

The following resolution was approved by the delegates at a plenary of the Thirty-Fourth General Synod of the United Church of Christ, held in Indianapolis June 30-July 4, 2023.

A RESOLUTION TO URGE ALL RESPONSIBLE ENTITIES TO JOIN IN REPARATIONS TO FUND CHRISTIAN HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE EDUCATION PROGRAMS TO UNDO A CENTURY OF EXTINCTION. AMERICANIZATION AND INDOCTRINATION POLICIES EXTINGUISHED THE ORIGINAL CHRISTIAN HAWAIIAN ALPHABET.

A Resolution of Witness

TEXT OF THE MOTION

WHEREAS the US congress passed the 1819 Civilization Act¹ which funded missionary organizations to civilize natives in Hawaii, America, Alaska and

WHEREAS in 1820 the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions arrived in the Sandwich Islands², and

WHEREAS in 1823 Luakini Maunakea ma Kalapana was the first church built on the East side of Hawaii island³, and

WHEREAS December 19, 1831, Princess Pauahi was born an heir of the Kamehameha family⁴, and

WHEREAS the process to translate and print the first Hawaiian Bible titled “Palapala Hemolele” began in 1822 - 1839 and was published in two parts 1832 Buke I (Old Testament and 1839 Buke II (New Testament)⁵ and

WHEREAS the all white officers of the Hawaiian Evangelical Association board was created in 1854⁶, and

WHEREAS in 1863 Rufus Anderson Secretary of the ABCFM recommended to the all white board members to transfer control of the church in the Hawaiian Kingdom to Hawaiians which the churches officers did not do continuing their control today⁷, and

WHEREAS on October 16, 1884 Princess Pauahi passed leaving a legacy through her will to educate Hawaiian children in the Christian Hawaiian language⁸, and

WHEREAS on November 4, 1887 the founding ceremony blessed the opening of the Kamehameha schools for boys⁹, and

WHEREAS Reverend William Oleson the first principal for the Kamehameha Schools banned the Christian Hawaiian language from being spoken on the Kamehameha Schools campus¹⁰, and

WHEREAS in 1887 White church officers of the Hawaiian Evangelical Association and Reverend William Oleson forced King Kalakaua to sign a new constitution¹¹, and

39 **WHEREAS** in 1893 White church officers of the Hawaiian Evangelical Association
40 collaborated with U.S. minister Stevens to overthrow the Hawaiian Kingdom¹², and

41
42 **WHEREAS** in 1895 the Republic of Hawaii implemented Act 57 which banned Christian
43 Hawaiian language from being spoken in public schools¹³, and

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45 **WHEREAS** in 1906 the Department of Public Instruction implemented policies of
46 Americanization in Public schools to Americanize all the children¹⁴, and

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48 **WHEREAS** in 1916 the Congress passed the National Defense Act that funded the identity
49 altering JROTC program at Kamehameha schools¹⁵, and

50
51 **WHEREAS** all of these actions and more combined to extinguish the Christian Hawaiian
52 language of twenty-one letters from 1822¹⁶, and

53
54 **WHEREAS** in the 1980's revitalization of Hawaiian language only thirteen letters were
55 recognized as being Hawaiian letters;

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57 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Thirty-Fourth General Synod of the United
58 Church of Christ recognizes the first Christian Hawaiian language (alphabet of twenty-one
59 letters), which was created by Hawaiian Chiefs and The American Board of Commissioners
60 for Foreign Missions (ABCFM) missionaries, that was printed in 1822, as relevant and
61 valuable and calls on all other settings of the United Church of Christ to do the same; and

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63 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Thirty-Fourth General Synod of the United Church
64 of Christ encourages all settings of the United Church of Christ to increase awareness of the
65 Americanization and indoctrination policies, enforced by the colonizers of the Hawaiian
66 Kingdom, that led to extinguishing the Christian Hawaiian language as part of a larger project
67 of cultural genocide; and

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69 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the Thirty-Fourth General Synod of the United Church
70 of Christ encourages all settings of the United Church of Christ to support the Association of
71 Hawaiian Evangelical Churches of the UCC's initiative to solicit funding from all settings of
72 the Church to revitalize the Christian Hawaiian language through luakini¹⁷ education
73 programs from preschool through adulthood.

74
75 **FUNDING:** The funding for the implementation of the resolution will be made in accordance
76 with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available.

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

¹ https://drive.google.com/file/d/18ZMs7zIQF0hm3wsuSLX_igLJXAdyZ6ka/view

² <https://www.congregationallibrary.org/finding-aids/ABCFMOverview>

³ <https://www.papakilodatabase.com/pdnupepa/?a=d&d=KLHA18750826-01.2.12&srpos=1&anchor=sectionleveltabtranslationarea&e=-----en-20--1--txt-txIN%7ctxNU%7ctxTR%7ctxTI-%22Luakini+Maunakea%22-----#sectionleveltabtranslationarea>

⁴ https://www.ksbe.edu/about_us/about_pauahi/#:~:text=Pauahi%20P%C4%81k%C4%AB%20was%20born%20on,under%20his%20rule%20in%201810

⁵ <https://historichawaii.org/2022/08/25/the-first-printing-a-written-hawaiian-language/>

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- ⁶ <https://ahecchurch.weebly.com/>
- ⁷ <https://hawaiiankingdom.org/blog/dr-ron-williams-second-of-four-part-series-united-church-of-christ-ho%ca%bbeu%ca%bbeu-hou-sons-of-the-mission-and-the-shaping-of-a-new-mission-1863-1888/>
- ⁸ https://www.ksbe.edu/about_us/about_pauahi/#:~:text=Pauahi%20P%C4%81k%C4%AB%20was%20born%20on,under%20his%20rule%20in%201810.
- ⁹ https://www.ksbe.edu/about_us/about_pauahi/#:~:text=Pauahi%20P%C4%81k%C4%AB%20was%20born%20on,under%20his%20rule%20in%201810
- ¹⁰ <https://kaiwakiloumoku.ksbe.edu/article/essays-supression-of-hawaiian-culture-at-kamehameha-schools#:~:text=This%20was%20in%20the%20late,at%20Kaiwi'ula%20was%20relentless.>
- ¹¹ <https://hawaiiankingdom.org/blog/dr-ron-williams-third-of-four-part-series-united-church-of-christ-poe-karitano-oiaio/>
- ¹² <https://hawaiiankingdom.org/blog/dr-ron-williams-third-of-four-part-series-united-church-of-christ-poe-karitano-oiaio/>
- ¹³ https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2022/bills/HB2284_.HTM#:~:text=Act%2057%20declared%20an%20English,Session%20Laws%20of%20Hawaii%201986.
- ¹⁴ <https://hawaiiankingdom.org/blog/addressing-americanization-by-the-hawaiian-council-of-regency/>
- ¹⁵ <https://blogs.ksbe.edu/archives/collections-2/r-o-t-c-j-r-o-t-c-and-military-training-collection/>
- ¹⁶ <https://historichawaii.org/2022/08/25/the-first-printing-a-written-hawaiian-language/>
- ¹⁷ <https://wehewehe.org/gsd12.85/cgi-bin/hdict?a=q&r=1&hs=1&m=-1&o=-1&qto=4&e=p-11000-00--off-0hdict--00-1----0-10-0---0---0direct-10-ED--4--textpukuieibert%252ctextmamaka-----0-11--11-haw-Zz-1---Zz-1-home---00-3-1-00-0--4----0-0-11-00-0utfZz-8-00&q=luakini&fqv=textpukuieibert%252ctextmamaka&af=1&fqf=ED#hero-bottom-banner>