A Resolution of Witness

TEXT OF THE MOTION

WHEREAS the US congress passed the 1819 Civilization Act 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 Islands, and

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

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

WHEREAS the all white officers of the Hawaiian Evangelical Association board was created in 1854, 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, and

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

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

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

WHEREAS in 1893 White church officers of the Hawaiian Evangelical Association collaborated with U.S. minister Stevens to overthrow the Hawaiian Kingdom, and
WHEREAS in 1895 the Republic of Hawaii implemented Act 57 which banned Christian Hawaiian language from being spoken in public schools\[13\], and

WHEREAS in 1906 the Department of Public Instruction implemented policies of Americanization in Public schools to Americanize all the children\[14\], and

WHEREAS in 1916 the Congress passed the National Defense Act that funded the identity altering JROTC program at Kamehameha schools\[15\], and

WHEREAS all of these actions and more combined to extinguish the Christian Hawaiian language of twenty-one letters from 1822\[16\], and

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

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

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

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Thirty-Fourth General Synod of the United Church of Christ encourages all settings of the United Church of Christ to support the Association of Hawaiian Evangelical Churches of the UCC’s initiative to solicit funding from all settings of the Church to revitalize the Christian Hawaiian language through luakini\[17\] education programs from preschool through adulthood.

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 https://drive.google.com/file/d/18ZMs7iQFOhm3wsuSLX_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%7ctxTL-%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/
6 https://ahecchurch.weebly.com/