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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII BOARD OF REGENTS TO NAME THE  
KOMOHANA RESEARCH AND EXTENSION CENTER'S ADMINISTRATIVE  
OFFICE WING IN HONOR OF DR. 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

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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

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22           WHEREAS, Dr. Tadashi Higaki was truly a son of the Big  
23 Island and a friend of farming. After attending elementary  
24 school at Honomu, and high school in Hilo, he matriculated at  
25 the University of Hawaii at Manoa, advanced through his Bachelor  
26 of 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, Dr. Tadashi Higaki  
2 facilitated the organization of local farmers into cooperatives  
3 in order to help promote their products; and  
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5           WHEREAS, as an example, in early 1960, while Dr. Tadashi  
6 Higaki was just starting out as an Assistant County Extension  
7 Agent, the anthurium industry was beginning to increase in  
8 acreage and 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 the  
12 industry and the younger entrepreneurs; and  
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14          WHEREAS, with his innate talent for making friends,  
15 Dr. Tadashi Higaki utilized his abilities to forge new  
16 relationships and alliances between interest groups, allowing  
17 them to work together, even if they had divergent points of  
18 view; and  
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20          WHEREAS, he was instrumental in forming the Hawaii  
21 Anthurium Product Promotion Association, which initiated a  
22 nationwide Hawaii-grown anthurium advertising and product  
23 promotion; and  
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25          WHEREAS, the Hawaii Anthurium Product Promotion Association  
26 was the precursor of product promotion for all flowers exported  
27 from the State of Hawaii, a practice that continues to this day;  
28 and  
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30          WHEREAS, recognizing the importance of higher education in  
31 pursuit of his goal of expanding Hawaii's diversified  
32 agricultural prowess, in September 1972, Dr. Tadashi Higaki and  
33 his family departed from their home in Panaewa for Michigan  
34 State University, where he worked towards attaining a doctorate,  
35 which he successfully completed in 1978; and  
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37          WHEREAS, upon his return to Hilo, Dr. Tadashi Higaki  
38 assumed the position of County Administrator for Research and  
39 Extension and also served as the Assistant Director of Extension  
40 at the University of Hawaii at Manoa College of Tropical  
41 Agriculture and Human Resources; and  
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43          WHEREAS, after his tenure at the University of Hawaii at  
44 Manoa, Dr. Tadashi Higaki returned to Hilo and continued as



1 County Administrator of Research and Extension until his  
2 retirement in 1991; and

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4 WHEREAS, in addition to being a skilled administrator,  
5 Dr. Tadashi Higaki loved to farm; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

