
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE CITY AUDITOR TO AUDIT THE EWA VILLAGES
REVITALIZATION PROJECT AND THAT THE TERMS OF THE MEMORANDUM
OF AGREEMENT TO RENOVATE AND MAINTAIN THE HISTORIC
PROPERTIES BE FACILITATED.

1 WHEREAS, the Ewa Plantation Company leased land about 20
2 miles from central Honolulu and began operating a sugar
3 plantation in 1890; and
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5 WHEREAS, by the late 1920s, some 5,000 people lived on the
6 thriving plantation, which by then had 600 homes for workers,
7 skilled employees, and supervisors in numerous camps, athletic
8 and recreational facilities, social clubs, a community store, a
9 health center, a hospital, and an administration building; and
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11 WHEREAS, eventually, ownership of the plantation was
12 transferred for financial reasons and the physical plant and
13 economic activity started to decline; and
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15 WHEREAS, in the 1970s, anticipating the expiration of the
16 sugar company's land lease in 1995, the City and County of
17 Honolulu (C&C) began planning to expand the Ewa Villages into a
18 suburban "Second City"; and
19

20 WHEREAS, advocacy from the historic preservation community
21 and community groups helped the C&C to come up with the Ewa
22 Villages Revitalization Project (Project), with the following
23 four purposes in mind:
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25 (1) To provide affordable housing opportunities and a
26 continued sense of community for the current village
27 residents and other island families;
28

29 (2) To preserve the historic character of the plantation
30 villages;



1 (3) To develop a drainage program to remove the villages
2 from the flood zone; and

3
4 (4) To break even financially;

5
6 and

7
8 WHEREAS, in 1995, a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) detailing
9 the plans for revitalization was signed by the Farmers Home
10 Administration, now known as the Farm Service Agency, the
11 Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the Hawaii State
12 Historic Preservation Office, now known as the State Historic
13 Preservation Division, as parties to the agreement, and the
14 Department of Housing and Community Development of the C&C, some
15 of whose functions have been transferred to the Department of
16 Community Services, Department of Parks and Recreation of the
17 C&C, and the Historic Hawaii Foundation acknowledged their
18 concurrence; and

19
20 WHEREAS, the MOA and subsequent commitments related to the
21 MOA require the renovation and maintenance of the historic
22 properties in the historic core of the Project; and

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24 WHEREAS, the historic properties in the historic core have
25 not been significantly renovated or maintained as agreed under
26 the terms of the MOA since its inception due to lack of funding;
27 and

28
29 WHEREAS, the provisions of the MOA requiring the
30 restoration and maintenance of the historic core of the Project
31 have not been terminated, annulled, modified, or invalidated
32 since its signing; now, therefore,

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34 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
35 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
36 Session of 2007, that the City Auditor of the C&C is requested
37 to conduct an audit of the Project and MOA; and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the C&C City Auditor is
2 requested to include in the audit:

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- 4 (1) The commitment of the parties to contribute to the
5 renovation and maintenance of the historic properties,
6 including the amounts contributed, amounts expended,
7 and the balance remaining;
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- 9 (2) The status of the funds earmarked for the renovation
10 and maintenance of the historic properties; and
- 11
- 12 (3) The status of the MOA, including its validity,
13 enforceability, and any amendments thereto;
- 14

15 and

16

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the C&C City Auditor is
18 requested to submit to the Legislature a report of the audit no
19 later than 20 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session
20 of 2009; and

21

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the council members and the
23 mayor of the C&C are requested to facilitate the execution of
24 the terms of the MOA and subsequent commitments relating to the
25 renovation and maintenance of all historic properties listed in
26 the MOA; and

27

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
29 Resolution be transmitted to the Administrator of the Farm
30 Service Agency, Chairperson of the City Council of the City &
31 County of Honolulu, the Mayor of the City & County of Honolulu,
32 the Chairpersons of the Advisory Council on Historic
33 Preservation, Administrator of the State Historic Preservation
34 Division of the Department of Land and Natural Resources, and
35 City Auditor of the City and County of Honolulu.

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OFFERED BY:

Rick T. P. Cabonilla - Aka Kawa
[Signature]
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