

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
WATER & LAND**

Tuesday, March 22, 2022

9:30 am

State Capitol, Conference Room 430, Via Videoconference

**IN CONSIDERATION OF
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 104/ HOUSE RESOLUTION 100
URGING THE BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO RENAME THE
RUSSIAN FORT ELISABETH STATE HISTORICAL PARK IN
WAIMEA, KAUA'I AS PĀ'ULA'ULA**

House Concurrent Resolution 104/House Resolution 100 urge the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to rename Russian Fort Elizabeth State Historical Park in Waimea, Kaua'i to Pā'ula'ula. **The Department supports these measures based on historical research that has created a better understanding and awareness of the multi-cultural history of the site.**

The Department's Division of State Parks (State Parks) created a working group in 2018 to address the planning for Russian Fort Elizabeth State Historical Park after the forum held on Kaua'i in 2017 to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the Fort's construction. Park improvements with the installation of interpretive signs were last done in 1989 and it was recognized that new information gathered about the history of the site over the past 30 years warranted updating and revisions to the park interpretive signs. In addition, the forum highlighted that the Hawaiian story associated with the site had been largely overlooked and needed to be more accurately shared with residents and visitors.

The Working Group began with 16 members representing Native Hawaiian organizations on Kaua'i, the Russian-American community on Kaua'i and the continental United States, the Waimea community, and researchers knowledgeable about the site and its history. From the beginning, the discussion focused on the need to more accurately reflect the multi-cultural history and recognize the importance of this site in Waimea as a royal center and residential compound of Kaua'i ali'i spanning the period before and after Western Contact.

Ongoing research into the written literature located in Hawai‘i, the continental United States, and Russia has shed new light on the brief, one-year history of the Russian-American Company on Kaua‘i and the limited role that George Anton Schäffer and the Russian-American Company played at the site in Waimea. Kaua‘i King Kaumuali‘i was instrumental in the decision to proceed with the construction of the fort using the design provided by Schaffer. Kaumuali‘i’s role is now recognized as being paramount to this history as he retained his sovereign control of the site as well as the island while interacting with foreign interests. He directed the construction of the Fort with Hawaiian labor and garrisoned the fort with Hawaiian soldiers. Once Schäffer and the employees of the RAC were expelled from Kaua‘i in 1817, the fort remained in Hawaiian control under the Monarchy until it was dismantled in 1864.

There was consensus in the working group to include Pā‘ula‘ula in the park name as the traditional Hawaiian place name for both the Fort and the area at the eastern rivermouth. This name is prominent in the land claims around the Fort by the Hawaiian soldiers during the Māhele of 1848. The controversy has focused on whether to retain “Russian” in the name. While the Fort may not have been built without the influence of Schäffer and the Russian-American Company, the fort was not built or garrisoned by the Russian-American Company or sanctioned by the Russian government. Therefore, referring to it as a Russian fort is historically inaccurate and misleading.

In the last month, State Parks has installed interim interpretive signs at the site which incorporate the traditional name of Pā‘ula‘ula and which share more of the Hawaiian story, offer a more accurate history of the Fort, and introduce new renderings of the site over time. The hope is that these signs will promote further dialogue before finalizing the permanent signs that will be part of a larger park improvements project at the site in 2023.

In addition to the name change, the Department supports updating and revising the nomination form for the National Register of Historic Places and the site’s designation as a National Historic Landmark. Again, these revisions will focus on a more balanced and accurate interpretation of the multi-cultural history and the role of both the Hawaiian and Russian personages that are critical to understanding this history.

The process to initiate a formal name change requires the approval of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, which will be scheduled.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these measures.

COUNTY COUNCIL

Arryl Kaneshiro, Chair
Mason K. Chock, Vice Chair
Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr.
Felicia Cowden
Bill DeCosta
Luke A. Evslin
KipuKai Kualii



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK

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Council Services Division
4396 Rice Street, Suite 209
Lihu'e, Kaua'i, Hawaii 96766

March 21, 2022

**TESTIMONY OF FELICIA COWDEN
COUNCILMEMBER, KAUAI COUNTY COUNCIL
ON**

**HCR 104 / HR 100, URGING THE BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL
RESOURCES TO RENAME THE RUSSIAN FORT ELISABETH STATE
HISTORICAL PARK IN WAIMEA, KAUAI, AS "PA'ULA'ULA"**

House Committee on Water & Land

Tuesday, March 22, 2022

9:30 a.m.

Via Videoconference
Conference Room 430

Dear Chair Tarnas and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of HCR 104 / HR 100, 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." My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as a Member of the Kaua'i County Council.

