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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 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Secretary of the
33 Interior, Director of the National Park Service, Governor,
34 Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,
35 Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian
36 Affairs, Administrator of the Division of State Parks of the
37 Department of Land and Natural Resources, and mayors of the
38 several counties.
39
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OFFERED BY: 

By Request

