

On June 20, 2010, President Obama issued Proclamation 8534 in honor of the bicentennial of the unification of Hawaii. The President, who like me and others who were born in Hawaii, recognizes the significance of King Kamehameha to our history. A relevant part of his statement is, "On this bicentennial King Kamehameha Day, we celebrate the history and heritage of the Aloha State, which has immeasurably enriched our national life and culture. The Hawaiian narrative is one of both profound triumph and, sadly, deep injustice. It is the story of Native Hawaiians oppressed by crippling disease, aborted treaties, and the eventual conquest of their sovereign kingdom. These grim milestones remind us of an unjust time in our history, as well as the many pitfalls in our Nation's long and difficult journey to perfect itself. Yet, through the peaks and valleys of our American story, Hawaii's steadfast sense of community and mutual support shows the progress that results when we are united in a spirit of limitless possibility."

I would like to also add, as Chairman LUNGREN pointed out, what King Kamehameha is also known for is creating the law of the land, the law, as we call it, the Law of the Splintered Paddle. In Hawaii we also call it Ke Kanawai Mamalahoe. This is an interesting story, and one that people may not believe. It is really the story of a warrior king and his humanity. It was a law to protect the civilians at a time of war. It is a lesson in human life because the king, warrior king, decreed that any human life was precious, and it was wrong for the powerful to mistreat the weaker.

Though many of us think of it as a celebration with parades and, as we call it at home hoolauleas, festivities, and parties, it is more importantly a symbol of that which is Hawaii, that which makes us so unique.

I would like to express my appreciation on behalf of the people of Hawaii, to Speaker BOEHNER, Chairman LUNGREN, the architect of the Capitol, the Capitol Police, and all others who assist in this event.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would just say that it gives me great pleasure to join my colleague from Hawaii in bringing this resolution to the floor, particularly because my daughter, who was married in this town on Sunday, is on her way to Hawaii to celebrate her honeymoon and I believe will actually still be there on the 5th of June, so that she will see that up close and personal.

I would urge all my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of S. Con. Res. 16, legislation to authorize the use of the Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for the Lei Draping Ceremony to celebrate the birthday of King Kamehameha on June 5, 2011. The concurrent resolution, already passed in

the Senate, is cosponsored by the two Senators and my good friends from the State of Hawaii, Senator AKAKA and Senator INOUE. And I wish to thank all the Hawaiian congressional delegation for their support of this resolution to commemorate this historical event.

Mr. Speaker, the Kamehameha Lei Draping Ceremony in the Statuary Hall of the U.S. Capitol has been hosted by the Hawaii congressional delegation and Hawaii State Society of Washington, D.C. since 1969. For more than 40 years now we have conducted this ceremony each year on or about the second week of June to coincide with the celebration of King Kamehameha Day in the State of Hawaii.

Mr. Speaker, the King Kamehameha statue has now been moved to Emancipation Hall of the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, and in doing so, under section 103 of Public Law 110-437, it requires the enactment of a congressional resolution to authorize this annual celebration—hence, the resolution before the House floor today.

Mr. Speaker, King Kamehameha was one of the greatest Hawaiian warrior kings known among the Polynesian people. After some 2,000 years of tremendous rivalries among the warring chiefs of the Hawaiian Islands, it was prophesied among the Hawaiian priests that there will one day be born a high chief who will be a slayer of other high chiefs and he will unite all of the Hawaiian Islands under one rule. King Kamehameha fulfilled that prophecy, after almost 10 years of fighting against other rival chiefs of the Hawaiian Islands.

Mr. Speaker, King Kamehameha was about 6 feet, 8 inches and weighed almost 300 pounds. He learned the ancient martial arts, known among the Hawaiian people as lua. He also learned military tactics and the art of warfare from his warrior chief, Kekuhaupio. He was able to lift the ancient Naha Stone, which weighed 4,500 pounds. One of his favorite sports to prove agility and combat readiness involved the ability to dodge spears thrown at him simultaneously. King Kamehameha was able to do this with six spears—he would grab two, parry two more, and let the last two go by.

Mr. Speaker, King Kamehameha unified the islands and established peace and stability. He was shrewd in building prosperity for his people by encouraging agricultural development and promoting commercial trade in Europe and even with the United States. While he was open to new ideas, he was cautious and circumspect in the old way. He instituted the Law of the Splintered Paddle, or Mamalahoe as known among the Hawaiian people, which protected elderly men and women and children from any harm as they'd travel along the roadside.

Mr. Speaker, S. Con. Res. 16 reaffirms that the United States is built upon diversity, and we all share the same ideals of freedom and democracy and a commitment to justice for all people. These ideals embody the legacy of King Kamehameha the Great. It is only fitting that we not only honor the birth date of this great Hawaiian warrior king, but we continue to have the special ceremony of draping hundreds of flower leis on his statue that now stands prominently in the Emancipation Hall of the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center.

I urge my colleagues to support S. Con. Res. 16.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, aloha. I rise today in support of S. Con. Res. 16, which au-

thorizes the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor's Center for the 42nd Annual Kamehameha Day Lei Draping.

I would like to thank Speaker BOEHNER, Chairman LUNGREN, and Ranking Member BRADY for their support of this bill. The location of the Kamehameha statue in Emancipation Hall requires that a concurrent resolution be passed to authorize the use of the space for this event.

The Kamehameha Day Lei Draping has been hosted by the Hawaii Congressional Delegation and the Hawaii State Society of Washington D.C. since 1969. The event has been held on or about June 11th to coincide with the celebration of Kamehameha Day, a state holiday in Hawaii. This year, the event will be held on Sunday, June 5.

Born in 1758, Kamehameha was the first monarch to unify the Hawaiian Islands and is fondly remembered as a leader who was daring, strong, and courageous.

As King of all Hawaii, Kamehameha appointed governors for each island, made laws for the protection of all his people, planted taro, built houses and irrigation ditches, restored important cultural sites, encouraged industries like farming and fishing, managed the island's natural resources, and entered into trading agreements with other nations. The flag design he ordered for his kingdom later became the Seal of the State of Hawaii. He would rule the islands until his death in 1819.

I would like to close by thanking the staff of the Committee on House Administration, the Office of the Architect of the Capitol, and the Office of the Sergeant At Arms who each year help make this event possible. I urge my colleagues support of S. Con. Res. 16.

Mahalo nui loa (thank you).

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the concurrent resolution, S. Con. Res. 16.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 1484, by the yeas and nays;

S. 1082, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 1954, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

VETERANS APPEALS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2011

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GARDNER). The unfinished business is