

Honolulu Youth Commission
Testimony in support of
HCR 26 & HR24

Aloha e members of the House Committee on Education,

My name is Bronson Azama, I am Chair of the Honolulu Youth Commission. I write to you today to express our support for HCR 26 & HR24. The Commission has taken a stance in February through the passing of our resolution HYC 22-003, to request the renaming of President William McKinley High School to one of its former names Honolulu High School and requesting the removal of the McKinley Statue from the campus grounds.

We strongly believe this is an issue that needs to be addressed. As former students expressed, the name and the statue and the intergenerational trauma these symbols carry inhibits the ability for some students to feel comfortable in their school environment and in turn affects their ability to perform in the classroom or on the field. If simply changing the name and removing the statue contributes to individual excellence then it should be pursued, because we thrive on individual excellence that contributes to collective resurgence.

We respect the concerns of those who previously expressed their emotions and concerns for the school's traditions. Respectfully their history and traditions will always be a part of history, we do not seek to take much from them, but we are calling for the reminder that everyone deserves a chance to heal. What about those students, those alumni who support the name change, what about their feelings, emotional baggage, and even shame?

It is our hope that we can take this opportunity to remove pain and replace it with healing. The name Honolulu references the calm bay that is where the city is now, a place of beauty, abundance, and a space that shared a great deal of aloha. We hope that through the development of a place-based identity students will learn what was, and want to change what is to return our community to the center of aloha.

Mahalo,
Chair, Bronson Azama

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Unity, Equality, Aloha for all



To: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

For hearing Thursday, March 24, 2022

Re: HCR24, HR26 URGING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO CHANGE THE NAME OF PRESIDENT WILLIAM MCKINLEY HIGH SCHOOL BACK TO HONOLULU HIGH SCHOOL AND 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>

HCR-26

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 4:31:53 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Clair Mason	The KoLab Coworking + Community Space	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, & Members of the Committee,

My name is Clair Mason, and I'm testifying on behalf of The KōLab, a Coworking and Community space on Hawai'i Island that aims to uplift the status of native Hawaiian people and other marginalized groups. Our organization is in strong support of HCR26. Hawai'i places, especially educational institutions should reflect the rich culture and history of the native people of this land. Mahalo for your consideration. Please vote yes to keep HCR26 moving through the legislature!

Clair Mason + The KōLab

HCR-26

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 10:46:05 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cary Miyashiro	Quad D Solutions	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

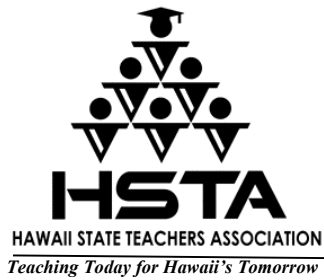
Comments:

McKinley High School has been a tradition in our family. I oppose the name change and the removal of the statute.

Respectfully Submitted

Cary Miyashiro, President

Quad D Solutions LLC



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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

RE: HR 24 / HCR 26 – URGING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO CHANGE THE NAME OF PRESIDENT WILLIAM MCKINLEY HIGH SCHOOL BACK TO HONOLULU HIGH SCHOOL AND REMOVE THE STATUE OF PRESIDENT MCKINLEY FROM THE SCHOOL PREMISES.

THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 2022

OSA TUI, JR., PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Woodson, and Members of the Committee:

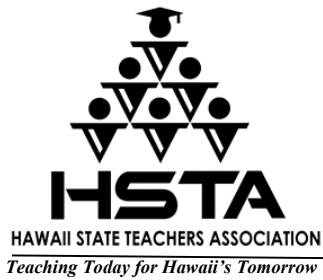
The Hawai'i State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support** HR 24/ HCR 26, urging the Board of Education and the Department of Education to change the name of President William McKinley High School and remove the statue of President McKinley from the school premises.

Promoting human and civil rights to support and nurture diversity in our multifaceted community is an important part of HSTA's mission. We believe all children deserve access to a great public education, and should never be marginalized because of their race, gender, sexual orientation, culture, or nationality.

As educators, we are deeply committed to our keiki and our communities. We are proud to live in a vibrant tapestry of cultures with shared values rooted in 'ohana and 'āina. We lift our students with knowledge, awareness, skill, and confidence; creating an environment of equity that allows every student to thrive. Here, we explain why the name President William McKinley does not honor this commitment.

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

On Jan. 16, 1893, U.S. troops invaded the Hawaiian Kingdom, which led to a conditional surrender by the Hawaiian Kingdom's executive monarch, Her Majesty Queen Lili'uokalani. An investigation initiated by President Grover Cleveland called this invasion "an act of war." President Cleveland agreed to restore the Hawaiian Kingdom if Queen Lili'uokalani granted amnesty to the provisional government that overthrew her. She ultimately agreed, but unfortunately, President Cleveland did not get elected to a second term and could not restore her to her rightful position.



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When McKinley took office, he proceeded to annex Hawai‘i, ignoring protests by Queen Lili‘uokalani, two Hawaiian political organizations — Hui Aloha ‘Āina and Hui Kālai‘āina — and 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.

When he could not obtain a two-thirds vote in the Senate to ratify a “treaty” of annexation with the illegal Republic of Hawai‘i, McKinley pushed for a joint resolution in the U.S. Congress, a domestic measure that required a simple majority, but had no lawful authority beyond U.S. borders. McKinley signed the resolution into law on July 7, 1898.

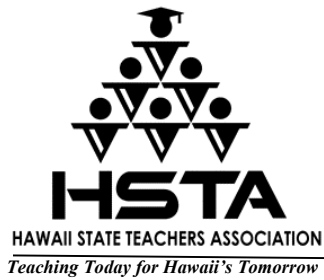
The name reflects an indoctrination of Hawaiian students and a movement that obliterated Native Hawaiian identity in favor of American patriotism.

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.’”

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.

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.”

Honolulu High School was the former name of what is now President William McKinley High School. The school itself was originally established in 1833 as the Oahu Charity School. Its name was subsequently changed to Honolulu Town School then Fort Street School. In 1895, it moved from Princess Ruth Ke‘elikōlani’s former residence to its current location and was renamed Honolulu High School.



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The change from Honolulu High School to President William McKinley High School in 1907 and the installation of McKinley's statue in 1911 reflect the government's targeted indoctrination in schools.

An article published in *The Hawaiian Star* on Nov. 22, 1901, said: "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 (sic) and go to strengthen the interest of our people in American institutions and principles."

This indoctrination also impacted teachers, many of whom were Native Hawaiian women forced to teach curriculum that handcuffed their personal beliefs and identity. According to a 2017 Office of Hawaiian Affairs report, Native Hawaiian teachers made up 41.1 percent of the total number of teachers prior to 1893. "The combination of non-Hawaiian teacher recruitment, lower pay for Native Hawaiian teachers, and the mandate of using only the English language in schools led to the decline of Native Hawaiian teachers," the OHA report concluded.

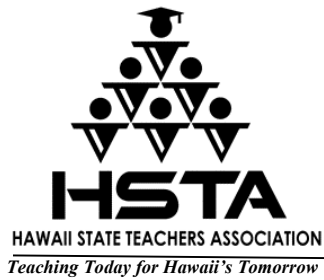
The devastating loss of Native Hawaiian identity, culture, and language has yet to fully recover.

Though the overthrow and annexation occurred more than a century ago, their destructive impacts continue to fester. Those who did not live through this era may never fully understand the far-reaching damage and trauma colonization has on its people.

Americanization and the denial of Native Hawaiian names, language, and learning made many Native Hawaiians ashamed of their cultural identity. They believed they were worth less — a mentality that has been passed down and continues to cripple successive generations.

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs stated, "The practice of using Western standards to validate Hawaiian culturally-based activities and behaviors led to the devaluing of the traditional Hawaiian system and caused shame and embarrassment among Native Hawaiians. Navigating the immense cultural shifts and the depreciation of Hawaiian values and traditions caused internal moral conflicts between preserving the old and embracing the new. These effects can still be seen today."

Public schools were established by the Hawaiian Kingdom in 1840 by King Kamehameha III. As of 1834, the literacy rate among Hawaiians was estimated



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between 91 percent and 95 percent. Now, one in every six adults in Hawai‘i, or more than 16 percent of the adult population, cannot read or write at a basic level.

This statistic, while not isolated to the Native Hawaiian population, indicates a disconnect from language and education. In 2016, Native Hawaiian reading proficiency percentages ranged from high of 41.2 percent in grade 5 to a low of 29.2 percent in grade 7, far below the non-Hawaiian range of 60.3 percent in grade 5 through 50.5 percent in grade 7; and the largest proficiency gap of 20.8 percentage points occurred in grade 11. This loss of literacy leads to higher dropout rates, unemployment, low wages, poverty, homelessness, and incarceration.

