
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

SUPPORTING THE RECOGNITION AND DESIGNATION OF THE ORIGINAL
INDIGENOUS INHABITANTS OF THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS AND THEIR
DESCENDANTS, THE NATIVE HAWAIIAN PEOPLE, AS FIRST NATION
PEOPLES AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ASSEMBLY OF FIRST
NATION PEOPLES.

1 WHEREAS, long before the arrival of the first Europeans,
2 the original indigenous inhabitants of the Hawaiian Islands, now
3 generally referred to as native Hawaiians, had developed their
4 own language, religion, art, navigational skills, agriculture
5 and fishing technologies, legends and history; and
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7 WHEREAS, prior to western contact, native Hawaiians had
8 established an organized, self-sufficient society, with a
9 communal land tenure system that supported the entire
10 population; and
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12 WHEREAS, before the illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian
13 monarchy in 1893, Hawaii was recognized by the United States as
14 an independent and sovereign indigenous nation in treaties and
15 conventions; and
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17 WHEREAS, after the forced abdication of Queen Liliuokalani
18 on January 24, 1895, government lands and crown lands--the lands
19 reserved for the Hawaiian monarchy--were taken over by the new
20 government as part of the public domain, despite an earlier
21 declaration by the Act of January 3, 1865 that crown lands were
22 inalienable; and
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24 WHEREAS, the Newlands Resolution of July 7, 1898, provided
25 for the annexation of Hawaii by the United States and the
26 Republic of Hawaii ceded nearly 1,800,000 acres of government
27 and crown lands to the United States, without the consent of or
28 compensation to the native Hawaiian people or their sovereign
29 government; and



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2 WHEREAS, the indigenous native Hawaiian people did not
3 expressly relinquish their claims to their inherent sovereignty
4 as a people or their right to the crown and government lands of
5 the Kingdom of Hawaii; and

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7 WHEREAS, the rights and contributions of native Hawaiians
8 have been recognized in the Constitution of the State of Hawaii
9 and in federal and state laws; and

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11 WHEREAS, in the federal Native Hawaiian Education Act, the
12 United States Congress found that native Hawaiians are a
13 distinct and unique indigenous people with a historical
14 continuity to the original inhabitants of the Hawaiian Islands,
15 whose society was recognized as a nation by the United States,
16 Britain, France, and Japan in treaties relating to friendship,
17 commerce, and navigation; and

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19 WHEREAS, the Native Hawaiian Education Act also expressly
20 states that the United States has recognized and reaffirmed
21 that:

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- 23 (1) Congress extends services to native Hawaiians not
24 based upon race, but based upon their unique status as
25 the indigenous people of a once sovereign nation with
26 whom the United States has established a trust
27 relationship;
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 - 29 (2) Congress has delegated broad authority to administer a
30 portion of the Federal trust responsibility to the
31 State of Hawaii; and
 - 32
 - 33 (3) The political status of native Hawaiians is comparable
34 to the political status of American Indians and Alaska
35 natives; and

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37 WHEREAS, in recent years, native Hawaiians have actively
38 worked to preserve, develop, and transmit to future generations
39 their cultural identity in their spiritual and traditional
40 beliefs, customs, practices, language, and social institutions,
41 as well as their ceded land rights and their right to establish
42 a sovereign government as the original indigenous people of the
43 Hawaiian Islands; and

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1 WHEREAS, in seeking to establish an aboriginal self-
 2 government, the major groups of aboriginal people in Canada
 3 faced difficulties similar to those encountered in the past and
 4 the present by native Hawaiians; and

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 6 WHEREAS, to correct past injustices and enhance the
 7 rightful position of the aboriginal people of Canada, an
 8 Assembly of First Nations was established to meet the past and
 9 present challenges that threaten their unique identities and
 10 rights as the original aboriginal groups of Canada, who were
 11 identified as the First Nations Peoples; and

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 13 WHEREAS, the unique identities and rights of the aboriginal
 14 people of Canada are similar to issues facing the original
 15 indigenous inhabitants of the Hawaiian Islands and their
 16 descendants, the native Hawaiians; now, therefore,

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 18 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 19 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
 20 Session of 2008, the Senate concurring, that the Legislature
 21 supports the recognition and designation of the original
 22 indigenous inhabitants of the Hawaiian Islands and their
 23 descendants, the native Hawaiian people, as First Nation Peoples
 24 who hold rights and responsibilities unique to them as the
 25 original indigenous inhabitants of Hawaii; and

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 27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature also supports
 28 the creation of an Assembly of First Nations Peoples by the
 29 native Hawaiian people to consider issues relating to self-
 30 government; and

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 32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 33 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to Pomaikaiokalani Kinney,
 34 the Prime Minister of the Reinstated Hawaiian Government of the
 35 Kingdom of Hawaii, the Chairman of the Council of Regency of the
 36 Hawaiian Kingdom Government, and the Governor of Ka Lahui
 37 Hawaii.

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