

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

**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**

Submitted by the  
Association of Hawaiian Evangelical Churches of the United Church of Christ

1 **SUMMARY**

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3 This resolution calls on the United Church of Christ and its conferences to collaborate with  
4 the Federal government, local organizations and protestant entities to fund the Association  
5 of Hawaiian Evangelical Churches Christian Hawaiian language revitalization program  
6 (adult education, preschool programs). In 1819 the Federal Government funded the  
7 civilization act that funded boarding schools which initiated acts of cultural genocide on  
8 Hawaiians and American Indians. The American Board of Commissioners for Foreign  
9 Missions missionaries assisted to translate and develop the first Christian Hawaiian  
10 language Bible. The Kamehameha Schools was one of eleven boarding schools listed in the  
11 May 2022 Department of Interior investigative report that implemented policies of cultural  
12 genocide on Hawaiian children. The spoken Christian Hawaiian language has been extinct  
13 for centuries. Two hundred years later the AHEC would like to undo the atrocities that  
14 were committed by Kamehameha Schools and others by providing Christian Hawaiian  
15 language luakini<sup>1</sup> education programs.

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17 **BIBLICAL, THEOLOGICAL, AND ETHICAL RATIONALE**

18 “In the beginning humans were created in the image of god and were called “good”. Thus, all  
19 humans were created equal. The call to justice by the prophets is God’s commandment to  
20 treat everyone justly by acting righteously.

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22 God’s moral law, enshrined in the Ten Commandments, is eternal and unchanging. Our bible  
23 is built on it. These laws are God’s stated will, the way he wants his kingdom and his  
24 universe to operate. In order, for justice to prevail, human laws must mirror God’s law.  
25 Justice is to prescribe the right way, to do things in an appropriate way. Moses demonstrated  
26 this concept when he said, “You shall not show partiality in judgment; you shall hear the  
27 small and the great alike. You shall not fear man, for the judgment is God’s.” (Deuteronomy  
28 1:17) Justice has to do with equity in judgment without regard for a person’s status. It is an  
29 equitable application of God’s moral law to all people without partiality. (Numbers 15:16)  
30 When we do not operate according to biblical standards, we have abandoned God’s moral  
31 law, so every man does what is right in his own eyes (Judges 21:25).

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33 Jesus came to proclaim liberty and freedom to announce God’s justice being satisfied through  
34 what he called, “the favorable year of the Lord”, Old Testament Year of Jubilee. It was when  
35 God set society back in order. According to Leviticus 25:8-9, Israel could not have Jubilee

36 until the people first observed the Day of Atonement. They could not have true justice on the  
37 human level until they got right with God on the vertical level. Social justice will not be  
38 complete until the people in a society, even the Church, get right with God. It is bringing the  
39 presence, precepts, and power of God to bear on society, pulling society back in an upright  
40 position.”

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## 42 **HISTORICAL GROUNDING**

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44 The history of cultural genocide upon Hawaiian children through formal policies of  
45 Americanization indoctrination programs began from the 1819 Civilization act according to  
46 the Department of Interior Investigative Report of May 2022. “As the U.S. Senate has  
47 recognized, funds from the 1819 Civilization Fund “were apportioned among those societies  
48 and individuals—usually missionary organizations—that had been prominent in the effort to  
49 ‘civilize’ the Indians.”<sup>2</sup> The American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Mission  
50 missionaries arrived in Hawaii in 1820. The sons and grandsons of these missionaries  
51 implemented Americanization polices that enforced strict rules and corporal punishment to  
52 extinguish all semblance of native Hawaiian identity in Hawaiian children. “The Federal  
53 Indian boarding school system deployed systematic militarized and identity-alteration  
54 methodologies to attempt to assimilate American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian  
55 children through education, including but not limited to the following: (1) renaming Indian  
56 children from Indian to English names; (2) cutting hair of Indian children; (3) discouraging or  
57 preventing the use of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian languages,  
58 religions, and cultural practices; and (4) organizing Indian and Native Hawaiian children into  
59 units to perform military drills.”<sup>3</sup> “Federal Indian boarding school rules were often enforced  
60 through punishment, including corporal punishment such as solitary confinement; flogging;  
61 withholding food; whipping; slapping; and cuffing. The Federal Indian boarding school  
62 system at times made older Indian children punish younger Indian children.”<sup>4</sup> Senior cadets at  
63 Kamehameha Schools enforced corporal punishment on incoming Hawaiian students well  
64 into the 1990’s. More importantly The first principal of Kamehameha Schools, Reverend  
65 William Oleson, banned the Hawaiian language in Kamehameha classrooms and playing  
66 fields.<sup>5</sup> He also drafted and signed the Bayonet constitution in 1887 which led to White  
67 Supremacist control of the Hawaiian Kingdom. On January 16, 1893, US ambassador  
68 Stevens and the USS Boston marines invaded the Hawaiian Kingdom initiating a State of  
69 War.<sup>6</sup> In 1896, the all white ruling oligarchy Republic of Hawaii created Act 57 that banned  
70 speaking Christian Hawaiian language at all public schools.<sup>7</sup> These combined actions  
71 eventually extinguished the spoken Christian Hawaiian language that Princess Pauahi learned  
72 growing up as a Christian. The first alphabet of the Christian Hawaiian language printed in  
73 the first book separated the Hawaiian alphabet into Hawaiian letters and “The following are  
74 used in spelling foreign words:” Gg ge, Ff fe, Se si, Yy yi.<sup>8</sup> The revitalization of Hawaiian  
75 language that began in the 1980’s only recognized 13 letters in the Hawaiian alphabet. This  
76 resolution supports the Association of Hawaiian Evangelical Churches’ initiative to revitalize  
77 the Christian Hawaiian language that Princess Pauahi learned.