Continued suppression of Hawaiian culture and identity further exacerbates the challenges Native Hawaiians face today in areas including sustainability, land use, and resources management. No group should be forced to prove themselves on their own land, or left to struggle and fail.

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

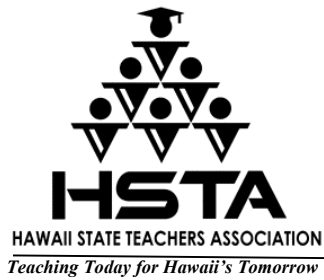
HSTA believes a school should have a name that appropriately recognizes the pono and pride of our ‘āina, our people, especially our youth, and our state. We must teach our keiki to fully embrace their true history and identity if we want them to thrive.

This need is not exclusive to Native Hawaiians. Staying true to our values and righting our wrongs heals our ‘ohana and uplifts our entire community. We must brave the first step by removing a prominent figure who was instrumental in the harm and trauma of our collective history.

A similar change occurred in Alaska in 2015 when President Barack Obama and Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell restored the name Denali to what had been called Mount McKinley for nearly a century. Denali, or “deenaalee,” means “the tall one” in the Koyukon language, spoken for thousands of years by an indigenous Athabaskan group.

“Denali’s name has long been seen as one such slight, regarded as 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,” according to The New York Times.

“There’s no denying that for some Americans, the deck’s been stacked against them, sometimes for generations, and that’s been true of many Native Americans,” said President Obama. “But if we’re working together, we can make things better.”



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Executive Director

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

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.

Eōmailani K. Kukahiko, Ph.D., a University of Hawaii at Manoa faculty member in the Curriculum Studies Department who specializes in Hawaiian language immersion, wrote, "Hawaiian names tell the stories of our people. Names are usually given by kūpuna, or to honor kūpuna. Sometimes names appear in a dream, inoa pō, yet other times as a recording of a specific event."

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 'āina.

This great school deserves a better name.

We are joining an ongoing movement across Hawai'i and the U.S. continent.

In February 2022, students, staff, and community members marked the restoration of the Central Middle School's name to Princess Ruth Ke'elikōlani Middle School. This change was the result of a roughly 2½-year endeavor to acknowledge and celebrate the school's proud history and profound connection to one of Hawaii's cherished ali'i and her tremendous legacy to Hawai'i and its people. "We feel that this change will reinvigorate our school community as it gives Princess Ke'elikōlani her due respect and allows us as a school to embrace and celebrate who we are and allows for us to create our next chapter in our school history," the school's principal, Joseph Passantino, wrote in his 2021 proposal.

In July 2017, Lanikai Elementary Public Charter School in Kailua, O'ahu became Ka'ōhao Public Charter School. Ka'ōhao is the true name of the area between Kailua Beach and Waimanalo Beach, which a developer called Lanikai in an incorrect attempt to say heavenly sea. "We believe that our name change represents much of what we stand for as a school. In many ways, we are tying and joining together the past, the present, and the future. We do this humbly, with cultural respect and understanding; and applying knowledge from awareness to action, the chief aim of education," according to the school's website.



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Osa Tui, Jr.
President
Logan Okita
Vice President
Lisa Morrison
Secretary-Treasurer
Wilbert Holck
Executive Director

The City and County of Honolulu’s Revised Ordinances of Honolulu, Chapter 22, Article 8 stipulates that all street names shall “consist of Hawaiian names, word or phrases and shall be selected with a view to the appropriateness of the name to historic, cultural, scenic and topographical features of the area.” This law has been in effect since 1978.

In 2020, 168 Confederate symbols, including 94 monuments, were removed across the United States, virtually all of them following the killing of George Floyd by Minneapolis police officers, according to the Alabama-based Southern Poverty Law Center.

“Critics argue that removing or renaming tributes to Confederate figures amounts to erasing history,” a National Public Radio report noted. “But many historians — and public opinion polling — reject this concept, saying it’s time for the symbols to go, and possible to engage with this period of history in other ways.”

We ask that you support HR 24 and HCR 26 so we can 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.

Mahalo for hearing this important issue.



House Committee on Education

Pō‘ahā, Malaki 24, 2022

Via Wikiō

Ke Kapikala Moku‘āina

415 South Beretānia Street

Re: HR24/HCR26 - RELATING TO PRESIDENT WILLIAM MCKINLEY HIGH SCHOOL

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 HR24/HCR26. These resolutions call upon the Board of Education and Department of Education to change the name of President William McKinley High School back to Honolulu High School and remove the statue of President McKinley from the school premises.

At its 61st annual convention, the Association adopted resolution 2020-34, urging funding for the commissioning of a plaque telling the complete and accurate story of the invalid annexation of Hawai‘i to the United States and that it be placed adjacent to the statute of President William McKinley at President William McKinley High School. At its 50th annual convention, the Association adopted resolution 2009-45, supporting the removal through recasting of the “Treaty of Annexation” document carried in the hand of the statute of William McKinley at President McKinley High School in Honolulu by calling upon the Legislature and the Department of Land and Natural Resources to take corrective action.

The Association has no position on the removal of the statute or the renaming of the school specifically, however, the Association recognizes that there are “...different ways to deliver the accurate accounting of Hawai‘i’s historical events around the invalid annexation.” (AHCC Reso.

2020-34). The Association further affirms that “...the statute of President William McKinley portrays a fabricated history that has long-standing political and cultural ramifications...[; and] ...[that the Association] continues to have an interest in correcting the current misrepresentation of the history of Hawai‘i’s invalid annexation...” (AHCC Reso. 2020-34). The Association acknowledges that the aforementioned resolutions, at their heart, seek to address the injustices surrounding the illegal annexation of Hawai‘i by the United States.

Thus, the Association respectfully urges the committee to **PASS** HR24/HCR26.

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,

Hailama Farden
Pelekikena

ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS

A RESOLUTION

NO. 2020 - 38

URGING FUNDING FOR THE COMMISSIONING OF A PLAQUE TELLING THE COMPLETE AND ACCURATE STORY OF THE INVALID ANNEXATION OF HAWAI'I TO THE UNITED STATES AND THAT IT BE PLACED ADJACENT TO THE STATUE OF PRESIDENT WILLIAM MCKINLEY AT PRESIDENT WILLIAM MCKINLEY HIGH SCHOOL

WHEREAS, at its annual convention in 2009, the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs adopted Resolution 2009-45, supporting the removal through recasting of the "Treaty of Annexation" document carried in the hand of the statue of William McKinley at President McKinley High School in Honolulu by calling on the Legislature and the Department of Land and Natural Resources to take corrective action; and

WHEREAS, shortly after the adoption of Resolution 2009-45, a delegation of Hawaiian Civic Club members met with the principal of McKinley High School who was not receptive to the actions called for in the resolution; and

WHEREAS, in the 11 years since the adoption of this resolution, no further action has been taken on Resolution 2009-45 by any relevant State of Hawai'i agency; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 2009-45 accurately documents the history of the invalid annexation of Hawai'i to the United States; and

WHEREAS, the statue of President William McKinley at its namesake school on O'ahu portrays a fabricated history that has long-standing political and cultural ramifications; and

WHEREAS, the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs continues to have an interest in correcting the current misrepresentation of the history of Hawai'i's invalid annexation depicted by the statue of President William McKinley; and

WHEREAS, the Association recognizes that the plaque is only one of many different ways to deliver the accurate accounting of Hawai'i's historical events around the invalid annexation; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs at its 61st Annual Convention held online, in the malama of Makali'i and the rising of 'Olekūkolu, this 22nd day of November 2020, urging funding for the commissioning of a plaque

telling the complete and accurate story of the invalid annexation of Hawai'i to the United States and that it be placed adjacent to the statute of President William McKinley High School; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Association urging the State of Hawai'i through its Department of Education and Department of Land and Natural Resources of the State of Hawai'i, and the respective complex area superintendent and the McKinley High School administration to partner with the Association in the telling of the accurate story of the invalid annexation of Hawai'i by the United States of America; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Association commits to work with all interested stakeholders to develop and implement a plan for the commissioning and development of the plaque, its verbiage, location, and aesthetic; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Hawai'i State Board of Education Chairperson, the Hawai'i State Department of Education Superintendent, the respective Honolulu District Complex Area Superintendent, Chair of the Native Hawaiian Education Council, CEO of the Council of Native Hawaiian Advancement 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 subject matter committee on Hawaiian Affairs, Chair of the State House subject matter committee on 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 Makali'i and the rising of 'Olekūkolu on the 22nd day of November 2020, at the 61st Annual Convention of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs held online.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hailama V.K.K. Farden". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Hailama V.K.K. Farden, President

ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS

A RESOLUTION

09-45

SUPPORT THE REMOVAL THROUGH RECASTING OF THE “TREATY OF ANNEXATION” DOCUMENT CARRIED IN THE HAND OF THE STATUE OF WILLIAM MCKINLEY AT MCKINLEY HIGH SCHOOL IN HONOLULU BY CALLING ON THE LEGISLATURE AND THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO TAKE CORRECTIVE ACTION

WHEREAS, on January 16, 1893, over the protest of Queen Lili‘uokalani, the diplomatic and military forces of the U.S. assisted insurrectionists in seizing control of the Hawaiian Kingdom government and established a government; and

WHEREAS, on February 14, 1893, in Washington, D.C., the government signed a treaty of cession of the Hawaiian Kingdom to the United States and U.S. President Harrison submitted the treaty to the Senate for ratification; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 1893, newly elected U.S. President Cleveland received the protest of Queen Lili‘uokalani from a Hawaiian Kingdom envoy and withdrew the treaty from the Senate; and

WHEREAS, President Cleveland thereafter appointed Hon. James Blount as a Special Commissioner to investigate the seizure of the Hawaiian Kingdom and to report his findings to the president; and

WHEREAS, the Presidential investigation concluded that the overthrow of the Hawaiian government was illegal under international law and entered into an agreement with Queen Lili‘uokalani that the President would restore the Hawaiian Kingdom government and the Queen would grant amnesty to the insurgents; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Congress prevented President Cleveland from restoring the Government; and

WHEREAS, Queen Lili‘uokalani and Hawaiian nationals, to their detriment, relied on Cleveland’s commitment to restore the Hawaiian Kingdom government; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a resolution on February 7, 1894, warning other nations “that foreign intervention in the political affairs of the islands will not be regarded with indifference by the Government of the United States”; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Senate endorsed this sentiment by passing a resolution on May 16, 1894, “that any intervention in the political affairs of these islands by any other Government will be regarded as an act unfriendly to the United States”; and

WHEREAS, on June 16, 1897, the newly elected President of the United States, William McKinley signed a second treaty of cession in Washington, D.C. with representatives of the *self-proclaimed* Republic of Hawai‘i, but the proposed treaty remained subject to ratification by the U.S. Senate; and

WHEREAS, on June 18, 1897, Queen Lili‘uokalani filed a diplomatic protest with the U.S. State Department in Washington, D.C., stating:

I, Liliuokalani of Hawaii, by the will of God named heir apparent on the tenth day of April, A.D. 1877, and by the grace of God Queen of the Hawaiian Islands on the seventeenth day of January, A.D. 1893, do hereby protest against the ratification of a certain treaty, which, so I am informed, has been signed at Washington by Messrs. Hatch, Thurston, and Kinney, purporting to cede those Islands to the territory and dominion of the United States. I declare such a treaty to be an act of wrong toward the native and part-native people of Hawaii, an invasion of the rights of the ruling chiefs, in violation of international rights both toward my people and toward friendly nations with whom they have made treaties, the perpetuation of the fraud whereby the constitutional government was overthrown, and, finally, an act of gross injustice to me.; and

WHEREAS, on July 24, 1897, Hawaiian political organizations also filed protests with the McKinley Administration against the second treaty; and

WHEREAS, in spite of these protests, President McKinley indicated his intent to submit the Treaty of Cession to the U.S. Senate, which would convene in December of 1897; and

WHEREAS, in September of 1897, the Men’s and Women’s Hawaiian Patriotic League (Hui Aloha ‘Āina) initiated signature petitions protesting the treaty and deposited the petitions with the U.S. Senate in December 1897; and

WHEREAS, these protests, along with the formal protests of Queen Lili‘uokalani, succeeded in preventing the U.S. Senate from ratifying this second attempt to annex the Hawaiian Islands by a treaty of cession; and

WHEREAS, on April 21, 1898, the United States declared war against the Kingdom of Spain, turning Hawai‘i into a naval and troop base to commence the war against the Spanish in the Philippines and Guam in the western Pacific Ocean, purportedly to protect the west coast of the United States; and

WHEREAS, on July 7, 1898, President McKinley signed a joint resolution of annexation passed by the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate, purporting to annex the Hawaiian Islands justified as a war necessity; and

WHEREAS, a joint resolution is not a treaty, but a domestic measure with authority that is limited and applicable only within the territory of the United States; and

WHEREAS, a prominent secondary school in Honolulu is named after U.S. President William McKinley; and

WHEREAS, standing at the front entrance to McKinley High School is a bronze statue of President William McKinley holding a document inscribed "Treaty of Annexation"; and

WHEREAS, the document called "Treaty of Annexation" never existed and was never implemented; and

WHEREAS, the statue has contributed to the misinformation shared with the people of Hawai'i and Native Hawaiians about the true history of these Islands and of the relationship of the United States to the Hawaiian Kingdom, leading to the teaching of an incorrect history; and

WHEREAS, these inaccuracies, when incorporated into public displays such as statues, have been harmful to all, including young people in the public school system, not just McKinley High School, because they perpetuate and promote lies as truths, leaving Hawai'i's youth unprepared to engage in meaningful dialogue on Hawai'i's history.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs at its 50th Annual Convention at Mākena, Maui, Hawai'i, this 7th day of November, 2009, that it support the removal through recasting of the "Treaty of Annexation" document carried in the hand of the statue of William McKinley at McKinley High School in Honolulu by calling on the Legislature and the Department of Land and Natural Resources to take corrective action.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of the State of Hawai'i, the Speaker of the House of the State Legislature, the President of the Senate of the State Legislature, the Hawai'i Congressional Delegation, the Superintendent of the Department of Education, the Director of the Department of Accounting and General Services, and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.



The undersigned hereby certifies that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted on the 7th day of November, 2009, at the 50th Annual Convention of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs at Mākena, Maui, Hawai'i.

Honorable Helen

President

HCR-26

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 1:47:56 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alan Urasaki	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I urge you to STOP this cancel culture by opposing this measure.

HCR-26

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 5:37:34 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shirley Fujimoto	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Opposing HCR 25 / HR 26

As a proud graduate of McKinley High School, I am adamantly against these bills aimed at changing the school name and removing the statue of President McKinley which stands on the front oval of my 150+ years old alma mater.

MHS has produced hundreds of notable graduates as well as ordinary law-abiding citizens who have contributed much to our State in a full range of public services, small businesses, big businesses, education, the arts, and an array of many professions and trades. Much of our drive to succeed is a testament to the entire school community that nurtured, supported and connected us. We are **McKinley** grads.

To erase that identity serves only to wipe out a part of our history that means so much to so many of us. What good would really come from a name change and the destruction of a statue? Those actions only serve to appease a community of activists who may or may not have any ties to the school. Their emotional outcry seems only directed toward healing old wounds that are still festering with them. Realistically, what would the changes they demand add to the well-being and progress of our State? Their activism would be better served by moving forward to ensure that a negative past is replaced with a positive future.

Thank you for your support to stop these bills.

Shirley Fujimoto, MHS Class of '67

TO: Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kapela, & Education Committee Members
FROM: Nikos A. Leverenz
RE: HCR 26--SUPPORT
DATE: March 24, 2022 (2:00 PM)

I write in strong support of HCR 26/HR 24. I am a Filipinx-American born and raised in Honolulu who is the grandson of a McKinley High School graduate back when the school was known as “Tokyo High” because of Honolulu’s policies that forwarded racial and ethnic discrimination in housing.

My grandfather emigrated from Manila in the early 1930s with his father, who was recruited to be the first Filipino detective with the Honolulu Police Department to help quash labor organizing on sugar plantations. Some of his anti-union activity is chronicled in John E. Reinecke’s *The Filipino Piecemeal Sugar Strike of 1924-1925* (University of Hawaii Press, 1996).

Others in support of this measure will note the legacy of William McKinley with respect to the overthrow of Hawaii’s constitutional monarchy and the subsequent maltreatment of Native Hawaiians by a territorial government that was expressly rooted in white supremacy. Native Hawaiians face a range of lasting incidents of this white supremacist legacy, including disproportionate involvement in the state’s criminal legal system and continued underrepresentation in state and county governments and Hawaii’s learned professions.

