
HOUSE RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING, ACKNOWLEDGING, AND COMMENDING THE YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION OF OAHU FOR ITS OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY FOR THE PAST ONE HUNDRED YEARS AND FOR CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN'S GROWTH, LEADERSHIP, AND POWER IN PURSUIT OF PEACE, JUSTICE, FREEDOM, AND DIGNITY FOR ALL PEOPLE.

1 WHEREAS, passionate, caring women who seek a better life
2 for themselves, their families, and their communities are at the
3 heart of the Young Women's Christian Association of Oahu; and
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5 WHEREAS, in 1900, fifty-nine women gathered on the lanai of
6 Mrs. Emma Dillingham's home and established the Young Women's
7 Christian Association of Oahu in Honolulu as an organization
8 vital to the personal development and professional growth of
9 women; and
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11 WHEREAS, over a century later, the Young Women's Christian
12 Association of Oahu is currently the largest and oldest women's
13 membership organization in the State, whose mission is to
14 empower women and eliminate racism; and
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16 WHEREAS, a new cadre of women are preparing for Hawaii's
17 future and are committed to reinventing the Young Women's
18 Christian Association for the twenty-first century so that the
19 organization is relevant to all women as their lives and needs
20 change; and
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22 WHEREAS, as women's lives expand and change and as their
23 multi-faceted needs grow while they take on multiple roles over
24 their lifetime as students, leaders in their families, working
25 professionals, mothers, caregivers, and contributors to the
26 broader community, the Young Women's Christian Association of
27 Oahu has provided a continuum of services to meet their needs;
28 and
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30 WHEREAS, women today still face the challenges of economic
31 self-sufficiency, given that they often earn less than men,



1 leave their careers early to care for children or parents, save
2 less, have fewer assets, live longer than men, and tend to feel
3 they are not very knowledgeable about financial management and
4 legal information; and

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6 WHEREAS, the need for women and girls to learn and practice
7 leadership skills has not diminished throughout the years, and
8 the Young Women's Christian Association of Oahu provides them
9 with opportunities to develop these skills by ensuring access to
10 leadership training, skills development and by offering role
11 models and mentors, hands-on, experiential learning and
12 community service activities; and

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14 WHEREAS, the Young Women's Christian Association of Oahu is
15 committed to improving the economic status of women and girls by
16 providing opportunities to ensure that they are financially
17 secure and able to support themselves and their families; and

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19 WHEREAS, the Young Women's Christian Association of Oahu is
20 committed to continue developing programs that:

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22 (1) Remove barriers to employment and economic self-
23 sufficiency;
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25 (2) Train for higher wage, higher-demand jobs; and
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27 (3) Educate and develop a woman's ability to effectively
28 manage money; and

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30 WHEREAS, the Young Women's Christian Association of Oahu
31 seeks to build on Hawaii's rich multi-cultural society to
32 strengthen Hawaii's youth and adults through opportunities that
33 promote a greater sense of self and independence, as well as
34 foster pride and respect for one's self, others, and their
35 environment; and

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37 WHEREAS, racism can undermine a person's quality of life--
38 from jobs held, to income earned, to the ability to fully enjoy
39 the privileges and freedom that come with being a full member of
40 American society--and the Young Women's Christian Association of
41 Oahu has a long history of offering programs designed to achieve
42 racial justice and embrace diversity; and

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1 WHEREAS, the Young Women's Christian Association of Oahu
2 envisions a community that appreciates its own cultural
3 diversity and rich heritage and works to improve race and ethnic
4 relations towards the greater goal of racial justice; and
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6 WHEREAS, the Young Women's Christian Association of Oahu is
7 developing culture-based programs rooted in its belief that as
8 people grow to understand and appreciate their own cultures and
9 cultures around them, that they will be better able to minimize
10 racial and cultural conflict and improve race relations; and
11

12 WHEREAS, the Young Women's Christian Association of Oahu
13 will continue to create programs that:
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- 15 (1) Build on the knowledge, skills, values, and traditions
16 of Hawaii's culture for greater cultural competency
17 among youth and adults;
 - 18 (2) Increase self-awareness to develop a healthy positive
19 identity; and
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 - 21 (3) Increase understanding and appreciation of positive
22 values that guide individual choices; and
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- 24

25 WHEREAS, the future success of Hawaii's communities depends
26 on the next generation of leaders, especially women leaders who,
27 because of their inherent strengths, are outstanding leaders and
28 stewards of our community, even though women continue to hold a
29 small percentage of the leadership positions in the private and
30 public sectors; and
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32 WHEREAS, the Young Women's Christian Association of Oahu
33 envisions a world-class leadership center for the purpose of
34 advancing women to leadership positions and sustaining these
35 leaders with a lifelong, comprehensive support system; and
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37 WHEREAS, the Young Women's Christian Association of Oahu
38 supports the development and practice of individual and
39 community leadership through expanded mentoring experiences,
40 volunteerism, networking, peer-to-peer sharing, role modeling,
41 training programs, and workshops; now, therefore,
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1 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
2 Twenty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
3 of 2006, that the Young Women's Christian Association of Oahu is
4 recognized, acknowledged, and commended for its outstanding
5 service to the community for the past one hundred years and for
6 creating opportunities for women's growth, leadership, and power
7 in pursuit of peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all
8 people; and
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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislature supports the
11 efforts of the Young Women's Christian Association of Oahu in
12 its pursuit of revitalizing its Laniakea facility as a self-
13 sustaining, world-class leadership center for women's social and
14 economic advancement, as a place of learning and growth that
15 encourages and offers women the "power to change" to build
16 future generations of women leaders; and
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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
19 Resolution be transmitted to the Executive Director of the Young
20 Women's Christian Association of Oahu.
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OFFERED BY: *Jylea B. Berg*

MAR 15 2006