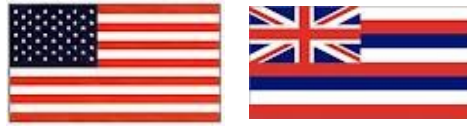
I support HCR 104 / HR 100 regarding the long overdue sign and name change of Waimea, Kaua'i's State Park from Russian Fort Elisabeth to Pa'ula'ula. As a participating member of the Waimea park working group, I observed that consensus was generally reached across all stakeholder groups roughly three years ago to accept a name change that better reflects the Hawaiian heritage of the park, now beautifully graced with the statue area of King Kaumuali'i. The change is long overdue. Changing the sign ahead of the full implementation of the planned park improvements should be feasible.

Thank you again for this opportunity to provide testimony. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Council Services Staff at (808) 241-4188 or via E-mail to cokcouncil@kauai.gov.

Sincerely,

FELICIA COWDEN
Councilmember, Kaua'i County Council

Center for Hawaiian Sovereignty Studies
46-255 Kahuhipa St. Suite 1205
Kane'ohe, HI 96744
(808) 247-7942
Kenneth R. Conklin, Ph.D. Executive Director
e-mail Ken_Conklin@yahoo.com
Unity, Equality, Aloha for all



To: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

For hearing Tuesday March 22, 2022

Re: HCR104/HR100

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"

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION

The Russian-ness of Russian Fort is an essential part of Kaua'i's history. Everyone knows the ruthless warrior Kamehameha, who treated all the Hawaiian islands like Russia is now treating Ukraine, repeatedly tried but failed to invade Kaua'i until he intimidated King Kaumuali'i into ceding power and becoming a puppet vassal in 1810. But Kaumuali'i never gave up in his heart. In 1817 he conspired with a Russian trading company to build Russian Fort as a tactic to begin reasserting power. Even as late as 1824 his son Humehume engaged in battle against Kamehameha's successor-son Liholiho resulting in the deaths of 10 rebels and 8 Liholiho soldiers.

The current attempt to rename Russian Fort by giving it an obscure Hawaiian-language name is typical of the ethnic cleansing and homogenization of Hawaiian history which Hawaiian race-partisans have been doing for several decades. For example Rev. Dr. Gerrit Judd, hero of 1843 sovereignty restoration, is never mentioned at annual celebrations of Ka La Ho'ihō'i Ea, and activists would like to re-name Thomas Square.

In all cultures, including Hawaiian, the name of a place has changed when a major event takes place there. For many generations local residents might name a piece of land based on what it looks like or how it is used: for example Big Bend or Grand Rapids. Pa'ula'ula is a name like that, identifying a river bank that resembles a red wall. Big deal! But when an important event happens at a place or when a historically significant building is constructed there, then local residents begin calling that place by a new name referring to the event or building; and that new name reflecting human activity eventually replaces the old name that merely described the general appearance of the land. That's what happened at Russian Fort.

Consider the place now known as Mauna Ala [the Royal Mausoleum in Nu'uānu, Honolulu]. But there's no mountain there! There's not even a hill, as some suggest by translating its name to "Fragrant Hill" which would more correctly be called Pu'u 'A'ala. One writer suggested the name is kaona for "Eternal Paths" [Mau Na Ala]. In any case, why not "return" the place-name to what it was before the mausoleum was created there -- Pohukaina. Or how about the even more-general place-name Nu'uānu.

Don't disrespect Kaumuali'i's attempted restoration of Kaua'i's sovereignty by suppressing the Russian essence and intended military purpose of Russian Fort. Do not try to remove Russian Fort from the history of Hawaii by removing its name from signs and books, like politicians in the Soviet Union turned their ideological enemies into non-persons by removing their names from history books.

MOKU O MANOKALANIPO

THE KAUA'I COUNCIL OF THE ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS

Date: March 21, 2022

To: House, Committee on Water and Land

From: Moku o Manokalanipō, The Kaua'i Council of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs
Malia Nobrega-Olivera, President
Kaumuali'i Hawaiian Civic Club, Member
malianob@gmail.com

Re: Re: HCR 104 - 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".

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice-Chair Branco, and members of the House, Committee on Water and Land:

I'm writing on behalf of Moku o Manokalanipō, The Kaua'i Council of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs which represents the four (4) Hawaiian Civic Clubs based on the island of Kaua'i. I'm also a proud member of Kaumuali'i Hawaiian Civic Club based in the Kona moku here on Kaua'i.

Moku o Manokalanipō STRONGLY SUPPORT HCR 104. This resolution is in alignment with the goals of Kaumuali'i Hawaiian Civic Club but also with the larger goals of our Kaua'i Council as well as the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs. Since early 2018 we have been active members of the working group for Pā'ula'ula that is convened by DLNR- Division of State Parks and the renaming of this wahi pana has been an agenda item that many of us are very passionate about.

Born and raised in the Kona moku of Kaua'i and a proud graduate of Waimea High School in 1989 our 'ohana would pass this wahi pana quite regularly with no interest or purpose to visit. Not until recently as a participant of the working group did I learn the mo'olelo (story) of this wahi pana and since then we have organized numerous visits with friends, family, and visitors to the wahi pana to share the mo'olelo and the significance of this space that greets us before entering into Waimea.