In short, [keeping the name McKinley High is an endorsement of the kind of structural racism that the Legislature declared a public health crisis last year via HCR 112.](#)

It is also important to note the imperialism of McKinley and his successor, Theodore Roosevelt, who embarked upon an express policy of imperialism during their administrations. [The impact of U.S. imperialism was especially acute in the Philippines](#), with hundreds of thousands dying in defense of their homeland and right to self-determination. On this front I recommend Leon Wolff’s Parkman Prize winning *Little Brown Brother: How the United States Purchased and Pacified the Philippines* and Gregg Jones’s [Honor in the Dust: Theodore Roosevelt, War in the Philippines, and the Rise and Fall of America’s Imperial Dream.](#)

Mark Twain put it very well in the *New York Herald* on October 15, 1900 regarding the American subjugation of the Philippine archipelago: “I have read carefully the treaty of Paris, and I have seen that we do not intend to free, but to subjugate the people of the Philippines. We have gone there to conquer, not to redeem... It should, it seems to me, be our pleasure and duty to make those people free, and let them deal with their own domestic questions in their own way. And so I am an anti-imperialist. I am opposed to having the eagle put its talons on any other land.”

I am also the son of a Roosevelt graduate. Please restore the name of Honolulu High and endeavor to find a more historically and culturally appropriate name for Roosevelt High.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

HCR-26

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 7:24:57 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristen Young	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HCR 26 to restore the name of what is currently known as 'President William McKinley High School' back to its original name, Honolulu High School, and to remove the statue of President McKinley from the school premises.

If we have any respect for Hawai'i and the school that is currently named McKinley High School, we must not allow the legacy of a man (President McKinley) who illegally annexed a country against the will of her queen and people, to be glorified through the name of an honorable academic institution in our community.

This resolution is an opportunity to act on our knowledge of history, honor this place and people, and restore what once was.

Please pass HCR 26. Thank you.

HCR-26

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 9:11:30 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rebecca Kapolei Kiili	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kākou,

I am writing in **strong support** of HCR 26 relating to returning the name of Honolulu High School to the currently named McKinley High School. Western culture is the original ‘cancel culture’ that canceled all indigenous groups around the world through imperialism and colonization. However, the world is shifting and bringing back the consciousness of indigenous peoples, cultures, and communities because the health of our world is in dire constraints and indigenous wisdom, perspectives, values, and lifestyles are sorely needed for today and for future generations.

The Hawaiian Kingdom evolved and was well established for 50 years. Our people and our ancestors engaged in the ways of the world for the time that they were living. They were building a nation of people that included all other ethnic races, languages, and cultures of people. There was no discrimination, all was accepted.

Returning the rightful name of Honolulu High School does not diminish the legacy of those generations who attended this school and feel the pride for their alma mater. It simply shifts the narrative and perspective back to acknowledge the true and authentic name it was originally given when it was established in the Hawaiian Kingdom era. And, while we cannot change what happened in the past, we can certainly create change for the future. We can collectively honor this special place that has given so much to non-Hawaiian people and their families for many generations.

As a Native Hawaiian and minority living in Hawai‘i, the historical trauma that we have endured is real. The impacts of colonization upon the Native Hawaiian people have been detrimental to our overall health, wealth, and well-being in our own native lands. Hundreds of years later, Native Hawaiians are continuously being marginalized in our own homelands often being cited for suffering the ills of society that include homelessness, poverty, abuse, substance abuse, mental health, and socio-economically. As a person belonging to this ethnic group, these constant reminders of our history and the impacts upon my ancestors affects my sense of identity and self-worth. A lot of this same damage was done to Hawaii’s people and native ancestors for many generations. Let’s right the wrongs and move away from deficit branding and othering. Let us truly honor indigenous peoples and their contributions to the world. Start with returning the rightful name of Honolulu High School.

Thank you for your time and support.

Rebecca Kapolei Kiili

HCR-26

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 9:22:37 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Steven Thomas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We can't change the past, but it is our duty to try to right the wrongs of the past. This needs to happen.

HCR-26

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 9:59:54 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pablo Wegesend	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the members of the Hawaii State House of Representatives,

My name is Pablo Wegesend, a 1999 graduate of the school currently known as McKinley High School. I bleed the school colors Black & Gold. I am a major fan of the school's Tiger spirit. The school is the home of some of my very wonderful memories. I have organized the 15th & 20th year reunions for my classmates. Nobody can question my school spirit. However, I believe it is time to give the school back its original name of Honolulu High School.

McKinley High School was named after William McKinley, who was the US president when Hawaii was annexed into the American empire without the consent of the Hawaiian people.

Imagine how it feels to have your country taken over, and to have the conquering leader have his name and a statue on the high school located in the urban center where everyone can see it! The name & the statue is like a middle finger towards the Hawaiians who protested against the conquest and annexation of Hawaii. We as the people of Hawaii should no longer accept that white supremacist imperialist middle finger in silence.

In 2022, we are watching in real time as Vladimir Putin has sent Russian troops into Ukraine against the will of the Ukrainian people. If Vladimir Putin had force schools in Ukraine to be named after him, the world would be outraged at this attempt of forcing the people of Ukraine to accept Russian control. We need to have the same exact outrage towards having a school in Hawaii named after a Putin-like character William McKinley who imposed American colonialism against the will of the Hawaiian people.

It is time for Hawaii to take a stand against white supremacy, racism, colonialism and imperialism. It is time for Hawaii to stop with its inertia that tends to allow the status quo to go unchallenged!

It is time for Hawaii to be an inspiration to the world with a powerful example of peaceful change that corrects the wrongs of the past. Removing the statue of William McKinley from the school will be that powerful example of peaceful change. Removing the William McKinley name from the school and renaming it Honolulu High School will be that powerful example of peaceful change.

And may I suggest that after the McKinley statue is removed, that we can replace it with a statue of the school's mascot : The Tiger. That statue will be a major boost of school spirit for the students and alumni of the school.

Please have the honor and bravery to approve HR24 and HCR26! It's the right thing to do.

Sincerely,

a proud Honolulu Tiger (c/o 99)

Pablo Wegesend

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 HR 24 and HCR 26 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 to continue that legacy.

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 specifically 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 the past.

Why are we spending so much time on this issue? The pandemic wreaked more havoc on an already fractured Hawaii public education system. I know...my twins are in public school, but fortunately a great school, with wonderful, supportive staff. If they were at a different school or if I did not emphasize education, my twins would have fallen behind like countless other students. I don't think the re-naming of schools should be a priority when there are other issues, such as teacher retention/pay and lack of student resources in the majority of schools.

Sincerely,

Lisa-Anne Mitsuka Chan
McKinley High School Class of 1991
McKinley Alumni Association Recording Secretary
Editor, *The Alumni Pinion*

HCR-26

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 12:00:22 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cat Orlans	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing as a native Hawaiian alumni of McKinley in support of this bill and in support of the name change. I commuted all 4 years of high school to town from Lualualei, O'ahu. Back in high school I would have said that I'm the girl from Nanakuli. As I continue to learn and educate myself on my culture and the significance of place names I now refer to my actual location of Lualualei. If you haven't heard of it, you may really associate it with a large military base of storage sitting next to the largest population of native Hawaiians on the island.

When I attended McKinley, I was not offered much place based cultural or language opportunities to learn the real history behind our school's name. Yet, we all have such pride as tigers that we follow suit blindly in the name of tradition. Tradition, that seems to be a culture of compliance not allowing you on the oval and the McKinley statue and traditions drilled into us from the first day of school freshman year. But why? We never seemed to really question it. It really wasn't until I graduated and attended UH Manoa that I truly learned about the trauma this person represents to native Hawaiians with the illegal annexation of the Hawaiian kingdom.

When I think of all the alumni that would be in opposition of this name change, I think of their love of our traditions at that school. I have empathy for them too. Because if they had the opportunity to truly learn the correct history from the lense of the native people of a place maybe they would instead have empathy for us as well. Native Hawaiians know all too well how traditions and customs can be taken away and oppressed. In fact, the

Therefore I encourage all faculty, students and alumni to keep on listening and learning from the indigenous host culture of this place. In fact, since following the various bills that have been introduced in this space, I have even reached out via email to the current principal at McKinley and encouraged him to work with native Hawaiian cultural experts and advisors and come to the table with various stakeholders to learn and understand why this change is well over due for this high school but our community at large.

Sadly, after almost a year I have not heard back. I have even heard him refernce the school as a brand and refer to local culture of identifying your high school name as part of one's identity. This practice comes from the native Hawaiian culture of introducing your place or origin. He has stated publically that he thinks only McKinley students or alumni should have a say in this decision. It's really disappointing to see this type of person in a leadership role and

saddens me that he's compliant in this space instead of being a leader in the space of reconciliation.

