

A RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING TO END 128 YEARS OF WAR BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE HAWAIIAN KINGDOM

A Resolution of Witness

WHEREAS Henry Opukahaia is known as the missionary from the Hawaiian Kingdom that encouraged American missionaries to arrive in Hawaii; [\[i\]](#), [\[ii\]](#) and

WHEREAS the first Christian nation in the Pacific, the Hawaiian Kingdom constitution in 1840 began with a quote from the Bible “God hath made of one blood all nations of men, to dwell on the face of the earth in unity and blessedness”; [\[iii\]](#), [\[iv\]](#), [\[v\]](#) and

WHEREAS on December 19, 1842, United States President John Tyler agreed to recognize the independence of the Hawaiian Kingdom; [\[vi\]](#) and

WHEREAS the Christian Hawaiian Kingdom through treaties with friendly nations around the world, successfully modernized Hawaiian self-governance at the time to prosper in peace, trade and friendship through treaties with friendly nations around the world for fifty years; [\[vii\]](#) and

WHEREAS Rev. Rufus Anderson, the author of the three-self method (self-supporting, self-governing and self-propagating) and the long-term secretary of the ABCFM (American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Mission) arrived in Hawai‘i in 1863 to tell the missionaries to create self-reliant, self-governing churches and "to devolve upon it (the Hawaiian churches) the responsibilities of self-government in ecclesiastical matters"; [\[viii\]](#) and

WHEREAS Rev. Anderson’s advice was not followed and the government of the Hawaiian Kingdom was overthrown on January 17, 1893; [\[ix\]](#) and

WHEREAS on December 18, 1893, President Grover Cleveland’s executive agreement to restore the Christian Hawaiian Kingdom was signed by Liliuokalani and received by U.S. ambassador Albert Willis; [\[x\]](#) and

WHEREAS in 1991, the Eighteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ directed President Paul Sherry to issue an apology on the 100th anniversary of the overthrow of the Hawaiian monarchy for the complicity of the church in the overthrow; [\[xi\]](#), [\[xii\]](#) and

WHEREAS in 1993 President Clinton, with senators and representatives from Hawaii, signed Public Law 103-150 apologizing for the United States role in the illegal occupation; [\[xiii\]](#) and

WHEREAS the National Lawyers Guild recommended to the Governor of the State of Hawaii “to begin to comply with international humanitarian law in its prolonged and illegal occupation of the Hawaiian Islands”; [\[xiv\]](#) and

WHEREAS the United Church of Christ has historically stressed the importance of Justice as a key faith component for the Church; and

WHEREAS the correction of injustices depends upon correct history based upon factual matters, and history is often based upon who writes the history and factual information available; and

WHEREAS the information included in this resolution will be available at <https://ahecchurch.weebly.com/> about the founding of the Hawaiian Kingdom to correct false history about the Christian Hawaiian Kingdom; and

WHEREAS various General Synods of the United Church of Christ have taken proactive stands on Justice; and

WHEREAS justice depends upon action, not just stating what is true and just and right (pono in Hawaiian);

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Thirty-Third General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon all settings of the church, denomination officers, conferences, associations, and congregations to live into the 1993 Apology of the United Church of Christ delivered to the Native Hawaiian People by President Paul Sherry;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call upon the United Church of Christ's General Counsel's office to listen to and consider recommendations from the Association of Hawaiian Evangelical Churches, other Native Hawaiian organizations, and Native Hawaiian voices drafting communications to local, national and international leaders and organizations calling for compliance with international humanitarian law and an end to the illegal occupation of the Hawaiian islands;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Thirty-Third General Synod of the United Church of Christ reaffirm its commitment to stand alongside and in support of the efforts of Native Hawaiians to seek redress and restitution for the war crimes of the US against the Hawaiian Kingdom including, but not limited to, the crime of denationalization;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the United Church of Christ Board will provide the Thirty-Fourth General Synod of the United Church of Christ with a written and oral update on the progress on the implementation of this resolution.

FUNDING: The funding for the implementation of the Resolution will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available.

IMPLEMENTATION: The Officers of the Church, in consultation with appropriate ministries or other entities within the United Church of Christ, will determine the implementing body.

[i] Papa Makua Wendell Davis 6th generation descendant of Henry Opukahaia

[ii] Spencer, Aida Bescon. "How Gods Spirit Worked a Revolution in Hawaii in 1819-1825." *Pricilla Papers* 19, no. 3 (Summer 2005): 5-

11. https://www.cbeinternational.org/sites/default/files/pp193_2hgsuarihi1819.pdf

[iii] 1840 Constitution of the Hawaiian Kingdom," Wikipedia, July 14, 2020, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1840_Constitution_of_the_Hawaiian_Kingdom.

[iv] <https://www.hawaii-nation.org/constitution-1840.html>

[v] <http://hooilina.org/cgi-bin/journal?e=d-0journal--00-0-0-004-Document---0-1--1en-50---20-frameset-search-issue---001-0110escapewin&a=p&p=frameset&d=HASH0166acfd8ec6df2fa38fd161.5.2.3>

[vi] International Treaties," Hawaiian Kingdom Government, accessed December 13, 2020, <https://www.hawaiiankingdom.org/treaties.shtml>.

[vii] International Treaties," Hawaiian Kingdom Government, accessed December 13, 2020, <https://www.hawaiiankingdom.org/treaties.shtml>.

[viii] Rufus Anderson, *A Heathen Nation Evangelized: A History of the Sandwich Islands Mission* (London: Hodder and Stoughton, 1872), 284

[ix] Sally Merry, *Colonizing Hawaii* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2000), 35.

[x] The Hawaiian Kingdom Blog," National Lawyers Guild Calls Upon State of Hawai'i to Comply with International Law of Occupation, November 12, 2020, <https://hawaiiankingdom.org/blog/national-lawyers-guild-calls-upon-state-of-hawaii-to-comply-with-international-law-of-occupation/>

[xi] Charles McCollough, "Why Our Church Apologized to Hawaii," Why our church apologized To Hawai'i, December 13, 2020, https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/unitedchurchofchrist/legacy_url/11261/mccollough.pdf?1418437063

[xii] http://rescarta.ucc.org/jsp/RcWebImageViewer.jsp?doc_id=8abee2f6-352d-48f9-958b-49a311bc4489/ucoc0000/UD000001/00000019

[xiii] 103d Congress Joint Resolution, "Public Law 103-150," Statute-107-Pg 1510, November 23, 1993, <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/STATUTE-107/pdf/STATUTE-107-Pg1510.pdf>

[xiv] Sai, Dr. Keanu. "National Lawyers Guild Calls Upon State of Hawai'i to Comply with International Law of Occupation." *Hawaiian Kingdom Blog*, November 12, 2020. <https://hawaiiankingdom.org/blog/national-lawyers-guild-calls-upon-state-of-hawaii-to-comply-with-international-law-of-occupation/>