Our members actively participated in our 59th annual convention on the island of Kaua'i and the Association adopted resolution 2018-49, Urging the State of Hawai'i Board of Land and Natural Resources to Rename the Russian Fort Elizabeth State Historical Park in Waimea, Kaua'i to Pā'ula'ula.

Therefore, Moku o Manokalanipō respectfully urges the Committee to SUPPORT all of the actions in HCR 104.

MOKU O MANOKALANIPŌ
THE KAUA'I COUNCIL OF THE ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS

The Hawaiian 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 in 1968, the Hawaiian Civic Clubs on the island of Kaua'i organized Moku o Manokalanipō, the Kaua'i Council of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs.

ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS

A RESOLUTION

No. 2018 – 49

URGING THE STATE OF HAWAI‘I BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO RENAME THE RUSSIAN FORT ELIZABETH STATE HISTORICAL PARK IN WAIMEA, KAUA‘I TO PĀ‘ULA‘ULA

WHEREAS, King Kaumuali‘i was born in 1780 at Pōhaku Ho‘ohānau at Holoholokū, Wailua, Kaua‘i to Kamakahelei and Kā‘eokūlani; and

WHEREAS, Pā‘ula‘ula is the traditional place name for the eastern bank at the mouth of the Waimea river where Kaumuali‘i had his royal compound including a heiau; and

WHEREAS, in 1815, a Russian-American-Company ship “Bering” was shipwrecked on the beach in Waimea, Kaua‘i; and

WHEREAS, a trading outfit known as the Russian-American Company sent Georg Anton Schaeffer in December 1815 from Sitka, Alaska with the task of recovering the cargo from the *Bering*; and

WHEREAS, an alliance was created between Schaeffer and Kaumuali‘i for the construction of a fort at Pā‘ula‘ula using the rock from the heiau and a largely Hawaiian labor force; however, the Russians were expelled from Kaua‘i in 1817 and the Hawaiian government completed the half-finished structure and used the fort until 1864; and

WHEREAS, numerous names with different cultural significances were given to this enclosure that are related to the place and it’s multicultural history like Pā‘ula‘ula, Fort Elizabeth, stone fort, my fort, etc.; and

WHEREAS, Pā‘ula‘ula is a “term applied to the fort by Kahopuhopula, a Hawaiian testifying before a Land Commission hearing” and “there are two other heiau in the Waimea district of Kaua‘i known as Kapā‘ula”; and

WHEREAS, in 1972, the State of Hawai‘i acquired the 17-acre property encompassing the fort structure to preserve the site and is officially named “Russian Fort Elisabeth State Historical Park”; and

WHEREAS, the site was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1962 and listed on the Hawai‘i Register of Historic Places in 1981; and

WHEREAS, the 200th Anniversary of the fort was commemorated with a forum on Kaua'i in 2017, and followed by the formation of a working group in March 2018 to discuss the future of the site and this working group consists of representatives from various cultural and historical organizations on Kaua'i, government agencies, and the Russian-American community; and

WHEREAS, interim objectives of the working group include recognizing and sharing the Hawaiian history of the site as part of the larger history of Waimea and Kaua'i from pre-contact time and develop interpretive ideas; and

WHEREAS, on October 26, 2018, members of the working group were tasked to reach out to the community to discuss the proposed name change options and to report on the results at the next meeting in December 2018 through resolutions, petitions, etc.; and

WHEREAS, Hawai'i's place names should reflect our cultural heritage and its historical and geographical integrity; and

WHEREAS, the Kaua'i community representatives strongly feel that it is very important to include and honor the name Pā'ula'ula so that the mo'olelo of this wahi pana is shared and the 'āina that cares for our iwi kupuna is honored.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs at its 59th Annual Convention in Kalapaki, Kaua'i, in the malama of Welehu and the rising of 'Olepa'u, this 17th day of November 2018, urging the State of Hawai'i Board of Land and Natural Resources to rename the Russian Fort Elizabeth State Historical Park in Waimea, Kaua'i to Pā'ula'ula; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that new interpretive signs, brochures, and websites be developed in the two official languages of Hawai'i (Hawaiian and English) and that it reflects first the 'āina of our ali'i nui and also incorporate the rich multicultural history; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that funding also be provided for renovation and maintenance of existing restroom facilities and a new visitor's center; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the State of Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) Division of State Parks work with the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service to update the nomination form for the National Historic Landmark so that it incorporates the Hawaiian place name, multicultural history of the site and findings of more recent research being conducted by both Hawaiian, American, and Russian scholars; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to the members of the State of Hawai'i Board of Land and Natural Resources, the Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of State Parks, United States Department of the Interior National Park Service, as well as the Governor of the State of Hawai'i, President of the State Senate, Speaker of the State House of Representatives, Chair of the State Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs, Chair of the State House Committee on Ocean, Marine Resources & Hawaiian

Affairs, Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and all County Mayors.