Changing the name back to Honolulu high elevates our school. Honolulu is the capitol of Hawai'i and there is so much history to the name Honolulu.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Catherine Orlans
Class of 2005

HCR-26

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 12:08:10 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cat Orlans	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing as a native Hawaiian alumni of McKinley in support of this bill and in support of the name change. I commuted all 4 years of high school to town from Lualualei, O'ahu. Back in high school I would have said that I'm the girl from Nanakuli. As I continue to learn and educate myself on my culture and the significance of place names I now refer to my actual location of Lualualei. If you haven't heard of it, you may really associate it with a large military base of storage sitting next to the largest population of native Hawaiians on the island.

When I attended McKinley, I was not offered much place based cultural or language opportunities to learn the real history behind our school's name. Yet, we all have such pride as tigers that we follow suit blindly in the name of tradition. Tradition, that seems to be a culture of compliance not allowing you on the oval and the McKinley statue and traditions drilled into us from the first day of school freshman year. But why? We never seemed to really question it. It really wasn't until I graduated and attended UH Manoa that I truly learned about the trauma this person represents to native Hawaiians with the illegal annexation of the Hawaiian kingdom.

When I think of all the alumni that would be in opposition of this name change, I think of their love of our traditions at that school. I have empathy for them too. Because if they had the opportunity to truly learn the correct history from the lense of the native people of a place maybe they would instead have empathy for us as well. Native Hawaiians know all too well how traditions and customs can be taken away and oppressed. In fact, the

Therefore I encourage all faculty, students and alumni to keep on listening and learning from the indigenous host culture of this place. In fact, since following the various bills that have been introduced in this space, I have even reached out via email to the current principal at McKinley and encouraged him to work with native Hawaiian cultural experts and advisors and come to the table with various stakeholders to learn and understand why this change is well over due for this high school but our community at large.

Sadly, after almost a year I have not heard back. I have even heard him refernce the school as a brand and refer to local culture of identifying your high school name as part of one's identity. This practice comes from the native Hawaiian culture of introducing your place or origin. He has stated publically that he thinks only McKinley students or alumni should have a say in this decision. It's really disappointing to see this type of person in a leadership role and

saddens me that he's compliant in this space instead of being a leader in the space of reconciliation.

Changing the name back to Honolulu high elevates our school. Honolulu is the capitol of Hawai'i and there is so much history to the name Honolulu.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Catherine Orlans
Class of 2005

HCR-26

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 12:48:42 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anna	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As an alumnus who graduated in 2017, I remember this topic being brought up my senior year. The debate centered around the "Pride and Tradition" that defines the school's identity. I understand how changing its name could feel like an affront to the "pride and tradition" we were taught to cherish. However, I believe that as society progresses toward a deeper understanding of the legacy of colonialism, it is imperative that Hawai'i address its history. President McKinley was an integral part of this colonial history and therefore it's difficult for me to have pride in a school that bears his name. I do not believe my alma matter's tradition is one of complacency or apathy--but failing to take action that sufficiently addresses the lingering smell of colonialism signals just that. I wholeheartedly support changing the name of my alma matter because I want to be able to say its name with pride.

HCR-26

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 2:12:00 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alexander K.D. McNicoll	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HCR26.

HCR-26

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 5:51:21 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ryan Willis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Fully support names of all schools named of U. S. Presidents be changed.

HCR-26

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 5:53:19 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kanoë Willis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Fully support names of all schools named of U. S. Presidents be changed.

HCR-26

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 6:32:46 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Regina Peterson	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

This statue and the name of the school "Mckinley High School" is a key component to the political indoctrination strategy to "BRAINWASH" the people living in Hawai'i that they are American...

A LIE!!! A LIE THEN!!! A LIE NOW!!!

There are soooo many things wrong about what this man stood for!!! and to have his statue and his name placed in honor...

is disgraceful to our Kūpuna who stood against this fake annexation he holds!!!

To the Alumni and present students enrolled:

YOUR HISTORY, YOUR CONNECTIONS, YOUR RELATIONSHIPS , YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS FROM BEING IN THIS SCHOOL "DOES NOT" STEM FROM THIS STATUE OR HIS NAME!!!

IT CAME/COMES FROM YOU!!!

Allowing this statue and the name to remain any longer SAYS...

YOU ARE OKAY WITH:

- 1). The robbery of the birthright, cultural identity, nationality, language, homes of the native hawaiians
- 2). The physical, mental, emotional, spiritual negative impact caused by this man and others like him
- 3). The fraud he committed to continue the illegal occupation of the United States by signing a joint resolution - "Newlands Resolution"
- 4). The genocide of Native Americans in California, lynching of African-Americans in Southern states, AS HE turned a blind eye to during his presidency

AND MORE!!!

removing this hideous statue and changing the name allows:

- 1). Alumni and present students to make NEW HISTORY for yourselves and your school in being the school that takes the step to HEAL A NATION AND IT'S PEOPLE!!!
- 2). Honor to be given back to the people who stood to protect the land they love so much!!!
- 3). Truth to be told...and honored, just like the truth behind Christopher Columbus and "Thanksgiving"
- 4). It allows for future generations who attend this school to NOT have to live in the shadow of this dark history

"HONOLULU HIGH SCHOOL" - THE SCHOOL THAT SPEAKS TRUTH

HCR-26

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 6:58:34 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lynette Cruz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Absolutely support HCR26! The name change is long overdue.

HCR-26

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 7:18:25 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ty P. Kawika Tengan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Native Hawaiian and an educator who understands the deep spiritual and intellectual harm done to all of Hawai'i when other peoples' histories replace our own, I STRONGLY SUPPORT this resolution as it represents a small step towards recovering Hawaiian knowledge and pono.

HCR-26

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 7:21:40 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kyle K Kajihiro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Naming a public school after President McKinley glorifies U.S. imperialism in Hawai'i and the Pacific and enshrines in bronze the big lie that Hawai'i was lawfully annexed by a treaty. In the same way that U.S. cities are removing confederate statues and statues to Columbus to correct the historical record, Hawai'i must correct the historical record with regard to McKinley. Rename McKinley HS and remove the offensive monument to U.S. imperialism.

HCR-26

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 7:24:33 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
mary drayer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

it's time to recognize the role that McKinley played in the illegal overthrow - return Honolulu High School to it original name - and remove the statue - mahalo for the opportunity to be heard

All people are benefit when a wrong is righted

HCR-26

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 7:32:46 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello,

My name is Nanea Lo. I'm a lifelong resident of O‘ahu from Papakōlea, now residing in Mō‘ili‘ili in my ancestral homelands. I am a product of this high school and as a Kanaka Maoli I STRONGLY SUPPORT HCR26.

Honolulu High School should have never been renamed to President William McKinley High School in 1907. This was a political indoctrination strategy to convince the people of Hawai‘i that they were Americans, which we're not.

In 1911, a statue of President McKinley was erected at the school. In his hand, McKinley outrageously holds a fake “Annexation Treaty” to reinforce the lie that the Hawaiian islands belong to the USA.

It’s time we acknowledge this harmful history and stop perpetuating the legacy of a man who helped rob Native Hawaiians of their birth right, cultural identity, language, and home.

It’s time we decolonize all of Hawai‘i’s public schools— from renaming Central Middle to Princess Ruth Ke‘elikolani Middle, to replacing Kahuku’s “Red Raider” mascot— we already have examples of how the Hawai‘i DOE has successfully made efforts to overcome structural racism and historical injustice.

Support HCR26.

me ke aloha ‘āina,

Nanea Lo

HCR-26

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 7:36:17 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello,

My name is Nanea Lo. I'm a lifelong resident of O‘ahu from Papakōlea, now residing in Mō‘ili‘ili in my ancestral homelands. I am a product of this high school and as a Kanaka Maoli I STRONGLY SUPPORT HR24.

Honolulu High School should have never been renamed to President William McKinley High School in 1907. This was a political indoctrination strategy to convince the people of Hawai‘i that they were Americans, which we're not.

In 1911, a statue of President McKinley was erected at the school. In his hand, McKinley outrageously holds a fake “Annexation Treaty” to reinforce the lie that the Hawaiian islands belong to the USA.

It’s time we acknowledge this harmful history and stop perpetuating the legacy of a man who helped rob Native Hawaiians of their birth right, cultural identity, language, and home.

It’s time we decolonize all of Hawai‘i’s public schools— from renaming Central Middle to Princess Ruth Ke‘elikolani Middle, to replacing Kahuku’s “Red Raider” mascot— we already have examples of how the Hawai‘i DOE has successfully made efforts to overcome structural racism and historical injustice.

Support HR24.

me ke aloha ‘āina,

Nanea Lo

HCR-26

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 8:02:30 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kara Kelay	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support HRC26 for changing the name of the current McKinley High to Honolulu High. As an alumni of this school, and as a Kanaka Maoli, the McKinley statue and name represents someone who helped to illegally overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom government, who helped to denationalize my Kūpuna, who's holding a lie of a legal treaty that doesn't exist between the Hawaiian Kingdom and America.

