

MAR 15 2006

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII BOARD OF REGENTS TO NAME 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 and

5
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

15
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

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

28
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

33
34 WHEREAS, throughout his career, Tadashi Higaki facilitated
35 the organization of local farmers into cooperatives in order to



1 help promote their products; and

2
3 WHEREAS, as an example, in early 1960, while Tadashi Higaki
4 was just starting out as an Assistant County Extension Agent,
5 the anthurium industry was beginning to increase in acreage and
6 export its products; and

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8 WHEREAS, the expansion was occurring during a time when
9 little or no communication existed between the old guard of the
10 industry and the younger entrepreneurs; and

11
12 WHEREAS, with his innate talent for making friends, Tadashi
13 Higaki utilized his abilities to forge new relationships and
14 alliances between interest groups, allowing them to work
15 together, even if they had divergent points of view; and

16
17 WHEREAS, he was instrumental in forming the Hawaii
18 Anthurium Product Promotion Association, which initiated a
19 nationwide Hawaii-grown anthurium advertising and product
20 promotion; and

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22 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Anthurium Product Promotion Association
23 was the precursor of product promotion for all flowers exported
24 from the State of Hawaii, a practice that continues to this day;
25 and

26
27 WHEREAS, recognizing the importance of higher education in
28 pursuit of his goal of expanding Hawaii's diversified
29 agricultural prowess, in September 1972, Tadashi Higaki and his
30 family departed from their home in Panaewa for Michigan State
31 University, where he worked towards attaining a doctorate, which
32 he successfully completed in 1978; and

33
34 WHEREAS, upon his return to Hilo, Tadashi Higaki assumed
35 the position of County Administrator for Research and Extension
36 and also served as the Assistant Director of Extension at the
37 University of Hawaii at Manoa College of Tropical Agriculture
38 and Human Resources; and

39
40 WHEREAS, after his tenure at the University of Hawaii at
41 Manoa, Tadashi Higaki returned to Hilo and continued as County
42 Administrator of Research and Extension until his retirement in
43 1991; and
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1 WHEREAS, in addition to being a skilled administrator,
2 Tadashi Higaki loved to farm; and

3
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

7
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

12
13 WHEREAS, a partial listing of the agricultural
14 organizations in which Tadashi Higaki participated include: the
15 Hawaii Anthurium Industry Association; the Big Island Dendrobium
16 Growers Association; the Hawaii Farm Bureau; and the Hawaii
17 State Farm Service Agency; and

18
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

23
24 WHEREAS, Tadashi Higaki passed away on August 20, 2004,
25 after a lifetime of service to the agricultural community; and

26
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 Senate of the Twenty-third
35 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2006,
36 that the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii is
37 requested to waive its administrative policy mandating that
38 individuals be deceased for a minimum of five years before
39 buildings can be named after them, and the University of Hawaii
40 is requested to initiate any internal procedures needed to name
41 the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources Komohana
42 Research and Extension Center in honor of Tadashi Higaki; and

43



S.R. NO. 113

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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 8

OFFERED BY: Russell Kohl

Paul Kohl

Dr. Kanno

J. Kamei Gosh

Carol Fukushima

[Signature]

R. J. J. L.

Ernie G. Brown