The undersigned hereby certifies that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted in the malama of Welehu and the rising of 'Olepau on the 17th day of November 2018, at the 59th Annual Convention of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs in Kalapaki, Kaua'i.

Handwritten signature of Annelle C. Amaral in black ink.

Annelle C. Amaral, President



**KE ONE O
KĀKUHHEWA**

O'ahu Council of the
Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs

Hawai'i State Legislature
House of Representatives
Committee on Water and Land

Pō'aluā, Malaki 11, 2022
Lumi 'Aha Kūkā 430
Ke Kapikala Moku'āina
415 South Beretānia Street

Re: HCR104 / HR 100 - 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"

Aloha Luna Ho'omalū David Tarnas, Hope Luna Ho'omalū Patrick Branco, and members of the House Committee on Water and Land:

The Ke One O Kākuhihewa-O'ahu Council for the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs **SUPPORTS** HCR 104. This bill urges the Board of Land and Natural Resources to remane the Russian Fort Elisabeth State Historical Park in Waimea, Kaua'i as Pa'ula'ula.

At its 60th annual convention, our Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, of which we are a member, adopted resolution 2018-49, URGING THE STATE OF HAWAI'I BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO RENAME THE RUSSIAN FORT ELIZABETH STATE HISTORICAL PARK IN WAIMEA, KAUA'I TO PĀ'ULA'ULA. A copy of that resolution is attached.

Pā'ula'ula is the traditional place name for the eastern bank at the mouth of the Waimea river where Kaumuali'i had his royal compound. We respect the work of the Kaua'i community representatives who feel it important to include and honor the name Pā'ula'ula so that the mo'olelo of this wahi pana is shared and the 'āina that cares for the iwi kupuna are honored.

Thus, the O'ahu Council respectfully urges the Committee to **SUPPORT** HCR 104.

Ke One O Kakūhihewa-O'ahu Council, is a native Hawaiian organization made up of 24 Hawaiian civic clubs on the island of O'ahu. Our oldest member, Hawaiian Civic Club of Honolulu was established by Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalaniana'ole on December 7, 1918.

Sincerely,

Benton Kealiikiamoku Pang, President

ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS

A RESOLUTION

No. 2018 – 49

URGING THE STATE OF HAWAI‘I BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO RENAME THE RUSSIAN FORT ELIZABETH STATE HISTORICAL PARK IN WAIMEA, KAUA‘I TO PĀ‘ULA‘ULA

WHEREAS, King Kaumuali‘i was born in 1780 at Pōhaku Ho‘ohānau at Holoholokū, Wailua, Kaua‘i to Kamakāhele and Kā‘eokūlani; and

WHEREAS, Pā‘ula‘ula is the traditional place name for the eastern bank at the mouth of the Waimea river where Kaumuali‘i had his royal compound including a heiau; and

WHEREAS, in 1815, a Russian-American-Company ship “Bering” was shipwrecked on the beach in Waimea, Kaua‘i; and

WHEREAS, a trading outfit known as the Russian-American Company sent Georg Anton Schaeffer in December 1815 from Sitka, Alaska with the task of recovering the cargo from the *Bering*; and

WHEREAS, an alliance was created between Schaeffer and Kaumuali‘i for the construction of a fort at Pā‘ula‘ula using the rock from the heiau and a largely Hawaiian labor force; however, the Russians were expelled from Kaua‘i in 1817 and the Hawaiian government completed the half-finished structure and used the fort until 1864; and

WHEREAS, numerous names with different cultural significances were given to this enclosure that are related to the place and its multicultural history like Pā‘ula‘ula, Fort Elizabeth, stone fort, my fort, etc.; and

WHEREAS, Pā‘ula‘ula is a “term applied to the fort by Kahopuhopula, a Hawaiian testifying before a Land Commission hearing” and “there are two other heiau in the Waimea district of Kaua‘i known as Kapā‘ula”; and

WHEREAS, in 1972, the State of Hawai‘i acquired the 17-acre property encompassing the fort structure to preserve the site and is officially named “Russian Fort Elisabeth State Historical Park”; and

WHEREAS, the site was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1962 and listed on the Hawai‘i Register of Historic Places in 1981; and

WHEREAS, the 200th Anniversary of the fort was commemorated with a forum on Kauaʻi in 2017, and followed by the formation of a working group in March 2018 to discuss the future of the site and this working group consists of representatives from various cultural and historical organizations on Kauaʻi, government agencies, and the Russian-American community; and

WHEREAS, interim objectives of the working group include recognizing and sharing the Hawaiian history of the site as part of the larger history of Waimea and Kauaʻi from pre-contact time and develop interpretive ideas; and

WHEREAS, on October 26, 2018, members of the working group were tasked to reach out to the community to discuss the proposed name change options and to report on the results at the next meeting in December 2018 through resolutions, petitions, etc.; and

WHEREAS, Hawaiʻi's place names should reflect our cultural heritage and its historical and geographical integrity; and