McKinley is a school, a place of education, and it should not be teaching historical lies to their students. The school forces their students to sing songs like "Hail, McKinley Hail" and that's was something that made me sick to my stomach and made me want to skip school. By changing the name and removing the statue, the proper steps will be taken to start to correct these wrongs. I wish I graduated from Honolulu High as I would finally have pride in my High School.

HCR 26 HR 24 Testimony
House Education Committee

Testimony in SUPPORT of HCR 26 and HR 24.

From: Leon Siu

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice-Chair Kapela and Members of the House Education Committee:

Today, the world expresses its outrage at the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Even Hawaii leaders have decried this destructive action.

But something similar happened here in Hawaii in 1893 when America invaded and in support of insurgents fomenting a regime change. But the world raised no objection. Then in 1898, led by President McKinley, America brazenly stole our country, and the world remained silent.

State of Hawaii leaders condemning the Russian invasion of the Ukraine have no moral basis to do so without first condemning America's invasion and annexation of the Hawaiian Islands.

The legacy of President McKinley was that he led the US to commit brazen crimes against humanity: the Hawaiian people as well as Native Americans and the Filipinos. The sad thing is that and no world leaders or countries objected.

Today we are grappling with the truth of what happened in Hawaii. Ironically, one of Hawaii's premiere schools stubbornly holds on to the name of President William McKinley honoring the historically disgraced U.S. leader. It would be as if 124 years from now, a school in Ukraine would insist in bearing the name of Vladimir Putin.

To elaborate:

1. William McKinley's policies were driven by his white supremacist, racist beliefs.

He said annexing Hawaii was tantamount to a moral obligation because Hawaiians were too primitive and backward to be able to governing themselves. This was a cover for the real motives — *more money*, and *power* for the local white elites... and a *strategic military base* in the Pacific for the U.S.

President William McKinley was a major proponent of Manifest Destiny — the political doctrine that the United States is destined by God, to expand its dominion around the world. Thus, McKinley justified extending America's power across the Pacific Ocean, even if it meant trampling the nationality, language, culture, health, lands and everything else that belonged to the Hawaiian people.

2. McKinley Acted Against the Hawaiians' Love for Their Nation

No vote for annexation was ever conducted in Hawaii because Hawaiians strongly opposed annexation. In 1897, 39,000 Hawaiian nationals signed petitions categorically opposing annexation. This represented the will of over 80% of the adult population of the Hawaiian

Islands. The petition was delivered to Congress and it stopped the treaty ratification in its tracks. But President McKinley and his cohorts in Congress devised a way to skirt the law.

3. McKinley Faked Hawaii's Annexation (1898)

After failing three times (once in 1893 and twice in 1897) to annex Hawaii by TREATY, McKinley and his cohorts in Congress, in July of 1898, resorted to passing a Joint Resolution (the Newlands Resolution) that purported to annex Hawaii, knowing a joint resolution had no legal power to annex a foreign country. Thus, white McKinley and white Congress deliberately collaborated with the white oligarchy in Hawaii to commit fraud to usurp the Hawaiian Islands, but making it appear legitimate.

The result of the usurpation/annexation displaced Hawaiians and robbed them of their identity, their lands, their homes, and their physical, psychological and spiritual well-being. It turned the Hawaiian Islands into an overseas colony, completely dependent on the U.S. for everything.

4. Schools Turned into Centers for American Indoctrination

In order for the widely despised and obviously illegal annexation to succeed, Hawaii's children (whose parents a few years before had signed the anti-annexation petitions) were targeted for re-programming; to make them think of themselves as Americans, not Hawaiians. All school curricula were tailored to teach children to reject being Hawaiians and embrace being Americans.

The American indoctrination program has been in Hawaii's schools for over six generations. It was so pervasive that until about 20 years ago, no student emerging from Hawaii's schools had an inkling of the illegal overthrow and the illegal annexation. Today, 123 years after the U.S. takeover, the slanted, pro-America narrative is still being taught in most of Hawaii's schools.

5. Honolulu High School renamed President William McKinley High School (1907)

A key component of the political indoctrination strategy was to change the name of the flagship, Honolulu High School, to President William McKinley High School, to cast him as a hero and icon for Hawaii. But today, McKinley is an icon of American fraud; a shameful contradiction to the noteworthy accomplishments of the school and its generations of illustrious students.

To continue honoring the President William McKinley ignores and condones the travesties he committed against the people and nation of Hawaii. For these reasons and more, the name of President William McKinley High School should be changed.

Mahalo a nui loa,
Leon Siu

HCR-26

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 8:07:07 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Lee	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

I stand OPPOSED to any proposal to rename McKinley High School and/or the removal of the statue, based on these sound principles:

1. THE CHANGING OF THE/OUR SCHOOL'S NAME CANNOT BE JUSTIFIED BASED UPON THE OPINION AND INTERPRETATION OF CERTAIN HISTORICAL EVENTS, IN THIS CASE, THE ANNEXATION OF HAWAII AND THE OCCURRENCES LEADING UP TO THIS EVENT.

2. "MCKINLEY HIGH SCHOOL" IS A POWERFUL BRAND CULTIVATED OVER 156 YEARS OF PRIDE AND TRADITION THAT SERVES AS AN IDENTITY FOR THE "MCKINLEY COMMUNITY" THAT INCLUDES ALL PEOPLE, BUSINESSES, AND ORGANIZATIONS, PAST AND PRESENT, THE LANDMARK CAMPUS, AND THE HISTORY.

3. THIS HISTORY CANNOT, AND SHOULD NOT, BE CHANGED, CORRECTED, ALTERED, OR SANITIZED, IN THE PRESENT. CHANGING THE NAME OF MCKINLEY HIGH SCHOOL WOULD DO THAT. WHAT IS CONSIDERED RIGHT AND WRONG CHANGES OVER TIME. THIS PROPOSAL GOES AGAINST THE BASIC FOUNDATION OF EDUCATIONAL PRINCIPLES. IT GOES AGAINST THE MEANING OF "LEARNING" AND "OBTAINING KNOWLEDGE".

HCR-26

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 8:23:02 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Heather Graeber	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support

HCR-26

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 9:19:37 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Abigail Rose	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I believe we should change the name back to the original Honolulu High School. It is offensive to huse the name McKinley, the president who particpated with imperialist Americans to annex Hawai'i without a treaty.

HCR-26

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 10:05:34 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Low	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a graduate of William McKinley High School (class of 1967); and University of Hawai'i-Manoa (class of 1971).

I want you to know that I'm in opposition to renaming McKinley High School and removing of President McKinley's statue.

My opposition is not related to any agreement with the polices of President McKinley. Nor am I a supporter of his personal writings and his racial bias. I do believe that the greater criticism should be directed towards President Cleveland who was the incumbent when American plantation owners instigated the overthrow of the Monarchy.

In reality McKinley was a weak and ineffectual President but his actions, or inactions, in allowing the illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian Monarchy were not in and of themselves illegal (just examples of his poor political integrity).

The positive reputation of William McKinley High School is irrefutable. The education I received was exemplary. When I am home visiting the islands and conversations lead to my acknowledgment to being a McKinley grad the responses are always very positive.

We live in a society where "cancel culture" seems to be the reaction to unfavorable politics, culture, and history. In this case I would suggest that renaming all public references to DILLINGHAM, DOLE, CASTLE, COOKE, ALEXANDER, BALDWIN would be more on point than renaming President William McKinley High School. They were the instigators of an illegal coup. Like Robert E. Lee and Jefferson Davis they were traitors to the government and should not be honored.

Rather than upsetting the thousands of MHS graduates I would encourage the Department of Education to expand the history of our islands and to thoroughly discuss the manner in which the desires of a few resulted in the end of a historic government.

I urge you not to pursue this matter.

Respectfully,

Michael Low

University of Notre Dame

Happily Retired 😎

16818 Colony Drive

South Bend, IN 46635

HCR-26

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 10:21:17 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Yoon Ok Won	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The name McKinley High School should remain as is. It is a school community decision and the legislature should honor McKinley High School decision to keep their name just as the Board of Education honored Central Middle School's community council to change their name. It's a school community decision and should not be left for others to decide.

HCR-26

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 10:23:41 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andy Ngo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

McKinley High Schools names should remain. I oppose changing it because it makes no sense.

HCR-26

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 10:26:01 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aaron Takeba	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This HCR is a waste of time and tax payer's monies. This HCR should not pass.

