

From: House of Representatives House Resolution #406
The Senate- Senate Concurrent Resolution #260
Fifteenth Legislature, 1989
State of Hawaii

RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANCE AND IMPORTANCE OF THE STATUE OF
FREEDOM AS A SYMBOL OF WORLD PEACE AND FREEDOM.

WHEREAS, the year 1989 also marks the bicentennial celebration of both the convening of our great nations law making body, the United States Congress, and the institution of the United States Constitution in 1789;

WHEREAS, the United States Congress convenes in the United States Capitol building located in Washington, D.C. to legislate public policy that impacts the rights and privileges of freedom that all Americans enjoy; and

WHEREAS, the dome of the United States Capitol Building is surmounted by a bronze statue which stands nineteen and one-half feet tall and weighs seven and one-half tons: and

WHEREAS this statue symbolizes “freedom in peace and war” and is officially known as THE STATUE OF FREEDOM, henceforth referred to as “FREEDOM”; and

WHEREAS, FREEDOM was created and sculpted by American sculptor Thomas Crawford who designed the bronze doors of the House and Senate wings (United States Capitol), the statuary of the Senate tympanum, and the statues of Justice and History above the Senate bronze doors; and

WHEREAS, FREEDOM is depicted as a woman clad in flowing draperies held in place by a brooch bearing the letters “U S”; and

WHEREAS, FREEDOM’s right hand rests upon a sheathed sword while her left holds a wreath and shield; and

WHEREAS, her head is covered by a helmet encircled with stars and surmounted by a crest composed of an eagle’s head and an arrangement of feathers; and

WHEREAS, FREEDOM stands on an iron globe encircled by the words “E PLURIBUS UNUM”; and

WHEREAS, when FREEDOM was erected on December 2, 1863, it was determined that her location on the Capitol dome made it impossible for the

American public to experience the statue and all it stands for, prompting a decision to place the plaster model from which the bronze statue was cast on public display in a more accessible location.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Fifteenth Legislature of the State of Hawaii. Regular Session of the 1989, the House of Representatives concurring, that in celebration of the thirtieth anniversary of statehood, the that in celebration of the Constitution and the United States Congress, and in appreciation of the rights and privileges of freedom which we enjoy as the Fiftieth State of the United States of America, the Hawaii State Legislature hereby recognizes the importance and significance of STATUE OF FREEDOM and its plaster model as symbols of peace and freedom.

To: House Committee on Intergovernmental Relations and International Affairs
the Honorable Terrace Tom, Chairman

From: Ramsay Taum, Administrator
Freedom of the cosmos Project

Re: HCR No. 390: Recognizing the Statue of Freedom as a Symbol of World
Peace and Freedom

Date: April 11, 1989

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee:

Aloha and thank you for this opportunity to testify in favor of House Concurrent Resolution No. 390 which recognizes the Statue of Freedom and its plaster model as symbols of world peace and freedom.

The Statue of Freedom is the bronze statue that surmounts the dome of the United States Capitol building in Washington D.C. It stands 19 and one-half feet tall, weighs in excess of 7 tons, and "like freedom itself, has had a stormy career."

"FREEDOM" was designed in 1855 by sculptor Thomas Crawford to symbolize "Freedom Triumphant in War and Peace." His original design drew heavy criticism from Secretary of War, Jefferson Davis, who argued that the wreath upon the statues head would serve to fuel fires of conflict already smoldering between southern pro-slavers and northern abolitionists. The wreath, derived from antique classical models, was associated with freedom for Roman slaves.

Crawford replaced the wreath with a helmet surmounted by the head of an eagle, an arrangement of feathers, and a circle of stars depicting "FREEDOM'S" heavenly origins. Once it was completed, the plaster model of "Freedom" was shipped from Leghorn, Italy, to New York late in 1858 where it was sent for casting. Ironically, the only person capable of completing the casting work was a black slave named Phillip Reed.

At the time of the statues dedication five years later, the northern armies had suffered severe defeats and were suffering from poor morale. the installation ceremony of "FREEDOM" was seen by President Lincoln as not only an "omen for American unity," but as the crowning feature of the Capitol dome, marking the completion of Capitol construction, a significant achievement considering the state of the nation at the time. When asked how he could justify continued work on the Capitol while the country was being torn apart by war, Lincoln replied. "If the people see the Capitol going on, it is a sign that we intend the Union shall go on."

On December 2 1863, at precisely twelve noon, the Statue of Freedom was secured on the tholos of the Capitol dome to the sounds of a thirty five gun salute, one for each State.

Although it was described as a "beautiful and poetical" symbol for a nation that loves peace, "FREEDOM" was heavily criticized because of its location on the cast iron dome made viewing it difficult from the Capitol grounds below. These criticisms prompted a decision to place the plaster model from which the statue had been cast on public display.

In December of 1890, after twenty two years in storage in the Capitol basement, the plaster model was relocated to the Smithsonian Institute's Arts and Industries building. It stood on display until 1967 when it was dismantled and removed to make way for building renovations. While the intent of those responsible for the statues removal was to return it to public display, other matters of greater priority have prevented this from happening. It might be said that "FREEDOM" had been unjustly incarcerated and sentenced to a prison term of twenty-two years.

The 100th Congress recognized the significance of both the Statue of Freedom and its plaster model by authorizing the Architect of the Capitol to accept donations to restore and relocate the model. Ironically, the Architect has entered into an agreement with Dennis and Cranes, the same conservators who recently restored and repaired the monument honoring President Lincoln, a man who lived and died for peace and freedom: peace for a nation, and freedom for those living in slavery.

As a committee in the first State legislative body in the country to hear testimony concerning the Statue of Freedom, this committee has an opportunity to take the next step to repatriate "FREEDOM" by supporting this resolution that is before you today.

The year 1989 not only marks twenty two years of "confinement" for "FREEDOM", but also the thirteenth anniversary of Statehood in Hawaii, the bicentennial celebration of the convening of the nations law making body, the United States Congress, the institution of this nations blueprint for peace and freedom, the United States Constitution. Surely there couldn;t be a more appropriate time for the people of Hawaii and this great nation to repatriate "FREEDOM" by recognizing her as a symbol of peace and freedom for America and the world.

It is perhaps even more appropriate that Hawaii be the first to recognize "FREEDOM" because as the 50th State, Hawaii is the "baby" of the nation, and like the innocent child may reveal truths that others of greater years and experience either deny or do not see out of fear or insensitivity.

Geographically, our little island state represents the western gates to the free world as perhaps Freedom Island and the Statue of Liberty represents the eastern gates to the free world.

In the faces of Hawaii's residents can be found a representative of nearly every ethnic group and cultural background.

Perhaps more importantly, however, Hawaii sits at the edge of "western expansion" and has an opportunity to play an influencing role in intergovernmental relations, international affairs and economic development among pacific rim nations. Our geographic location and cultural make-up also identifies our island home as an ideal location to initiate and host international symposiums and summits where world leaders may discuss and debate the concerns of their constituents.

Like Abraham Lincoln before you, this committee has an opportunity to demonstrate to the people of this great country and the world that pursuit of peace and freedom is on going and that the people of Hawaii intend to see that it shall go on.

In closing I would like to thank you once again for this opportunity to speak in favor of HCR 390 and for recognizing the Statue of Freedom. I would also like to encourage the committee to unanimously approve this resolution in continued support of this nations commitment to promote world peace and freedom.

O ka Maluhia no me oe, peace be with you.

Ramsey R. M. Taum, Administator
Freedom of the Cosmos Project
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(Freedom of the Cosmos)