WHEREAS, the Kauaʻi community representatives strongly feel that it is very important to include and honor the name Pāʻulaʻula so that the moʻolelo of this wahi pana is shared and the ʻāina that cares for our iwi kupuna is honored.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs at its 59th Annual Convention in Kalapaki, Kauaʻi, in the malama of Welehu and the rising of ʻOlepau, this 17th day of November 2018, urging the State of Hawaiʻi Board of Land and Natural Resources to rename the Russian Fort Elizabeth State Historical Park in Waimea, Kauaʻi to Pāʻulaʻula; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that new interpretive signs, brochures, and websites be developed in the two official languages of Hawaiʻi (Hawaiian and English) and that it reflects first the ʻāina of our aliʻi nui and also incorporate the rich multicultural history; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that funding also be provided for renovation and maintenance of existing restroom facilities and a new visitor's center; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the State of Hawaiʻi Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) Division of State Parks work with the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service to update the nomination form for the National Historic Landmark so that it incorporates the Hawaiian place name, multicultural history of the site and findings of more recent research being conducted by both Hawaiian, American, and Russian scholars; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to the members of the State of Hawaiʻi Board of Land and Natural Resources, the Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of State Parks, United States Department of the Interior National Park Service, as well as the Governor of the State of Hawaiʻi, President of the State Senate, Speaker of the State House of Representatives, Chair of the State Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs, Chair of the State House Committee on Ocean, Marine Resources & Hawaiian

Affairs, Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and all County Mayors.

The undersigned hereby certifies that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted in the malama of Welehu and the rising of 'Olepau on the 17th day of November 2018, at the 59th Annual Convention of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs in Kalapaki, Kaua'i.



Annelle C. Amaral

Annelle C. Amaral, President



Testimony Before The
House Committee on Water and Land
IN SUPPORT OF HCR 104
March 22, 2022, 9:30AM, Room 430

My name is Kevin Chang and I am the Executive Director of [Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo \(or KUA\)](#). KUA works to empower grassroots rural and Native Hawaiian mālama 'āina groups to celebrate their places and pass on their traditions to better Hawai'i and achieve 'āina momona— an abundant, productive ecological system that supports community well-being.

KUA employs a community-driven approach that currently supports a statewide network of 36 mālama 'āina community groups collectively referred to as E Alu Pū (moving forward together), 40 fishpond projects and practitioners called the Hui Mālama Loko I'a, and a growing group of over 60 Limu practitioners and supporters called the Limu Hui. An issue of great importance in the Native Hawaiian community and in our networks is utilizing and/or recovering the traditional names of places for history, management, governance and community sense of place. When government and community work together to heal these places, as we understand it is happening here, we are invigorated.

KUA supports HCR 104 as an incremental step towards 'āina momona. This resolution aligns with principles of justice and reconciliation for Hawai'i and for many of our community networks work to bring the appropriate names back to their places. Further, community member on Kaua'i have worked hard with the state to bring back the name of Pā 'ula'ula

The communities we work for and with execute their initiatives with a vision and a vested relationship with the long-term health of our biocultural resources. They have depended on them for generations. We believe our environment, the foundation of our very existence, is about long-term investment and a vision of 'āina momona. To get there it requires among other things a deeper engagement in our history and our places, the recovery of the names is foundational.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in support.

Aloha 'Āina Momona.

HCR-104

Submitted on: 3/18/2022 1:24:53 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Golojuch Jr	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Aloha Representatives,

I hope that you all will support HCR 104 to right a wrong.

Mahalo,

Michael Golojuch, Jr.

HCR-104

Submitted on: 3/18/2022 7:13:58 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Peter R. Mills	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am Peter Mills, a professor of anthropology at UH Hilo. I have worked on Russian-American Company sites in Alaska, California, and in Hawai'i. My PhD research through UC Berkeley was conducted in 1993 and 1994 on the site that most of Hawai'i has know as "Russian Fort Elizabeth State Historical Park," or simply "Russian Fort" on the road sign. The dissertation was eventually published by UH Press (*Hawaii's Russian Adventure, a New Look at Old History*, 2002). What became apparent in researching this site is that it was always a Hawaiian fort (and more importantly, a royal residence), and only indirectly associated with Russian enterprises. King Kaumuali'i of Kaua'i requested that this fortification be built adjacent to his own residential compound. It was built largely with Hawaiian labor (at Kaumuali'i's bequest) and it was occupied by Kaumuali'i and then soldiers of the Kamehameha monarchy for 43 years (1817-1860). The Hawaiian name for Kaumuali'i's fort in mid-nineteenth century Mahele testimony (from Hawaiian soldiers who were stationed there) is "Pāpū [Fort] Pā'ula'ula", and the same name is remembered through family histories of direct descendants of King Kaumuali'i. It was not built by Russians and it was not occupied by Russians.

