

**HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
NEW BUSINESS ITEM**

NB #: 29

DATE: 8/4/21

TITLE: RESTORATION OF INDIGENOUS PLACE NAMES

- 1 The Hawaii State Teachers Association shall advocate for the restoration of indigenous place
- 2 names, focusing efforts on all public schools named after American colonizers.
- 3

Submitted by: O. Tui for Human and Civil Rights and Government Relations committees

Originator: J. Kunimitsu, Human and Civil Rights Committee Chair
H. McKeen, Government Relations Committee Chair

Rationale: By allowing public schools to bear the name of colonizers that contributed to the massive decline of the Native Hawaiian population and the near-extinction of the Hawaiian language and cultural practices, we perpetuate the idea that the actions taken by those people were okay, no matter how long ago this happened. Colonization has deeply affected Native Hawaiians in many ways. While there has been a cultural renaissance and increased opportunities for people to learn the language and culture, Native Hawaiians are still at a disadvantage when it comes to institutional and systemic structures and political power.

Names carry meaning and in Hawai'i we have a deep connection to place which is reflected in the phrase Aloha 'āina. Schools should be named to reflect the community, spirit and the legacy they want to foster in a community.

This sentiment aligns with [HSTA's policy statement on Nā Hopena A'o](#) passed in 2019:

“The Hawaii State Teachers Association supports the HĀ philosophy of working together within HSTA and the Department of Education (DOE) system to include “everyone in the broader community to develop the competencies that strengthen a sense of belonging, responsibility, excellence, aloha, total-well-being and Hawaii (“BREATH”) in ourselves, students and others. With a foundation in Hawaiian values, language, culture and history,” HSTA supports HĀ (“BREATH”) as “a holistic learning process” reflecting in the uniqueness of Hawaii “with universal appeal and application to guide learners and leaders in the entire school community.”

TO BE COMPLETED BY ORIGINATOR:	
X (Done)	
	(1) Rationale (above) – explain why adoption of this NBI is necessary.
	(2) Governance Manual -- confer with the Executive Director or designee: (a) New name and policy number: _____ (b) Amendment/revision: existing policy name and number: _____ (c) Page number and Roman numeral citation: _____