

[05-01] A Resolution Encouraging to End 128 Years of War Between the United States of America and the Hawaiian Kingdom
Sponsor: No Assignment
Committee: [05] Committee #05
Event: 2021 General Synod
Type: General Synod Full Consideration

Action Summary

Recommendation	Action
On Recommendation (A RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING TO END 128 YEARS OF WAR BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE HAWAIIAN KINGDOM), the Committee #05 Committee acted as follows:	Approve as Amended (CA)
On Recommendation (A RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING TO END 128 YEARS OF WAR BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE HAWAIIAN KINGDOM), the General Assembly acted as follows:	Approve (AA)

Assembly Action

On Recommendation (A RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING TO END 128 YEARS OF WAR BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE HAWAIIAN KINGDOM), the General Assembly acted as follows:

Approve

Electronic Vote - Plenary

Affirmative:328

Negative:122

Abstaining:34

Committee Recommendation

On Recommendation (A RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING TO END 128 YEARS OF WAR BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE HAWAIIAN KINGDOM), the Committee #05 Committee acted as follows:

Approve as Amended

Voice Vote

Final text: Show Amended Text

Below is the text of the resolution as revised by the committee. This is the text the Plenary will be discussing and voting on. To see the edits made by the committee, please click on the link at the bottom of this resolution text.

TEXT OF THE MOTION

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 Missions) 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://ahccchurch.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.

Link to PDF of resolution showing committee's amendments

[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_2hgswarihi1819.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/>

Recommendation

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

Below is the original resolution as submitted and referred to a General Synod Committee.

Please note: internal hyperlinks to endnotes are not functional and will send you out of the resolution. Please look for the corresponding endnote at the end of the document. Endnote hyperlinks to external documents do work.

A link to a PDF of this resolution as submitted is at the end of this listing.

The Business Committee of the Thirty-Third General Synod has recommended this proposed resolution be sent to a Committee of the General Synod.

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

A Resolution of Witness

Submitted by the Association of Hawaiian Evangelical Churches of the
Hawai'i Conference United Church of Christ

SUMMARY

This Resolution calls the United Church to actualize its historical commitment to justice and peace with the friendly Christian Hawaiian Kingdom nation whose constitutions are founded upon Christian values.

BIBLICAL & THEOLOGICAL RATIONALE

In the beginning humans were created in the image of God and were called "good". Thus, all humans were created equal. The call to justice by the prophets is God's commandment to treat everyone justly by acting righteously.

God's moral law, enshrined in the Ten Commandments, is eternal and unchanging. Our bible is built on it. These laws are God's stated will, the way he wants his kingdom and his universe to operate. In order, for justice to prevail, human laws must mirror God's law. Justice is to prescribe the right way, to do things in an appropriate way. Moses demonstrated this concept when he said, "You shall not show partiality in judgment; you shall hear the small and the great alike. You shall not fear man, for the judgment is God's." (Deuteronomy 1:17). Justice has to do with equity in judgment without regard for a person's status. It is an equitable application of God's moral law to all people without partiality. (Numbers 15:16). When we do not operate according to biblical standards, we have abandoned God's moral law, so every man does what is right in his own eyes (Judges 21:25).

Jesus came to proclaim liberty and freedom to announce God's justice being satisfied through what he called, "the favorable year of the Lord", Old Testament Year of Jubilee. It was when God set society back in order. According to Leviticus 25:8-9, Israel could not have Jubilee until the people first observed the Day of Atonement. They could not have true justice on the human level until they got right with God on the vertical level. Social justice will not be complete until the people in a society, even the Church, get right with God. It is bringing the presence, precepts, and power of God to bear on society, pulling society back in an upright position.

HISTORICAL GROUNDING

Responding to the wish of Henry Opukahaia [1] [2] but burdened with the false ideology of White Supremacy, missionaries of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Mission (ABCFM) were sent to Hawaii arriving in 1820 (201 years ago).

Rev. Rufus Anderson [8] attempted to correct the evils of White Supremacy and advocated for a Hawaiian-led and Hawaiian-run church during his visit to the Hawaiian Kingdom in 1863.

In 1893, descendants of missionaries led the illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom.

President Paul Sherry traveled to Hawaii and on January 17, 1993, the 100th anniversary of the overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom government, apologized to the Hawaiian people at Kaunakapili Church [12]. This apology was cited in Public Law 103-150 signed by President William Clinton on November 23, 1993. [13]

Given the present COVID-19 pandemic and the institutional racism seen recently, the "God is Still Speaking" church, the United Church of Christ, is challenged to actualize its struggle to fulfill the principle of justice and reconciliation within the United Church of Christ. 128 years of war crimes continues to target and violate Christian Hawaiian citizens in Hawaiian Kingdom territory and abroad which amount to a colossal scale of humanitarian and human rights violations daily.

