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Unity, Equality, Aloha for all



To: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

For hearing Wednesday, March 16, 2022

Re: HCR27 REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES CENSUS BUREAU TO RE-DESIGNATE THE CENSUS-DESIGNATED PLACE KNOWN AS CAPTAIN COOK ON THE ISLAND OF HAWAII AS KA'AWALOA AND REQUESTING HAWAII COUNTY TO REMOVE ALL REFERENCES TO CAPTAIN COOK AS A PLACE NAME ON THE ISLAND OF HAWAII.

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION

Really? This stooopid resolution was chosen by the committee chair to get a hearing? The motive for the resolution is clear. Turn Captain Cook into a Soviet-style non-person. Cancel him. Do to Captain Cook what comedian Stephen Colbert does to President Trump: delete him from memory by never again mentioning his name.

Captain Cook was the greatest explorer of the Pacific Ocean's islands and coastal areas in the history of the world. Although his first brief encounter with Hawaii's natives took place in Kaua'i and Ni'ihau, the encounter that changed world history happened in Kealahou Bay directly below the place now known as Captain Cook.

According to most historians and cultural anthropologists, he was treated as a god by the natives because the white sails on his ship resembled the banners of Lono and he arrived along "the pathway of God" [Ke Ala Ke Akua] returning from Kahiki as Lono had promised he would do and during the Makahiki season dedicated to Lono. Even the Europeans treated him like a god, as discussed in Gananath Obeyesekere's book "The Apotheosis of Captain Cook."

He set up an astronomical observatory at a heiau near where the memorial statue was later placed in the harbor. A few months later, trying to sail to Alaska, a mast broke on his ship and he returned to the bay to repair it. But his return was no longer during the Makahiki season; some natives stole a small boat from him; he tried to take the local chief hostage to bargain for return of the boat, and the natives killed him during a shoreline skirmish.

Throughout Hawaiian history, place-names have changed to memorialize major new events or the names of ali'i or leaders who came there to live. Greater status or fame displaces lesser status or fame.

Should we now replace the name "Kamehameha" on so many of our roads order to restore the names of the ancient paths or alahele that were there before the great conqueror murdered his way into power? That's the logic underlying the demand to remove "Captain Cook" and replace it with the name "Ka'awaloa" that was previously there.

Then there's the practical necessity to get approval from a majority of the residents and business owners in Captain Cook who would incur major expense to change their addresses and documents.

**HCR-27**

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 12:00:07 PM

Testimony for CAI on 3/16/2022 10:50:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jennifer Azuma Chrupalyk	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Mahalo piha no keia kanawai.

**HCR-27**

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 9:00:08 PM

Testimony for CAI on 3/16/2022 10:50:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Clair Mason	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Clair Mason, and I am testifying on behalf of The KoLab, a coworking space and community center in Kailua-Kona. Our organization is in strong support of HCR 27. Many of the members of our space along with multiple founders reside in Ka'awaloa, and have deep lineal roots to the 'aina & oiwi kupuna of this region. Passing this resolution would be an act of respect to the culture and people of this place that would resound for generations to come. Some might view the name "Captain Cook" as a testament to history, however the real testament would be respecting the history and culture of kanaka maoli by restoring the original name of the area. This would be an incredible act of unity by the legislature to pass this piece of legislation. On behalf of The KoLab, we thank you for your consideration and efforts to give a voice to the people in this matter.

Aloha

Clair Mason - CoFounder of The KoLab