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 Hawaiʻi 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 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 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 Kaumakapili Church. This apology was cited in Public Law 103-150 signed by President William Clinton on November 23, 1993.

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, 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.”, and

**WHEREAS,** on December 19, 1842, United States President John Tyler agreed to recognize the independence of the Hawaiian Kingdom; 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, 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 Hawaii 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.", and

**WHEREAS,** Rev. Anderson’s advice was not followed and the government of the Hawaiian Kingdom was overthrown on January 17, 1893, 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, and

WHEREAS, in 1891, 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, 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, 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.”

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 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.

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i Papa Makua Wendell Davis 5th generation lineal descendant of Henry Opukahaia


iv https://www.hawaii-nation.org/constitution-1840.html

v http://hoolina.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=HASH0166acfd8ec6df2fa38fd1615.2.3