At the time that King Kaumuali'i was constructing Pā'ula'ula (beginning Sept 12, 1816), he had aligned himself with Georg Anton Schaffer of the Russian-American Company (RAC) and about 120 RAC employees who were under Schaffer's direction. These employees and Schaffer set about constructing a Russian fort in Hanalei, the ruins of which still exist in front of the Princeville Hotel. The fort in Hanalei is certainly a Russian fort (built and occupied by Russians), and Schaffer named it "Fort Alexander" after the emporer of Russia.

Schaffer had grandiose plans of helping King Kaumuali'i conquer other islands from Kamehameha I, but his plans were rejected by the RAC administration in Alaska, by the Russian Navy (via Lt. Otto von Kotzebue who was coincidentally visiting Hawai'i in 1817) and eventually by Emporer Alexander I himself in St. Petersburg. Although Schaffer called Kaumuali'i's fort "Fort Elizabeth," he neither built it nor occupied it. He also renamed Hanalei "Schafferthal" (Schaffer's Valley), but no one is expecting that his name for Hanalei should be on signs throughout Halele'a.

While I am reluctant to support any historical name change based on the modern politics of the Ukraine invasion, I have been advocating for this name change for almost 30 years, and it is past time that Hawai'i's own cultural heritage be recognized. By the contrasting of names ("Fort Alexander" in Halele'a, and "Pā'ula'ula" on the West Side), we will be able to better reflect the very different histories behind these two historical sites for future generations.

HCR-104

Submitted on: 3/19/2022 3:50:18 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keao NeSmith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kakou,

I am a native of Waimea and Kekaha, Kauai and King Kaumualii is my 6th great-grandfather. For centuries our Kanaka Maoli have established the area of the papu (fort) at Waimea with heiau and living sites for alii and makaainana (commoners). It was also a makahiki ground for centuries. The Russians only encountered the area for a brief few months, yet they were given the mana to control the narrative of the papu for several decades. This is unfair and a misrepresentation of our history compared to centuries of Kanaka Maoli usage of the place.

Given Putin’s vicious attack on Ukraine lately, Kauai natives cannot allow for this immoral crime against humanity to be condoned through signage or the naming of sacred grounds on Kauai soil. Whereas I was already of the opinion that what has been unfortunately known as ‘Russian Fort’ for decades be formally known as ‘Pā‘ula‘ula’, the crime against humanity that is Putin’s war on Ukraine compels me to make a strong statement through this public process. As natives of Waimea, it is the right of our Kanaka Maoli to take a stand and declare that this site should, from now on, be called Pā‘ula‘ula, the name of a dwelling site where Kaumualii, my kupuna, once lived in the flesh.

Please support this.

Me ke aloha,

Keao NeSmith

Kekaha, Kauai

Dear Honorable Committee on Water and Land.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in support of HCR No. 104/HR No. 100, “Urging the Board of Land and Natural Resources to rename the Russian Fort Elisabeth State Historical Park in Waimea, Kauai, as “Pa’ula’ula.”

For years, the descendants of Kaumuali’i and a diverse group of west-side Kaua’i community members have been diligently and patiently advocating to correctly name and portray the history of Pa’ula’ula. As a result, in 2018 the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, at its 59th annual convention, passed resolution 2018-49 urging the Board of Land and Natural Resources to rename the Russian Fort Elisabeth State Historical Park in Waimea, Kauai, as “Pa’ula’ula”.

Thereafter, the Russian Community Council of the USA (RCC), headed by Elena Branson, began advocating against accurate history, against the descendants of Kaumuali’i and the Native Hawaiian community, and the wishes of the west-side community. The RCC accused us of “declaring war on Hawaii’s Russian heritage” and “revisionist history”. *See*, attached Russian Beyond article. Despite good-faith efforts on behalf of the community to reach a mutually agreeable solution, Ms. Branson, her advocacy group, and Russian diplomats staunchly opposed our efforts and created a volatile situation that caused years of delay. Then, in early 2019, a small group of people planted a Russian flag with the Russian national crest within the walls of Pa’ula’ula. They saluted their flag in our cultural site and smiled.





For years the community didn't know or understand why a small group of individuals opposed us. We didn't know why they ignored clear and accurate history that was jointly researched by the University of Hawai'i's Dr. Mills and Dr. Molodin, a Russian historian and scholar. Now with the indictment of Ms. Branson, their motives are clear. It was all a Russian disinformation campaign and an attempt to influence state and local policy makers to act in a way that would give the Russian government a cultural foothold in Kaua'i and Hawai'i, where one never previously existed.

Dr. Mills has testified in support of this resolution and has laid out the accurate history. No more needs to be said about that. The aim of my testimony is to support you in passing this very important resolution, and to explain why the simple act of telling true and accurate history is one of the most important weapons against tyranny in the 21st century and protecting Hawaii and its people in this changing world.

According to US national defense strategy, the world is entering an era of great power rivalry. We are facing increased global disorder, characterized by decline in the long-standing rules-based international order. According to a 2021 Rand corporation study, inter-state strategic competition, not terrorism, is now the primary concern in U.S. national security. Russia and China want to shape a world consistent with their authoritarian model—gaining veto authority over other nations' economic, diplomatic, and security decisions.

