
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

SUPPORTING THE PRESERVATION OF JAPANESE SHRINES AND TEMPLES IN
HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, shrinkage in congregation and neglect of Japanese
2 temples and shrines have caused many of these places to fall in
3 disrepair or have closed; and

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5 WHEREAS, the temples and shrines have served an
6 historically important function as religious, social, and
7 cultural centers for immigrant populations assimilating
8 themselves into the larger culture of Hawaii; and

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10 WHEREAS, the design of the temples and shrines created a
11 new and unique architectural form by combining the traditional
12 Japanese architectural motifs with new materials, construction
13 methods, and architectural forms unique to Hawaii; and

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15 WHEREAS the design and style of these buildings are unique
16 to Hawaii, not seen anywhere else in the world, and evolved as
17 the Japanese assimilated and prospered in Hawaii; and

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19 WHEREAS, the evolutionary design of the temples tell an
20 important story of how the Japanese community immigrated to and
21 changed while in Hawaii; and

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23 WHEREAS, the preservation of the temples and shrines will
24 preserve their unique architectural forms, and provide economic,
25 cultural, and historical benefit to the state; and

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27 WHEREAS, the Federal Government financially assists state
28 historic preservation projects through a variety of funding
29 sources including the Federal Historic Preservation Fund, which
30 provides a two third match (60% Federal/40% non-Federal) of
31 non-Federal funding sources for local historic preservation
32 efforts; and

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1 WHEREAS, the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as
2 amended, states "the historical and cultural foundations of the
3 Nation should be preserved as a living part of our community
4 life and development in order to give a sense of orientation to
5 the American people" (16 U.S.C. 470(b)(2)); now, therefore,
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7 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-third
8 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2006, the
9 House of Representatives concurring, that the Legislature
10 support the preservation of traditional Japanese temples and
11 shrines for future generations; and
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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and
14 Natural Resources is requested to consult with the Japanese
15 Cultural Center of Hawaii, with the assistance of the Honpa
16 Hongwanji, the Tendai Mission, and the Shingon Mission, and
17 others as appropriate, to identify Japanese temples and shrines
18 in Hawaii and as far as practical, the temple or shrine's
19 physical condition; and
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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and
22 Natural Resources is requested to submit a report to the
23 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
24 the Regular Session of 2007, on the information gathered on
25 Hawaii's Japanese temples and shrines and any recommendations
26 for the preservation of these cultural and historical treasures;
27 and
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
30 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Speaker of the
31 House, the President of the Senate, the Chairperson of the
32 Department of Land and Natural Resources, and the Chairperson of
33 the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii.