HCR-26

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 10:31:49 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aukai Pia	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a part Hawaiian tax payer, I oppose the HCR. It's senseless and why do we need to change McKinley High School's name. Not even the supporters of this HCR have a clear understanding of the historical facts that they believe warants this change. I strongly oppose this HCR and believe it would definitely be a waste of my tax dollars that the State of Hawaii could put to better use.

HCR-26

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 10:33:42 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Scot Seo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose the changing of McKinley High School's name. It should be left as is.

HCR-26

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 11:15:00 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Candace Sasaki	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose changing the name of McKinley High School

HCR-26

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 11:18:00 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carla Allison	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Carla Allison and I strongly support HCR26. Removing McKinley's name and statue and returning the original name to Honolulu High School is not an erasure of history. This act is an act of advancing racial equity.

Please support HCR26.

Thank you for your consideration,

Carla Allison

HCR-26

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 11:36:57 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mark T. Nakamura	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chairperson Woodson and Vice Chair Kapela,

I am writing to oppose HCR26.

Sincerely,

Mark Nakamura

HCR-26

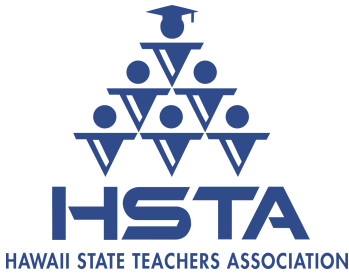
Submitted on: 3/23/2022 11:48:49 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michele Fukumoto	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in opposition of HCR26. I believe in the process and support the McKinley High School Community Council's decision to keep the name, as is. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition of HCR26.



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Osa Tui, Jr.
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Logan Okita
Vice President

Lisa Morrison
Secretary-Treasurer

Wilbert Holck
Executive Director

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

RE: HR 24, URGING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF
HCR 26 EDUCATION TO CHANGE THE NAME OF PRESIDENT WILLIAM
MCKINLEY HIGH SCHOOL BACK TO HONOLULU HIGH SCHOOL
AND REMOVE THE STATUE OF PRESIDENT MCKINLEY FROM THE
SCHOOL PREMISES.

THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 2022

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 24 and HCR 26** urging the Board of Education and Department of Education to change the name of President William McKinley 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 believe the name President William McKinley High School is damaging to our students, especially those in our Native Hawaiian community, given McKinley's illegal annexation of a kingdom against the will of her queen and people. We cannot keep turning 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 have taken bold steps to scrutinize, change, and even dismantle 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.

The decision in 1907 to glorify the U.S. president reflected a larger movement to indoctrinate students and erase their cultural identity. His statue carries a treaty of annexation, a document that does not exist since it failed to get a two-thirds vote for ratification by the U.S. Senate and was never signed by the Hawaiian Kingdom.

The school's name and statue are clear evidence of violent colonization and assimilation. If we allow their perpetuation, we ignore the harm they brought and continue to bring, as well as those in our community who have come forward to share their stories of trauma and struggle. 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. We must reflect; we must listen; we must act, or else we are no better than our predecessors.

Some may argue that keeping the name or statue keeps the history alive. But countless examples across the country prove otherwise. We don't need names and statues to remind us of trauma. People who experience trauma will never forget, and it is not our place to dictate how they heal.

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.

We view this change as an opportunity to celebrate, not cancel. We have a chance to truly honor a great school with a better name that properly reflects the rich essence of a respected and storied school. Therefore, **we ask for your support of HR 24 and HCR 26** to change the name of McKinley High School to one that reflects the true spirit of our islands.

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

HCR-26

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 1:02:18 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Garnett	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

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 26 and HR 24, 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

HCR-26

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 1:02:05 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alita Charron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear BOARD OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION,

I am a proud graduate of our public school system and a proud alumae of McKinley High School, formerly Honolulu High School. As I consider what my children are now learning in the public school system and what I learned in the University of Hawai'i system, I strongly support HCR26 in renaming McKinley High back to Honolulu High. By doing so, we not only teach but show our students and keiki the importance of place, context, and the righting of wrongs.

Although I am not native Hawaiian, I was born and raised here, and have not lived anywhere else. This is partly due to circumstance, and now choice. Honoring Honolulu High School as the rightful name is so much more meaningful than a president who does not reflect Hawai'i at all.

Consider, also, the taking down of problematic statues of individuals whose historic record is not reflective of an honorable life worthy of a statue. Likewise, a school whose certificates and diplomas are handed out to thousands of students every year is also problematic.

I fully support HCR26 to rename McKinley High to Honolulu High as someone who would be directly impacted.

Thank you,

Alita

The Honorable Justin Woodson, Chair
House of Representatives
Committee on Education

Re: In OPPOSITION of HR24 and House Concurrent Resolution HCR26

Dear Chair Woodson and Members of the House Committee on Education:

My name is Chieko Higuchi, MHS Class of 1966, and I am testifying in opposition of HR24 and Concurrent Resolution HCR26. I strongly oppose the Board of Education and Department of Education to change the name of President William McKinley High School back to Honolulu High School and to remove the statue of President McKinley from the school 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 2022. McKinley High School is going into its 117th year being know as President William McKinley High School by all its alumni from 1905 until the present time. 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'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 by Hawaii as a Territory of the U.S. Hawaii remained a Territory of the U.S. until it became the 50th state of the U.S. in 1959. Since then, our Congressional delegation has helped to pass bills that have granted the Hawaiian Homelands Commission and other government organizations a lot of funds to assist Hawaiians in getting housing, loans, jobs, and job training, and medical facilities. At the website: <https://www.usgrants.org/Hawaii> it lists \$3,258.00 million dollars in government grants and \$2,560. Million dollars in other forms of federal financial assistance for citizens and permanent residents who live in the State of Hawaii. As long as you have a citizenship certificate (green card) or a permanent residence certificate, you could be eligible to apply and receive Hawaii government grants. There is no need to change the name of President William McKinley High School and perhaps it is because of the recognition that our high school has brought to the State of Hawaii with its vast number of leaders to our community that the Hawaiians are very fortunate to make it become known nationally as being one of those schools listed on the National Register of Historic Places since 1980. The architect most involved with the design of its Spanish Colonial Revival buildings was Louis E. Davis. ‘

The history of the students at McKinley High School is admirable and really depicts their sense of “Pride” and “Code of Honor” which was written in 1927 by student: Mun Chee Chun which MHS students have tried to display and maintain. During World War II, MHS students volunteered at Red Cross Stations, supported selling war bonds, and raised enough funds to purchase a B-24 Liberator bomber, named Madame Pele for the United States Air Force. A “Hall of Honor” was established at McKinley High School, to acknowledge outstanding citizens who attended McKinley High School. McKinley High School became their “Alma Mater.” Those alumni who attended McKinley High School have shown their appreciation for the school, its significance and how they want to keep “McKinley High School’s” name when they wrote their comments and signed the “Petition to Keep the Name of President McKinley High School”. This petition (one of several petitions) presently has 1,460 signatures with hundreds of opinions from alumni, students attending McKinley High School and others, who do NOT want to change the name of McKinley High School. When evaluating whether a school’s name should be changed, it is very important to get community input as well input from those alumni who attended the school. In January 2022, I believe that the School Community Council (SCC) voted to NOT change the name of the school, and NOT to take down the statute of President William McKinley.

Here are some of the many inductees, listed by last name (year of graduation or years of birth and death). There probably are more to add to the ones I have listed below:

1. [Satoru Abe](#) (1926) -sculptor
2. [Joseph Kaiponohea ‘Ae’a](#) (1882-1914) hanai son of Queen Lili’uokalani
3. [Abraham Akaka](#) -Minister
4. [George R. Ariyoshi](#) (1944) – Governor of State of Hawaii (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 serve 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 U.S. Senator from the State of Illinois from 2017.
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 as #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). Was President pro tempore of the U.S. Senate, the 4th highest-ranking member of the U.S. Government
13. [Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson](#) (1986-1987) 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](#) – First Chinese American fighter pilot in World War II
18. [Ford Konno](#) (1952) won four medals in swimming in 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

All these “Hall of Honorees” who attended McKinley High School, were chosen for having made a great contribution to humanity and to our society. Class reunion organizations, foundations in memory of people who attended McKinley High School have been made, class websites, Facebook and Instagram websites, McKinley Alumni Association have been made with the name of McKinley High School. Changing the name of the school, would greatly impact these organizations that have been in existence for a long time.