However, it is not clear what the emerging era will look like. According to the Rand corporation, possible outcomes range from moderated competitions over colonies or other forms of influence to extremely aggressive confrontations between actors engaged in zero-sum battles.

I think this new era will include all a such possible outcomes. Russia's war against Ukraine is an aggressive confrontation between actors engaged in a zero-sum battle, while Russia's interference with Pa'ula'ula is a moderate attempt to exert influence over our small community.

Why would Russia do this? Because the lie is one of tyranny's most effective weapons. As stated by George Orwell, "who controls the past, controls the future; who controls the present controls the past." The entire world has seen how Russia used a false historical narrative to justify war against Ukraine. And while it is unlikely that the Russian government is considering invading Waimea, we host PMRF and I think that is the motivation behind their effort to influence our community and our elected officials. They have wined them and dined them to great effect.

Why must Pa'ula'ula be correctly named? Why must the accurate history of the Schafer affair and its folly be told? Why must the word know that Hawaiian men and women built this stone fort and that both the Russian American Company and Tsar Alexander disavow Schafer's actions? Because it's the truth, and the truth is one of the most effective weapons against tyranny.

As our elected officials, as our modern chiefs, you are presented an opportunity to protect our island, our history and our culture. Being pro-historical accuracy and Hawaiian culture is not anti-Russian sentiment. This is not a zero-sum game. And do not listen to those that will try to spin this issue with false narratives and propaganda. We are confident that you will do the right thing. You will not fail where Kaumuali'i and Kamehameha succeeded.

In closing I would like to thank Representatives Morikawa, Tokioka and Nakamura, and Senate President Kouchi for their support. Mahalo to you all for your public service. Pass this resolution. Tell the truth and protect our islands.

Aloha,

Mauna Kea Trask

Hawaii declares war on its Russian heritage

LIFESTYLE

JAN 21, 2019 JOHN VAROLI



[Getty Images](https://www.gettyimages.com), [Pixabay](https://www.pixabay.com), [fortelizabeth.org](https://www.fortelizabeth.org)

As Hawaiian nationalist sentiment rises after more than a century of American conquest and occupation, the Pacific archipelago's small but important 200-year Russian legacy unexpectedly finds itself in the crossfire.

Remind an American that their Alaskan 'icebox' used to be Russian and you'll probably be met with a shrug and easy acceptance. But tell them that their tropical

Pacific jewel, Hawaii, almost forged an alliance with the Tsars, and the reaction is often one of shock, disbelief and even horror. Now, some Americans wouldn't mind scrubbing that fact from the historical record.

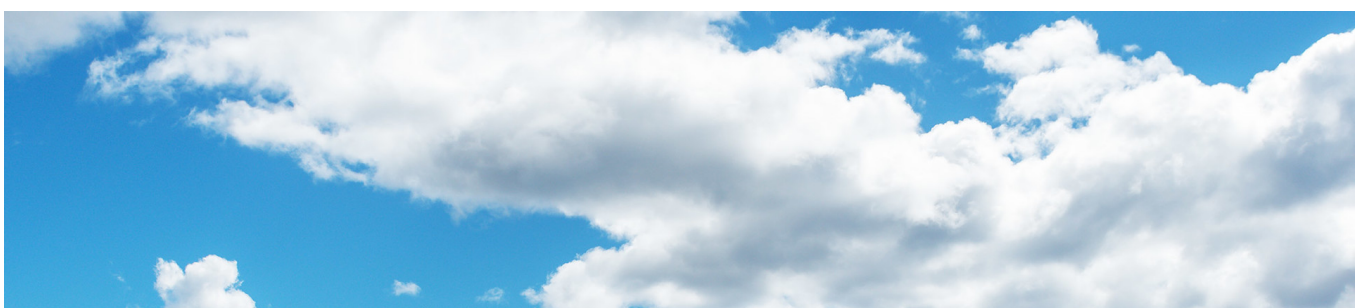
and Hawaii, the local Russian community was dismissed one year later, at the end of 2018, when its historical legacy suddenly became subjected to revisionist scrutiny.



Oleg Chursin

The trouble started in November 2018 when the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, at its 59th annual convention, made an official appeal to the State of Hawaii's Board of Land and Natural Resources asking to rename Russian Fort Elizabeth State Historical Park to 'Pā'ula'ula,' which is the traditional native name for that area.

"Place names should reflect our cultural heritage and its historical and geographical integrity," said the Association in its appeal.





Oleg Chursin

“Over the years, places have been renamed and our ancient names have been lost in use...,” said Nalani K. Brun, a tourism specialist for the County of Kauai’s Office of Economic Development, in a statement.

The Russian Community Council of the USA (RCC), a non-profit social organization that unites Russian emigres, disagrees with the Hawaiian position, and claims that “renaming the fort will erase the unique and vastly undiscovered history” connecting the Hawaiian and Russian people. “The most logical and conflict-free solution is to add the native name to the already existing historic one without dropping any parts of the original title,” said Elena Branson, head of the RCC.





