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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

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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  
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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  
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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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32           WHEREAS, throughout his career, Tadashi Higaki facilitated  
33 the organization of local farmers into cooperatives to help  
34 promote their products; and



1 WHEREAS, as an example, in early 1960, while Tadashi Higaki  
2 was just starting out as an Assistant County Extension Agent,  
3 the anthurium industry was beginning to increase in acreage and  
4 export its products; and  
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6 WHEREAS, the expansion was occurring during a time when  
7 little or no communication existed between the "old guard" of  
8 the industry and the younger entrepreneurs; and  
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10 WHEREAS, with his innate talent for making friends, Tadashi  
11 Higaki used his abilities to forge new relationships and  
12 alliances between interest groups, allowing them to work  
13 together, even if they had divergent points of view; and  
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15 WHEREAS, he was instrumental in forming the Hawaii  
16 Anthurium Product Promotion Association, which initiated a  
17 nationwide Hawaii-grown anthurium advertising and product  
18 promotion; and  
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20 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Anthurium Product Promotion Association  
21 was the precursor of product promotion for all flowers exported  
22 from the State of Hawaii, a practice that continues to this day;  
23 and  
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25 WHEREAS, recognizing the importance of higher education in  
26 pursuit of his goal of expanding Hawaii's diversified  
27 agricultural prowess, in September 1972, Tadashi Higaki and his  
28 family left their home in Panaewa for Michigan State University,  
29 where he worked towards attaining a doctorate, which he  
30 successfully completed in 1978; and  
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32 WHEREAS, upon his return to Hilo, Tadashi Higaki assumed  
33 the position of County Administrator for Research and Extension  
34 and also served as the Assistant Director of Extension at CTAHR;  
35 and  
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37 WHEREAS, after his tenure at the University of Hawaii at  
38 Manoa, Tadashi Higaki returned to Hilo and continued as County  
39 Administrator of Research and Extension until his retirement in  
40 1991; and  
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42 WHEREAS, in addition to being a skilled administrator,  
43 Tadashi Higaki loved to farm; and



1           WHEREAS, even while working at his regular job, Tadashi  
2 Higaki maintained his own vegetable greenhouse where he grew  
3 tomatoes, cucumbers, bittermelons, and peas; and  
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5           WHEREAS, he, along with family and friends, also built a  
6 dendrobium and anthurium greenhouse and, upon retirement,  
7 expanded his land holdings by ten acres to start an orchard of  
8 avocado and lychee; and  
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10           WHEREAS, a partial listing of the agricultural  
11 organizations in which Tadashi Higaki participated include: the  
12 Hawaii Anthurium Industry Association, Big Island Dendrobium  
13 Growers Association, Hawaii Farm Bureau, and Hawaii State Farm  
14 Service Agency; and  
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16           WHEREAS, without the tireless devotion, knowledge, and  
17 capabilities of Tadashi Higaki, it could be convincingly argued  
18 that the Big Island's diversified agriculture industry would be  
19 a pale shadow of what it is today; and  
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21           WHEREAS, Tadashi Higaki passed away on August 20, 2004,  
22 after a lifetime of service to the agricultural community; and  
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24           WHEREAS, it is fitting that a Hilo-based agricultural  
25 complex that provides agricultural education, research, and  
26 training to the next generation of Hawaii's farmers be named to  
27 honor a person who selflessly dedicated his professional career  
28 to diversifying the agricultural landscape of the Big Island and  
29 our state; now, therefore,  
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31           BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
32 Twenty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
33 of 2006, that the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii  
34 is requested to waive its administrative policy mandating that  
35 individuals be deceased for a minimum of five years before  
36 buildings can be named after them, and the University of Hawaii  
37 is requested to initiate any internal procedures needed to name  
38 the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources  
39 Administrative and Extension wing of the Komohana Research and  
40 Extension Center in honor of Tadashi Higaki; and



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