

MAR 10 2023

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# SENATE 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  
3

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  
13

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  
17

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;  
32 legislation to provide accessible, affordable health care; and  
33 legislation for financial institution reform; and  
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1           WHEREAS, United States President Barack Obama also  
2 advocated for a fair pay act for women, consumer protection,  
3 climate change action and environmental protection, and civil  
4 rights; and

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

11  
12           WHEREAS, since its opening in 1962, Noelani Elementary  
13 School has grown from a one-building school to its present  
14 design of over six buildings that serve three hundred eighty-  
15 nine students; and

16  
17           WHEREAS, committed to equity and academic excellence,  
18 meaningful learning, caring relationships, and connections to  
19 the larger community, Noelani Elementary School's student  
20 population has become more diverse socially, economically,  
21 ethnically, and culturally; and

22  
23           WHEREAS, given his legacy as the first African American  
24 president and first president born and raised in the State of  
25 Hawaii, this body believes there would be no better way to honor  
26 the legacy of United States President Barack Obama than to have  
27 an educational institution he attended bear his name; now,  
28 therefore,

29  
30           BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second  
31 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023,  
32 that the Department of Education is requested to rename Noelani  
33 Elementary School to President Barack Obama Noelani Elementary  
34 School in honor of President Barack Obama; and

35  
36           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
37 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of  
38 Education, Superintendent of Education, Mayor of the City and



# S.R. NO. 187

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

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OFFERED BY:

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