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## 79 **TEXT OF THE MOTION**

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81 **WHEREAS** the US congress passed the 1819 Civilization Act<sup>9</sup> which funded missionary  
82 organizations to civilize natives in Hawaii, America, Alaska and

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84 **WHEREAS** in 1820 the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions arrived in  
85 the Sandwich Islands<sup>10</sup>, and

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**WHEREAS** in 1823 Luakini Maunakea ma Kalapana was the first church built on the East side of Hawaii island<sup>11</sup>, and

**WHEREAS** December 19, 1831, Princess Pauahi was born an heir of the Kamehameha family<sup>12</sup>, 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)<sup>13</sup> and

**WHEREAS** the all white officers of the Hawaiian Evangelical Association board was created in 1854<sup>14</sup>, 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 today<sup>15</sup>, and

**WHEREAS** on October 16, 1884 Princess Pauahi passed leaving a legacy through her will to educate Hawaiian children in the Christian Hawaiian language<sup>16</sup>, and

**WHEREAS** on November 4, 1887 the founding ceremony blessed the opening of the Kamehameha schools for boys<sup>17</sup>, and

**WHEREAS** Reverend William Oleson the first principal for the Kamehameha Schools banned the Christian Hawaiian language from being spoken on the Kamehameha Schools campus<sup>18</sup>, and

**WHEREAS** in 1887 White church officers of the Hawaiian Evangelical Association and Reverend William Oleson forced King Kalakaua to sign a new constitution<sup>19</sup>, and

**WHEREAS** in 1893 White church officers of the Hawaiian Evangelical Association collaborated with U.S. minister Stevens to overthrow the Hawaiian Kingdom<sup>20</sup>, and

**WHEREAS** in 1895 the Republic of Hawaii implemented Act 57 which banned Christian Hawaiian language from being spoken in public schools<sup>21</sup>, and

**WHEREAS** in 1906 the Department of Public Instruction implemented policies of Americanization in Public schools to Americanize all the children<sup>22</sup>, and

**WHEREAS** in 1916 the Congress passed the National Defense Act that funded the identity altering JROTC program at Kamehameha schools<sup>23</sup>, and

**WHEREAS** all of these actions and more combined to extinguish the Christian Hawaiian language of twenty-one letters from 1822<sup>24</sup>, and

**WHEREAS** in the 1980’s revitalization of Hawaiian language only thirteen letters were recognized as being Hawaiian letters;

135 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Thirty-Fourth General Synod of the United  
136 Church of Christ recognizes the first Christian Hawaiian language alphabet of twenty-one  
137 letters which was created by Hawaiian Chiefs and ABCFM missionaries that was printed in  
138 1822 as relevant and valuable and calls on all other settings of the United Church of Christ to  
139 do the same; and

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141 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Thirty-Fourth General Synod of the United Church  
142 of Christ encourages all settings of the Church to increase awareness of the indoctrination  
143 Americanization policies enforced in the Hawaiian Kingdom that led to extinguishing the  
144 spoken Christian Hawaiian language as part of a larger project of cultural genocide; and

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146 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the Thirty-Fourth General Synod of the United Church  
147 of Christ encourages all settings of the Church to support the Association of Hawaiian  
148 Evangelical Churches' initiative to solicit funding from all settings of the church to revitalize  
149 the Christian Hawaiian language through luakini<sup>25</sup> education programs from preschool  
150 through adulthood.

