
SENATE 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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34 WHEREAS, throughout his career, Dr. Tadashi Higaki
35 facilitated the organization of local farmers into cooperatives



1 in order to help promote their products; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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41 WHEREAS, after his tenure at the University of Hawaii at
42 Manoa, Dr. Tadashi Higaki returned to Hilo and continued as
43 County Administrator of Research and Extension until his
44 retirement in 1991; and



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



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

