

MAR 11 2022

S.R. NO. 96

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TASK FORCE TO EXPLORE THE
FEASIBILITY OF RESTORING OR CHANGING HISTORICAL PLACENAMES
ON STREETS.

1 WHEREAS, in recent years across the nation, there has been
2 a push to address America's dark past regarding locations named
3 after racist and negative figures from American history; and
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5 WHEREAS, this has manifested itself most prominently in the
6 debate over whether to rename locations or remove monuments and
7 statues dedicated to Confederate soldiers and generals who were
8 traitors against the United States as well as ardent advocates
9 of white supremacy who should not be honored in the present day;
10 and
11

12 WHEREAS, in the continental United States, many cities,
13 municipalities, and states have changed the names of streets
14 that were named after these racist historical figures and have
15 renamed them to honor people of color or other non-controversial
16 figures; and
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18 WHEREAS, similarly, while there are not many streets named
19 after Confederates in the State of Hawaii, there are however,
20 streets named to honor negative figures from Hawai'i's past such
21 as people who overthrew the monarchy and made active efforts to
22 suppress the use of the Hawaiian language and culture; and
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24 WHEREAS, additionally, there are streets that had their
25 traditional names changed to replace their original Hawaiian
26 language names with generic names; and
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28 WHEREAS, because several states and municipalities have
29 taken the lead on this area such as the city of New Orleans and
30 the city of San Francisco, the State of Hawaii has many examples
31 of criteria to pick and choose from in order to create a set of
32 guidelines to use when deciding what street names to change; and
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34 WHEREAS, a delicate balance needs to be struck between
35 historical preservation and revisionism, and the goal should be



1 to change some names, mainly the most egregious examples, but
2 not to rename every single street; and
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4 WHEREAS, it should also be noted that renaming streets is
5 not a task for one government agency, because of different
6 jurisdictional oversight, different agencies are responsible for
7 the naming and renaming process; and
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9 WHEREAS, the feasibility of renaming the streets needs to
10 be considered as well as input from the communities in the areas
11 where the streets are located along with other relevant
12 stakeholders; now, therefore,
13

14 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
15 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022,
16 that this body requests that a task force be formed to examine
17 the feasibility of renaming streets; and
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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
20 consider using the following standard when trying to determine
21 if a street name should be changed due to the individual having
22 a problematic history: whether the individual owned slaves, had
23 a documented history of gender or racialized violence, engaged
24 in active attempts to circumvent democratic rights of citizens,
25 engaged in documented attempts to overthrow a legitimate
26 government, or engaged in active efforts to suppress the use of
27 the Hawaiian language and culture; and
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
30 invite additional organizations or agencies to participate on
31 the task force and that agencies may request to be put on or
32 taken off the task force; and
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
35 include the following in its study:
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37 (1) A list of potential streets to be renamed that meet
38 the criteria; and
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40 (2) A feasibility report on renaming each street on the
41 list of potential candidates to be renamed; and
42



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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
2 submit a preliminary report of its findings and recommendations
3 to the Legislature no later than forty days prior to the
4 convening of the Regular Session of 2023; and

5
6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
7 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director of
8 Transportation, Director of Accounting and General Services,
9 Administrator of the State Historic Preservation Division,
10 Chairperson of the Maui County Council, Chairperson of the
11 Hawaii County Council, Chairperson of the Kauai County Council,
12 and Chairperson of the Honolulu City Council.

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15 OFFERED BY: Karl Rhoad

