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Unity, Equality, Aloha for all



To: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

For hearing Tuesday March 22, 2022

Re: HCR104/HR100

URGING THE BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO RENAME THE  
RUSSIAN FORT ELISABETH STATE HISTORICAL PARK IN WAIMEA, KAUA'I, AS  
"PA'ULA'ULA"

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION

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

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

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

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

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

**HR-100**

Submitted on: 3/19/2022 5:41:19 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Maureen Fodale	Friends of King Kaumualii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I want to thank Dr. Peter Mills, not only for his clear citation of historical facts, but also for doing battle with, and being the target for the angry abusive, russian-American who was flying in from Siberia to push the false narrative on being here and their reign. The good cop/bad cop, manipulation, and bribery almost worked as a compromise to truth for the sake of civility.

I also thank MaunaKea Trask for his clarity in writing relevant facts and Dr. Lee Croft's well researched, 800 pg book; Arm-Wrestling with Kamehameha which was explicit in providing countless details on George Anton Schaefer's facts, motives and rationale during and after coming to Hawaii; where his nefarious misdeeds had him, shunned and exiled from at least three islands.

The governor of Sitka, Baranov told him to leave Kaua'i alone-(obviously ignored),and after the Hawaii debacle, wrote a letter of apology to Kamehameha for "Schaffer overstepping his bounds with Kaua'i". And the Tzar wouldn't see him before, OR after the Hawaii Incident.

But that didn't stop the pressure campaign, which until last Tuesday almost culminated in the polite LIE compromise in keeping the name Ft Elizabet. That bit of pandering never worked with Kaumuali'i or the people of old Kauai. It never worked to charm Tzar Alexander and finally our island leaders and Friends of Kaumuali'i say with one voice, one final time: NO RUSSIAN FORT ELIZABET THEN, NOW, OR EVER WILL RULE OR OCCUPY KAUA'I! Perhaps the return of the King himself has seen to that.

PĀ'ULA'ULA PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE! EO!

**HR-100**

Submitted on: 3/18/2022 7:12:16 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Peter R. Mills	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

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

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

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

