

MAR 15 2006

S.R. NO. 54

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## SENATE RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF A CULTURAL EXCHANGE BETWEEN THE PEOPLE OF HAWAI`I AND THE ISLAND OF RA`IATEA AND REQUESTING KE ALA `OLINO NATIVE CULTURAL CENTER TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO HELP FACILITATE A CULTURAL EXCHANGE.

1           WHEREAS, Ra`iatea is located in the southern part of the  
2 Leeward Islands and is the fourth largest island in the Society  
3 Islands; and

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5           WHEREAS, Ra`iatea is the cradle of Polynesian  
6 civilizations; and

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8           WHEREAS, it is believed that the Polynesians who discovered  
9 and settled Hawai`i embarked from Ra`iatea and named the new  
10 land after their ancient home; and

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12           WHEREAS, Ra`iatea is also considered the foundation of  
13 Polynesia's spiritual culture and has many important  
14 archaeological sites, including the Taputapuatea Marae,  
15 Polynesia's most significant and well-preserved religious site;  
16 and

17  
18           WHEREAS, in ancient times, priests traveled from Polynesian  
19 islands throughout the Pacific to the Taputapuatea Marae, a  
20 sacred temple that was built in the southeastern part of the  
21 island and dedicated to Oro, the Polynesian god of war; and

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23           WHEREAS, the people of Hawai`i can celebrate their common  
24 Polynesian ancestry with the people of Ra`iatea through a  
25 cultural exchange between the two communities; and

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27           WHEREAS, the Mayor of the Village of Taputapuatea has  
28 expressed a strong interest in developing a cultural exchange  
29 with the people of Hawai`i; and

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31           WHEREAS, ideas for sharing and rejoicing in our common  
32 ancestry include a gathering in the Marae of outriggers from  
33 each corner of the Polynesian triangle, coordinated trips that



1 would enable travelers to immerse themselves in the local  
2 lifestyle, and student exchanges;

3  
4 WHEREAS, these ideas have the added benefit of stimulating  
5 economic development between the two regions; 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,  
9 that this body recognize the importance of a cultural exchange  
10 between the people of Hawai`i and the people of Ra`iatea; and  
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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Ke Ala `Olino Native Cultural  
13 Center is requested to create a task force to help facilitate a  
14 cultural exchange between the people of Hawai`i and the Island  
15 of Ra`iatea; and  
16

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be  
18 comprised of eight members selected by Ke Ala `Olino Native  
19 Cultural Center and including at least one representative from:  
20

- 21 (1) The Masters of Native Hawaiian Education and Training  
22 Programs at the University of Hawaii;  
23  
24 (2) A Native Hawaiian cultural center;  
25  
26 (3) The tourism industry; and  
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28 (4) Any other agency, organization, or entity that  
29 expresses interest to participate in fulfilling the  
30 task force's mandate; and  
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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force investigate and  
33 recommend various ways the people of Hawai`i and the Island of  
34 Ra`iatea can share and rejoice in their common ancestry;  
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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force submit its  
37 findings and recommendations, including any proposed  
38 legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior  
39 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2007; and  
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41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this  
42 Resolution be transmitted to Ke Ala `Olino Native Cultural  
43 Center, the Mayor of the Village of Taputapuatea, the President



1 of French Polynesia, and the President of the Assembly of French  
2 Polynesia.

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OFFERED BY:

*[Handwritten signature]*

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