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GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

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

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

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

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on
WATER AND LAND**

**Wednesday, March 30, 2022
1:00 pm
State Capitol, Conference Room 229, Via Videoconference**

**IN CONSIDERATION OF
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 119/ SENATE RESOLUTION 106
URGING THE BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO RENAME THE
RUSSIAN FORT ELISABETH STATE HISTORICAL PARK IN
WAIMEA, KAUA'I AS PĀ'ULA'ULA**

Senate Concurrent Resolution 1119/Senate Resolution 106 urge the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to rename Russian Fort Elizabeth State Historical Park in Waimea, Kaua'i to Pā'ula'ula. **The Department supports these measures based on historical research that has created a better understanding and awareness of the multi-cultural history of the site.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these measures.

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Unity, Equality, Aloha for all



To: SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

For hearing Wednesday, March 30, 2022

Re: SCR119/SR106

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'ihohi 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'uuanu, 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'uuanu.

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.



KE ONE O KĀKUHIEWA

O'ahu Council of the
Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs

Hawai'i State Legislature
Senate Committee on Water and Land

Pō'akolu, Malaki 30, 2022
Lumi 'Aha Kūkā 229 and vikiō

Ke Kapikala Moku'āina
415 South Beretānia Street

Re: SCR 119 / SR 106 - URGING THE BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO RENAME THE RUSSIAN FORT ELISABETH STATE HISTORICAL PARK IN WAIMEA, KAUA'I, AS "PA'ULA'ULA"

Aloha Luna Ho'omalua Lorraine Inouye, *Hope Luna Ho'omalua* Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, and members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land:

The Ke One O Kākuhihewa-O'ahu Council for the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs **SUPPORTS** SCR 119/ SR 106. This bill urges the Board of Land and Natural Resources to rename the Russian Fort Elisabeth State Historical Park in Waimea, Kaua'i as Pā'ula'ula.

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

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

Thus, the O'ahu Council respectfully urges the Committee to **SUPPORT** SCR 119/ SR 106.

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

Sincerely,
Benton Kealiikiamoku Pang, President

ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS

A RESOLUTION

No. 2018 – 49

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Annelie C. Amaral, President

SCR-119

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 5:58:51 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/30/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah Peters	Testifying for Kaumuali'i Hawaiian Civic Club	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in Full Support to rename The Russian Fort Elizabeth to PA'ULA'ULA, in Waimea Kaua'i