TEXT OF THE MOTION

WHEREAS, Henry Opukahaia is known as the missionary from the Hawaiian Kingdom that encouraged American missionaries to arrive in Hawaii [1] [2]; 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" [3] [4] [5]; and

WHEREAS, on December 19, 1842, United States President John Tyler agreed to recognize the independence of the Hawaiian Kingdom [6]; 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 [7]; 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." [8]; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Anderson's advice was not followed and the government of the Hawaiian Kingdom was overthrown on January 17, 1893 [9]; 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 [10]; 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 [11] [12]; 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 [13], 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" [14]; 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://ahccchurch.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 strongly urges the Mayors for the counties of the State of Hawaii "to begin to comply with international humanitarian law in its prolonged and illegal occupation of the Hawaiian Islands."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Thirty-Third General Synod of the United Church of Christ strongly urges the Governor for the State of Hawaii "to begin to comply with international humanitarian law in its prolonged and illegal occupation of the Hawaiian Islands."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Thirty-Third General Synod of the United Church of Christ strongly urges the U.S. Congress "to begin to comply with international humanitarian law in its prolonged and illegal occupation of the Hawaiian Islands."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Thirty-Third General Synod of the United Church of Christ strongly urges the U.S. President "to begin to comply with international humanitarian law in its prolonged and illegal occupation of the Hawaiian Islands."

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Thirty-Third General Synod of the United Church of Christ strongly urges all United Nation member States and non-member States to cooperate to ensure the United States complies with international humanitarian law and bring an end to the unlawful occupation of the Hawaiian Islands.

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.

- [1] Papa Makua Wendell Davis 5th generation lineal descendant of Henry Opukahaia
- [2] 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.eksendia.com/tm/school_journal_online.aspx.
- [3] "1840 Constitution of the Hawaiian Kingdom," Wikipedia, July 14, 2020, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1840_Constitution_of_the_Hawaiian_Kingdom.
- [4] <https://www.hawaii-nation.org/constitution-1840.html>
- [5] <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>
- [6] "International Treaties," Hawaiian Kingdom Government, accessed December 13, 2020, <https://www.hawaiiankingdom.org/treaties.shtml>.
- [7] "International Treaties," Hawaiian Kingdom Government, accessed December 13, 2020, <https://www.hawaiiankingdom.org/treaties.shtml>.
- [8] Rufus Anderson, *A Heathen Nation Evangelized: A History of the Sandwich Islands Mission* (London: Hodder and Stoughton, 1872), 284
- [9] Sally Merry, *Colonizing Hawaii* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2000), 35.
- [10] "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/>
- [11] 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
- [12] http://rescarta.ucc.org/jsp/RcWebImageViewer.jsp?doc_id=8abee2f6-352d-48f9-958b-49a311bc4489/ucoc0000/UD000001/00000019
- [13] 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>
- [14] 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/>

Additional Resources

Educational Intensive: Hawaiian Self Governance

Educational Intensive: Hawaiian Self Governance

Presenters: S. James Anaya, and Robert A. Williams, Jr.

For the topic related to the Hawaiian Sovereignty resolution, we are fortunate to have permission to share a 2015 previously-recorded presentation on this topic by **S. James Anaya, and Robert A. Williams, Jr.**, This presentation is from the INDIGENOUS PEOPLES LAW AND POLICY PROGRAM

At THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA, JAMES E. ROGERS COLLEGE OF LAW, and titled **STUDY ON THE INTERNATIONAL LAW AND POLICY RELATING TO THE SITUATION OF THE NATIVE HAWAIIAN PEOPLE**

Link to the Full Report: **STUDY ON THE INTERNATIONAL LAW AND POLICY RELATING TO THE SITUATION OF THE NATIVE HAWAIIAN PEOPLE**

S. James Anaya is now the Dean and University Distinguished Professor at the University of Colorado Law School in Boulder. He has taught and written extensively on international human rights and issues concerning indigenous peoples. Among his numerous publications are his acclaimed book, *Indigenous Peoples in International Law* (Oxford Univ. Press (1996); 2d ed. (2004)), and his widely used textbook, *International Human Rights: Problems of Law, Policy and Process* (Wolters/Kluwer, 6th ed. 2011) (with Hurst Hannum and Dinah Shelton). He served as the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples from May 2008 to June 2014.

Robert A. Williams, Jr. is the Regents Professor, E. Thomas Sullivan Professor of Law and Faculty Co-Chair of the University of Arizona Indigenous Peoples Law and Policy Program. He was named the first Oneida Indian Nation Visiting Professor of Law at Harvard Law School (2003-2004), having previously served there as Bennet Boskey Distinguished Visiting Lecturer of Law. He is the author of *The American Indian in Western Legal Thought: The Discourses of Conquest* (1990), which received the Gustavus Meyers Human Rights Center Award as one of the outstanding books published in 1990 on the subject of prejudice in the United States. He has also written *Linking Arms Together: American Indian Treaty Visions of Law and Peace, 1600-1800* (1997) and *Like a Loaded Weapon: The Rehnquist Court, Indian Rights and the Legal History of Racism in America* (2005). He is co-author and contributor to a variety of other books and publications. Professor Williams has also served as Chief Justice for the Court of Appeals, Pascua Yaqui Indian Reservation, and as Justice for the Court of Appeals and trial judge pro tem for the Tohono O'odham Nation.

Hawaii Sovereignty- Resolution as Adopted by General Synod 33

ENCOURAGING_TO_END_128_YEARS_OF_WAR_BETWEEN_THE_UNITED_STATES_OF_AMERICA_AND_THE_HAWAIIAN_KINGDOM-FINAL.pdf

PDF of Original Resolution: A RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING TO END 128 YEARS OF WAR BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE HAWAIIAN KINGDOM

Hawaii.pdf