Oleg Chursin

The Russian community's compromise is to call the site by a dual name: "Russian Fort Elizabeth / Pā'ula'ula."

"We are opposed to removing the word 'Russian' from the name, because it will not be clear about which Elizabeth is in question. Most likely people will have associations with the Queen of England, and not the Russian Empress," added Elena Branson. "We hope the Hawaiian community can make a friendly gesture and leave the name of 'Russian Fort Elizabeth.' This would be in the spirit of diversity, multiculturalism and friendship."

3 forts were built

With its crumbling ramparts that today rise more than ten feet high, (originally they were 20 feet high), the fort is the last visible reminder of the historic Russian presence on the archipelago. Still, Hawaiian nationalists are not interested in compromise.





Oleg Chursin

“The decision to name, and or rename this area, is the people of Kauai’s to make, as is the decision as to which name shall be primary and more prominent,” said Mauna Kea Trask, the former County Attorney, in an email sent to the Congress of Russian Americans, another Russian emigre non-profit organization.

Russian Fort Elizabeth was founded on the island of Kauai in 1816 by explorers in the service of the Russian-American Company (RAC) from St. Petersburg, but it was abandoned several years later when the Russians were chased from the island by American traders who concocted an anti-spy hysteria in order to secure commercial monopolies with local chieftains.



Alexander Molodin

stones. All three were built as part of an unofficial alliance with High Chief Kaumuali'i, the island's last independent ruler. According to recent historical research, said Ms Branson, the High Chief needed the Russian-made forts to defend his kingdom against a rival Hawaiian king on the other islands. The Russians, however, never became directly involved in the internal Hawaiian dispute.

American conquest

The Hawaiian kingdom was destroyed and conquered in the 1890s by American corporations with the support of mercenaries and the U.S. military. By 1920 only about 20,000 native Hawaiians remained, compared to about 500,000 in the 1780s. Today's greater awareness of this tragedy fuels the local nationalist revival, as well as the widespread calls for historical and social justice.



Oleg Chursin

"We understand the Hawaiian wish to preserve and celebrate their culture and

the painful events of the past; rather, Russia was an ally and helper of the Hawaiians, for instance by building three forts.”

State officials say there is no desire to erase Russian history or ignore the important role that Russians played in the planning, design and initial construction of the fort. An American map dating to 1885 clearly mentions the “Old Russian Fort,” and the site was designated a National Historic Landmark by the U.S. Government in 1962.



Oleg Chursin

“It’s the State Parks’ desire to engage in a process that accurately reflects the history of the site, respects the native Hawaiian culture, and acknowledges the role of the Russian-American Company,” said Curt Cottrell, Hawaii’s State Parks Administrator, in a statement on Dec. 28, 2018. “This [issue] is still very much a work in progress.”

Is compromise possible?

The controversy could not come at a worse time. In 2017, the local Russian community on Hawaii held a large commemorative celebration at Russian Fort

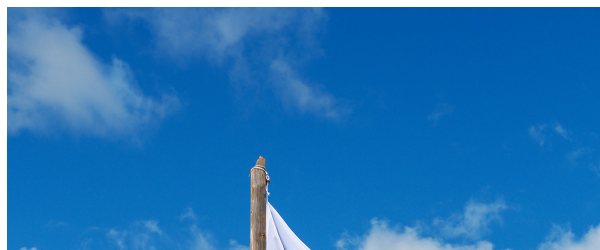
archipelago.



Oleg Chursin

Plans have been drawn up to transform the ruins of Fort Elizabeth into a cultural and research center for the study and preservation of Russian-Hawaiian cultural heritage and history. A [website](#) was created to popularize the cause.

To strengthen its case, the Russian community points to other sites in the U.S., such as San Francisco's "Russian Hill," which was named in the 1850s when settlers discovered a small Russian cemetery at the top of the hill. While the cemetery was removed, the name remains to this day, and no one suggests to remove the word "Russian" and replace it with a Native American name.





Oleg Chursin

Natalie Sabelnik, head of the Congress of Russian Americans, points to Russian Fort Elizabeth as a “symbol of friendly relations...between Russia and the United States. Do not rename Fort Elizabeth. Let's continue working together to restore, revitalize, and put the fort back on the map, so that we can all work together on this project. There can only be a win-win when we work together.”

As far as the future, Mr. Cottrell emphasized that any final decision can only be made by Hawaii’s Board of Land and Natural Resources, but a final decision is not expected for several months. In the meantime, his office will study the issue, and hopes to find a solution that restores friendly relations between the Russian and Hawaiian communities.





Oleg Chursin

English

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HCR-104

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 9:21:50 AM

Testimony for WAL on 3/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Donna K Santos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support HCR 104 and urge you to support it too.

Mahalo,

Donna Kaliko Santos

Lihue, Kaua'i