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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII BOARD OF REGENTS TO NAME THE  
KOMOHANA RESEARCH AND EXTENSION CENTER IN HONOR OF TADASHI  
HIGAKI.

1           WHEREAS, the existing Komohana Agricultural Complex  
2 currently serves as the local headquarters for the University of  
3 Hawaii's College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources;  
4 and

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6           WHEREAS, the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human  
7 Resources has begun a \$20,000,000 renovation project at its  
8 existing Komohana Agricultural Complex; and

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10          WHEREAS, as part of the renovation, the complex is being  
11 renamed the Komohana Research and Extension Center, partly to  
12 reflect its role as the home of the University of Hawaii College  
13 of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources' Cooperative  
14 Extension Service in East Hawaii; and

15  
16          WHEREAS, the impetus for establishing the complex at the  
17 University of Hawaii at Hilo can be traced back to a person  
18 whose dedication to serving the agricultural community of the  
19 Big Island and the State was only overshadowed by his exuberance  
20 in nurturing the growth of future generations of farmers; and

21  
22          WHEREAS, Tadashi Higaki was truly a son of the Big Island  
23 and a friend of farming. After attending elementary school at  
24 Honomu, and high school in Hilo, he matriculated at the  
25 University of Hawaii at Manoa, advanced through his Bachelor of  
26 Science degree, and achieved his Master of Science degree in  
27 Horticulture in 1961; and

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29          WHEREAS, in addition to his achievements in academia and  
30 his ascension through the ranks of the Agricultural Research and  
31 Extension bureaucracy, his contribution to the development of  
32 diversified agriculture has been immense; and

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1 WHEREAS, throughout his career, Tadashi Higaki facilitated  
2 the organization of local farmers into cooperatives in order to  
3 help promote their products; and  
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5 WHEREAS, as an example, in early 1960, while Tadashi Higaki  
6 was just starting out as an Assistant County Extension Agent,  
7 the anthurium industry was beginning to increase in acreage and  
8 export its products; and  
9

10 WHEREAS, the expansion was occurring during a time when  
11 little or no communication existed between the old guard of the  
12 industry and the younger entrepreneurs; and  
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14 WHEREAS, with his innate talent for making friends, Tadashi  
15 Higaki utilized his abilities to forge new relationships and  
16 alliances between interest groups, allowing them to work  
17 together, even if they had divergent points of view; and  
18

19 WHEREAS, he was instrumental in forming the Hawaii  
20 Anthurium Product Promotion Association, which initiated a  
21 nationwide Hawaii-grown anthurium advertising and product  
22 promotion; and  
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24 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Anthurium Product Promotion Association  
25 was the precursor of product promotion for all flowers exported  
26 from the State of Hawaii, a practice that continues to this day;  
27 and  
28

29 WHEREAS, recognizing the importance of higher education in  
30 pursuit of his goal of expanding Hawaii's diversified  
31 agricultural prowess, in September 1972, Tadashi Higaki and his  
32 family departed from their home in Panaewa for Michigan State  
33 University, where he worked towards attaining a doctorate, which  
34 he successfully completed in 1978; and  
35

36 WHEREAS, upon his return to Hilo, Tadashi Higaki assumed  
37 the position of County Administrator for Research and Extension  
38 and also served as the Assistant Director of Extension at the  
39 University of Hawaii at Manoa College of Tropical Agriculture  
40 and Human Resources; and  
41

42 WHEREAS, after his tenure at the University of Hawaii at  
43 Manoa, Tadashi Higaki returned to Hilo and continued as County  
44 Administrator of Research and Extension until his retirement in



1 1991; and

2  
3 WHEREAS, in addition to being a skilled administrator,  
4 Tadashi Higaki loved to farm; and

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6 WHEREAS, even while working at his regular job, Tadashi  
7 Higaki maintained his own vegetable greenhouse, where he grew  
8 tomatoes, cucumbers, bittermelons, and peas; and

9  
10 WHEREAS, he, along with family and friends, also built a  
11 dendrobium and anthurium greenhouse and, upon retirement,  
12 expanded his land holdings by ten acres to start an orchard of  
13 avocado and lychee; and

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15 WHEREAS, a partial listing of the agricultural  
16 organizations in which Tadashi Higaki participated include: the  
17 Hawaii Anthurium Industry Association; the Big Island Dendrobium  
18 Growers Association; the Hawaii Farm Bureau; and the Hawaii  
19 State Farm Service Agency; and

20  
21 WHEREAS, without the tireless devotion, knowledge, and  
22 capabilities of Tadashi Higaki, it could be convincingly argued  
23 that the Big Island's diversified agriculture industry would be  
24 a pale shadow of what it is today; and

25  
26 WHEREAS, Tadashi Higaki passed away on August 20, 2004,  
27 after a lifetime of service to the agricultural community; and

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29 WHEREAS, it is fitting that a Hilo-based agricultural  
30 complex that provides agricultural education, research, and  
31 training to the next generation of Hawaii's farmers be named to  
32 honor a person who selflessly dedicated his professional career  
33 to diversifying the agricultural landscape of the Big Island and  
34 our State; now, therefore,

35  
36 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
37 Twenty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
38 of 2006, the Senate concurring, that the Board of Regents of the  
39 University of Hawaii is requested to waive its administrative  
40 policy mandating that individuals be deceased for a minimum of  
41 five years before buildings can be named after them, and the  
42 University of Hawaii is requested to initiate any internal  
43 procedures needed to name the College of Tropical Agriculture



1 and Human Resources Komohana Research and Extension Center in  
2 honor of Tadashi Higaki; and  
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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
5 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the  
6 Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii, the President of  
7 the University of Hawaii, the Dean of the College of Tropical  
8 Agriculture and Human Resources, and Mrs. Jean Higaki.  
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10  
11

OFFERED BY:

<u>Pono Chong</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>
<u>K. L. L.</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>
<u>Theresa H. Hale</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>
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