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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES TO CONDUCT OR COMMISSION A  
STUDY TO DETERMINE THE RIGHTFUL OWNERS OF LAND IN AND  
AROUND LAHAINA.

1           WHEREAS, in January of 1893, Sanford B. Dole, along with a  
2 small group of individuals with business interests in Hawaii and  
3 aided by the United States Minister to Hawaii and the United  
4 States Marines, organized an unprovoked invasion on the Hawaiian  
5 Kingdom (Hawaii Pae Aina), leading to the imprisonment of Queen  
6 Liliuokalani and seizure of 1.75 million acres of crown land;  
7 and

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9           WHEREAS, on December 18, 1893, President Grover Cleveland  
10 acknowledged in his message to the United States Congress that  
11 the Hawaiian Kingdom was unlawfully invaded by United States  
12 marines on January 16, 1893, which led to an illegal overthrow  
13 of the Hawaiian government; and

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15           WHEREAS, in 1993, a joint resolution of the United States  
16 Congress and President William Clinton acknowledged and  
17 apologized for the illegal overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawaii  
18 and the historical significance of this event, which resulted in  
19 the suppression of the inherent sovereignty of the Native  
20 Hawaiian people; and

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22           WHEREAS, long-time Lahaina residents know of cases where  
23 land was simply taken by individuals who did not have legal  
24 right to said land; for example, plantation owners began  
25 extending their crops onto adjacent parcels that were unoccupied  
26 but not legally theirs; and

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28           WHEREAS, it can be argued that the American-based  
29 structural systems implemented after the overthrow of the  
30 Hawaiian Kingdom were foreign and unfamiliar to native Hawaiians  
31 (kanaka maoli), which benefitted those who understood the



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1 American system and resulted in massive land dispossession to  
2 the detriment of kanaka maoli; and

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4 WHEREAS, one hundred thirty-one years after the illegal  
5 overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom, disproportionately high rates  
6 of kanaka maoli experience poverty, homelessness, incarceration,  
7 suicide, heart disease, diabetes, and addiction; and

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9 WHEREAS, many kanaka maoli have left Hawaii, possibly due  
10 to unfavorable living conditions in the State; and

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12 WHEREAS, for example, population data released by the  
13 United States Census 2020 shows that more Native Hawaiians live  
14 on the continent (fifty-three percent) than in Hawaii (forty-  
15 seven percent); and

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17 WHEREAS, kanaka maoli as well as other residents of Hawaii  
18 feel the urgent need to protect their homeland from further  
19 take-over and possible erasure of what was intended by the  
20 distribution of land in the Mahale starting in 1848; now,  
21 therefore,

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23 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
24 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
25 Session of 2024, that the Bureau of Conveyances is requested to  
26 conduct or commission a study to determine the rightful owners  
27 of parcels of land in and around Lahaina in order to legally  
28 restore the land to the rightful owners while planning for the  
29 rebuilding of Lahaina; and

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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this  
32 Resolution be transmitted to the Registrar of the Bureau of  
33 Conveyances.

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OFFERED BY:



MAR 08 2024