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

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

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<sup>1</sup> <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>

<sup>2</sup> DOI Report page 7

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/18ZMs7zIQF0hm3wsuSLX\\_igLJXAdyZ6ka/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/18ZMs7zIQF0hm3wsuSLX_igLJXAdyZ6ka/view)

<sup>3</sup> DOI Report page 7

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/18ZMs7zIQF0hm3wsuSLX\\_igLJXAdyZ6ka/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/18ZMs7zIQF0hm3wsuSLX_igLJXAdyZ6ka/view)

<sup>4</sup> [https://drive.google.com/file/d/18ZMs7zIQF0hm3wsuSLX\\_igLJXAdyZ6ka/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/18ZMs7zIQF0hm3wsuSLX_igLJXAdyZ6ka/view)

<sup>5</sup> [https://drive.google.com/file/d/18ZMs7zIQF0hm3wsuSLX\\_igLJXAdyZ6ka/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/18ZMs7zIQF0hm3wsuSLX_igLJXAdyZ6ka/view)

<sup>6</sup> [https://drive.google.com/file/d/18ZMs7zIQF0hm3wsuSLX\\_igLJXAdyZ6ka/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/18ZMs7zIQF0hm3wsuSLX_igLJXAdyZ6ka/view)

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.hawaiipublicschools.org/TeachingAndLearning/StudentLearning/HawaiianEducation/Pages/History-of-the-Hawaiian-Education-program.aspx#:~:text=After%20the%20overthrow%20of%20the,for%20the%20next%20four%20generations.>

<sup>8</sup> <https://historichawaii.org/2022/08/25/the-first-printing-a-written-hawaiian-language/>

<sup>9</sup> [https://drive.google.com/file/d/18ZMs7zIQF0hm3wsuSLX\\_igLJXAdyZ6ka/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/18ZMs7zIQF0hm3wsuSLX_igLJXAdyZ6ka/view)

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.congregationallibrary.org/finding-aids/ABCFMOverview>

<sup>11</sup> <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>

<sup>12</sup> [https://www.ksbe.edu/about\\_us/about\\_pauahi/#:~:text=Pauahi%20P%C4%81k%C4%AB%20was%20born%20on,under%20his%20rule%20in%201810](https://www.ksbe.edu/about_us/about_pauahi/#:~:text=Pauahi%20P%C4%81k%C4%AB%20was%20born%20on,under%20his%20rule%20in%201810)

<sup>13</sup> <https://historichawaii.org/2022/08/25/the-first-printing-a-written-hawaiian-language/>

<sup>14</sup> <https://ahcchurch.weebly.com/>

<sup>15</sup> <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/>

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<sup>16</sup>[https://www.ksbe.edu/about\\_us/about\\_pauahi/#:~:text=Pauahi%20P%C4%81k%C4%AB%20was%20born%20on,under%20his%20rule%20in%201810](https://www.ksbe.edu/about_us/about_pauahi/#:~:text=Pauahi%20P%C4%81k%C4%AB%20was%20born%20on,under%20his%20rule%20in%201810).

<sup>17</sup>[https://www.ksbe.edu/about\\_us/about\\_pauahi/#:~:text=Pauahi%20P%C4%81k%C4%AB%20was%20born%20on,under%20his%20rule%20in%201810](https://www.ksbe.edu/about_us/about_pauahi/#:~:text=Pauahi%20P%C4%81k%C4%AB%20was%20born%20on,under%20his%20rule%20in%201810)

<sup>18</sup><https://kaiwakiloumoku.ksbe.edu/article/essays-supression-of-hawaiian-culture-at-kamehameha-schools#:~:text=This%20was%20in%20the%20late,at%20Kaiwi'ula%20was%20relentless>.

<sup>19</sup><https://hawaiiankingdom.org/blog/dr-ron-williams-third-of-four-part-series-united-church-of-christ-poe-karitiano-oiaio/>

<sup>20</sup><https://hawaiiankingdom.org/blog/dr-ron-williams-third-of-four-part-series-united-church-of-christ-poe-karitiano-oiaio/>

<sup>21</sup>[https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2022/bills/HB2284\\_.HTM#:~:text=Act%2057%20declared%20an%20English,Session%20Laws%20of%20Hawaii%201986](https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2022/bills/HB2284_.HTM#:~:text=Act%2057%20declared%20an%20English,Session%20Laws%20of%20Hawaii%201986).

<sup>22</sup> <https://hawaiiankingdom.org/blog/addressing-americanization-by-the-hawaiian-council-of-regency/>

<sup>23</sup> <https://blogs.ksbe.edu/archives/collections-2/r-o-t-c-j-r-o-t-c-and-military-training-collection/>

<sup>24</sup> <https://historichawaii.org/2022/08/25/the-first-printing-a-written-hawaiian-language/>

<sup>25</sup><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>