
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII BOARD OF REGENTS TO NAME THE
ADMINISTRATIVE AND EXTENSION WING OF 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 (CTAHR); and

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6 WHEREAS, CTAHR has begun a \$20,000,000 renovation project
7 at its existing Komohana Agricultural Complex (Complex); and

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9 WHEREAS, as part of the renovation, the Complex is being
10 renamed the Komohana Research and Extension Center, partly to
11 reflect its role as the home of CTAHR's Cooperative Extension
12 Service in Hilo; and

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

19
20 WHEREAS, Tadashi Higaki was truly a son of the Big Island
21 and a friend of farming. After attending elementary school at
22 Honomu, and high school in Hilo, he matriculated at the
23 University of Hawaii at Manoa, advanced through his Bachelor of
24 Science degree, and achieved his Master of Science degree in
25 Horticulture in 1961; and

26
27 WHEREAS, in addition to his achievements in academia and
28 his ascension through the ranks of the Agricultural Research and
29 Extension bureaucracy, his contribution to the development of
30 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 to help
3 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
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10 WHEREAS, the expansion was occurring during a time when
11 little or no communication existed between the "old guard" of
12 the industry and the younger entrepreneurs; and
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14 WHEREAS, with his innate talent for making friends, Tadashi
15 Higaki used 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
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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
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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 left their home in Panaewa for Michigan State University,
33 where he worked towards attaining a doctorate, which he
34 successfully completed in 1978; and
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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 CTAHR;
39 and
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41 WHEREAS, after his tenure at the University of Hawaii at
42 Manoa, Tadashi Higaki returned to Hilo and continued as County
43 Administrator of Research and Extension until his retirement in
44 1991; and



1 WHEREAS, in addition to being a skilled administrator,
2 Tadashi Higaki loved to farm; and
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4 WHEREAS, even while working at his regular job, Tadashi
5 Higaki maintained his own vegetable greenhouse where he grew
6 tomatoes, cucumbers, bittermelons, and peas; and
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8 WHEREAS, he, along with family and friends, also built a
9 dendrobium and anthurium greenhouse and, upon retirement,
10 expanded his land holdings by ten acres to start an orchard of
11 avocado and lychee; and
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13 WHEREAS, a partial listing of the agricultural
14 organizations in which Tadashi Higaki participated include: the
15 Hawaii Anthurium Industry Association, Big Island Dendrobium
16 Growers Association, Hawaii Farm Bureau, and Hawaii State Farm
17 Service Agency; and
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19 WHEREAS, without the tireless devotion, knowledge, and
20 capabilities of Tadashi Higaki, it could be convincingly argued
21 that the Big Island's diversified agriculture industry would be
22 a pale shadow of what it is today; and
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24 WHEREAS, Tadashi Higaki passed away on August 20, 2004,
25 after a lifetime of service to the agricultural community; and
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27 WHEREAS, it is fitting that a Hilo-based agricultural
28 complex that provides agricultural education, research, and
29 training to the next generation of Hawaii's farmers be named to
30 honor a person who selflessly dedicated his professional career
31 to diversifying the agricultural landscape of the Big Island and
32 our state; now, therefore,
33

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



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
3 Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii, the President of
4 the University of Hawaii, the Dean of the College of Tropical
5 Agriculture and Human Resources, and Mrs. Jean Higaki.

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