

MAR 10 2023

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO RENAME NOELANI
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TO PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA NOELANI
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN HONOR OF UNITED STATES PRESIDENT
BARACK OBAMA.

1 WHEREAS, United States President Barack Obama was born in
2 1961 in Honolulu, Oahu; and

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4 WHEREAS, in 1960, United States President Barack Obama's
5 parents, Barack Obama, Sr., and Stanley Ann Dunham, met as
6 students while attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa; and

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8 WHEREAS, United States President Barack Obama began his
9 career as a community organizer on the South Side of Chicago
10 where he worked with churches to improve housing conditions and
11 established job training programs to support a community
12 devastated by steel mill closures; and

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14 WHEREAS, in 1988, United States President Barack Obama
15 attended Harvard Law School, becoming the first African American
16 president of the *Harvard Law Review*; and

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18 WHEREAS, in 1996, United States President Barack Obama was
19 elected to the Illinois Senate; and

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21 WHEREAS, in 2004, United States President Barack Obama was
22 elected to serve in the United States Senate representing
23 Illinois; and

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25 WHEREAS, in 2008, United States President Barack Obama was
26 elected as the forty-fourth president of the United States and
27 the first president of African American descent; and

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29 WHEREAS, during his tenure, United States President Barack
30 Obama signed three signature bills: an omnibus bill to
31 revitalize the economy after a devastating economic collapse;



1 legislation to provide accessible, affordable health care; and
2 legislation for financial institution reform; and

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4 WHEREAS, United States President Barack Obama also
5 advocated for a fair pay act for women, consumer protection,
6 climate change action and environmental protection, and civil
7 rights; and

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9 WHEREAS, before entering Punahou School, United States
10 President Barack Obama attended kindergarten at Noelani
11 Elementary School in Manoa, Oahu, while his mother finished her
12 undergraduate and graduate studies at the University of Hawaii
13 at Manoa; and

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15 WHEREAS, since its opening in 1962, Noelani Elementary
16 School has grown from a one-building school to its present
17 design of over six buildings that serve three hundred eighty-
18 nine students; and

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20 WHEREAS, committed to equity and academic excellence,
21 meaningful learning, caring relationships, and connections to
22 the larger community, Noelani Elementary School's student
23 population has become more diverse socially, economically,
24 ethnically, and culturally; and

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26 WHEREAS, given his legacy as the first African American
27 president and first president born and raised in the State of
28 Hawaii, this body believes there would be no better way to honor
29 the legacy of United States President Barack Obama than to have
30 an educational institution he attended bear his name; now,
31 therefore,

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33 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
34 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023, the
35 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
36 Education is requested to rename Noelani Elementary School to
37 President Barack Obama Noelani Elementary School in honor of
38 President Barack Obama; and

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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
41 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
42 Board of Education, Superintendent of Education, Mayor of the



S.C.R. NO. 161

1 City and County of Honolulu, and Chairperson of the Board of
2 Directors of the Obama Hawaiian Africana Museum.

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OFFERED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of stylized, overlapping letters, is written over a horizontal line.