In conclusion, I feel that public input from the petitions of alumni, students attending McKinley High School, the School Community Council (SCC) and other interested parties have shown that they Do NOT want the name of McKinley High School to be changed. More effort needs to be made in getting the funds from all the federal grants shown at the website: <https://www.usgrants.org/Hawaii> given to the Hawaiian people to be used to find them jobs, loans, housing, medical assistance, that they may need. Why disrupt the lives of our high school students for more than 5 years now regarding a name change in the school, when more productive effort can be made to bring the funds to the schools to provide them with better educational work-study programs, and enrichment programs, etc.

Sincerely,
Chieko Higuchi
Resident of Mililani, Hawaii
McKinley High School Class of 1966

HCR-26

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 1:56:19 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Kaneshiro	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please do not cancel the students and alumni of McKinley's culture.

Thank you

HCR-26

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 2:54:02 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joan Lander	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass this bill. Children need to know their history.

Testimony Before the House Education on Education

RE: HR24/HCR26 - URGING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO CHANGE THE NAME OF PRESIDENT WILLIAM MCKINLEY HIGH SCHOOL BACK TO HONOLULU HIGH SCHOOL AND REMOVE THE STATUE OF PRESIDENT MCKINLEY FROM THE SCHOOL PREMISES.

Laverne Moore, Special Education Teacher at McKinley High School

Chair Woodson, and Members of the Committee

I, Laverne Fernandes Moore, strongly support resolution HR24 / HCR 26.

As a Native Hawaiian woman who grew up under colonization, I personally experienced what colonization does to a child at a very young age. One is forbidden to speak its native tongue; have a Hawaiian first name and mandated to have an English first name, forbidden to learn and practice your cultural practices, beliefs and values in public. Colonization repeals individual rights and makes one feel less than.

Growing up, I felt marginalized, and I didn't understand why. I only learned to be proud of my Native Hawaiian identity as an adult, and realized I need to fight for what is "**Pono**".

I started teaching special education at McKinley High School in 2001, and I absolutely love it. But I will always struggle with the name McKinley, because President McKinley represents the illegal takeover of our Hawaiian government and our freedom as native Hawaiians. It still hurts. It will always hurt.

When I look at my indigenous students who are Micronesian and Samoan, I see colonization and how we robbed them of their culture and their way of life. I see the displacement and its impacts, and I can't ignore that. I'm transported back to my childhood. I see a lost young girl who was stripped of her rights, and my heart aches. We were deprived of so much.

Today, Hawaiians continue to suffer the effects of colonization. Our language was banned in 1896, resulting in several generations of Hawaiians, including myself, whose only language is English. Our lands and waters have been taken for military bases, resorts, urbanization and plantation agriculture.

What's in a name? In our Hawaiian culture, a name is bestowed, a connection is made, a story told, history preserved, someone honored, a hope expressed.

The name President William McKinley High School is not "Pono" in the Hawaiian tradition for President McKinley is not a person who embellishes Honor and Respect, but the history of destruction of our Hawaiian culture, government, way of life and forcing native Hawaiians to assimilate and forgo their own sovereignty.

President William McKinley represents the injustice he created for the Kingdom of Hawaii and its people.

To undo a legacy of colonization on the Kingdom of Hawaii and its people, I urge you to **support** this resolution.

HCR-26

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 3:18:11 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gary Fujii	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support changing the name from McKinley High back to Honolulu High School. Mahalo.

HCR-26

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 3:32:30 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Manuel Pulido	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to oppose the name changing of McKinley High School. For more than 150 years, McKinley High School has stood strong and held itself up on two main pillars: Pride and Tradition. A name change would cause great disturbances to the traditions and practices students look forward to every year, and slight the alumni who have graduated as “McKinley Tigers”. We would like to preserve the history, pride, and tradition of McKinley High School and its alumni as it currently is without a name change. Furthermore, the Reserve Officers' Training Corps program at McKinley High school is celebrating its 100 Year Anniversary this year. In the past ROTC was mandatory for students until the late 1960s. The Pride and Tradition of many of the McKinley High School students who learned these time-honored values taught by the ROTC: Duty, Respect, Honor, Integrity, and Service - has served Hawaii and the global community with many McKinley graduates making a positive influence on our society. I highly recommend that we keep the McKinley name on the high school to honor all of those, including myself, a 1990 McKinley High graduate and former ROTC Cadet at the school.

Manuel Pulido

Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army Retired

HCR-26

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 5:30:08 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anela Lewis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Anela Lewis and I am in support of returning the original and respectful names to the schools brought to your attention. The people of Hawai'i have no cause to celebrate President Mckinley as Hawai'i had no wish to be apart of the US, we must correct this wrong by returning the schools original name or renaming it to something or someone respectable to Hawai'i and removing its statue of Mckinley. It's important to preserve Hawai'i in any way we can as the islands and people have already experienced desecration and generational trauma due to unjustified colonization and false annexation. Please help us decolonize our systems for the betterment of the future, one step at a time.

Mahalo,

Anela Lewis

HCR-26

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 7:33:03 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hika'alani Pelio	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm writing in support of bill HCR26 calling for the name change of President William McKinley High School back to Honolulu High School as well as the removal of President McKinleys statue. To name a school after someone is an honor and President McKinley is not a man who deserves such an honor. His racist views and violence towards minorities may have been acceptable behavior at one time, but it absolutely never should have been. Likewise I'm sure you're well aware of the fact that the US never legally overthrew the Hawaiian Kingdom, and I offer the following links from very prestigious law organizations as proof:

<https://iadllaw.org/2021/03/iadl-resolution-on-the-us-occupation-of-the-hawaiian-kingdom/>

<https://www.nlg.org/nlg-calls-upon-us-to-immediately-comply-with-international-humanitarian-law-in-its-illegal-occupation-of-the-hawaiian-islands/>

that being the case, it's completely inappropriate, cruel & disrespectful to further commit cultural and national trauma upon Hawaiians by expecting us to continue to live with an honoring of a man who spearheaded a fraudulent annexation through insufficient means and committed international law violations against the Hawaiian Kingdom. Please consider the native Hawaiian children in attendance at the school who have to attend a school where they are essentially told every day that their culture, people, nation & history are of less importance than the honoring of someone like William McKinley. You have an opportunity to make a real difference here, an opportunity to begin to heal old wounds, an opportunity to take a stand against racism and imperialism, an opportunity to prove you love and respect the Native Hawaiian people. Please change the name back to Honolulu High School and remove William McKinleys statue. Thank you for your time.

HCR-26

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 7:42:20 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Don Kona Jugoz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am submitting testimony in support of HCR 26, and to end the continued indoctrination, and false narrative that the Hawaiian people were in favor of a treaty of Annexation. There is no "Treaty" between the Hawaiian Kingdom, the United States. However there is a "Petition against Annexation" and it bears the signatures of many of my ancestors, My Kupuna are not here to submit testimony, my testimony represents them.

Testimony Before The House Committee on Education

DATE: Thursday, March 24, 2022

TIME: 2:00 PM

PLACE: VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Conference Room 309

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

RE: HR 24 / HCR 26

URGING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO CHANGE THE NAME OF PRESIDENT WILLIAM MCKINLEY HIGH SCHOOL BACK TO HONOLULU HIGH SCHOOL AND REMOVE THE STATUE OF PRESIDENT MCKINLEY FROM THE SCHOOL PREMISES.

IN SUPPORT

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

My name is Keala Campbell; I am a Native Hawaiian resident of Hawai'i Island.

I am testifying **in support** of bill HR24 / HCR26 which urges the Board of Education to change the name of McKinley High School back to Honolulu High School and remove the statue of McKinley.

The points outlined below should be carefully considered

(<https://www.hsta.org/news/recent-stories/mckinley-high-school-deserves-a-name-that-honors-its-true-spirit-community-legacy/>):

- 1. The school's name glorifies a man who illegally annexed a country against the will of her queen and people.**
- 2. The name reflects an indoctrination of Hawaiian students and a movement that obliterated Native Hawaiian identity in favor of American patriotism.**
- 3. 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 'āina.**
- 4. 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.**

It is time.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

Keala Campbell

HCR-26

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 9:59:44 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Roman Leverenz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am testifying in support of the proposed name change of McKinley High School to its old name. In addition, I think we need to think about changing the name of Roosevelt High School as well, which happens to be by alma mater (class of '66).

Changing the name of McKinley is a good start. And I agree with the taking down of his statue. His support for the annexation of Hawaii by the United States and thereby sanctioning the overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom, which had the overwhelming support of the Hawaiian people, is reprehensible. His name should receive no honors in Hawaii.

In addition, if there are street names and/or buildings that honor any members of the Committee for Public Safety or who supported the overthrow of the Queen, it would be right or pono to change their names as well.

HCR-26

Submitted on: 3/24/2022 5:55:14 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nathan Yuen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I strongly support HCR 26/HR 24 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'e 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.

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,
Nathan Yuen