HOUSE RESOLUTION

ENCOURAGING THE HAWAII TOURISM AUTHORITY TO DEVELOP A VOLUNTARY REGISTRATION PROGRAM FOR MAINLAND HAWAIIAN ORGANIZATIONS TO MARKET HAWAII AS A VISITOR DESTINATION AND TO SHARE AND DISTRIBUTE EVENT INFORMATION, PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT IDEAS, AND WORKFORCE OPPORTUNITIES.

WHEREAS, due to the high cost of living in Hawaii, including the skyrocketing costs of purchasing a home in the current housing market, many local residents have left the state to pursue their dreams on the mainland; and

WHEREAS, in spite of the time and energy these individuals and families devote to finding a new place for themselves in their mainland communities, the unique cultural values and traditions that embody the spirit of "Hawaii" remain; and

WHEREAS, the unique cultural heritage that binds former Hawaii residents to each other manifests itself through a variety of mainland Hawaiian associations, groups, clubs, and organizations; and

WHEREAS, these mainland Hawaiian organizations provide an opportunity for former Hawaii residents to reconnect with, and perpetuate, the culture and traditions of Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, mainland Hawaiian organizations also have the potential to serve as cultural ambassadors, sharing the culture and traditions of Hawaii with communities throughout the country; and

WHEREAS, this potential to showcase the Hawaiian culture through personal, face-to-face contact represents a largely untapped resource that may prove invaluable in generating interest and marketing Hawaii as a visitor destination; and

WHEREAS, one way to accomplish this is through a coordinated effort by the Hawaii Tourism Authority (HTA) to actively recruit mainland Hawaiian organizations to share and

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distribute event information, product development ideas, and workforce opportunities; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007, that HTA is encouraged to develop a voluntary registration program for mainland Hawaiian organizations to market Hawaii as a visitor destination, and to share and distribute event information, product development ideas, and workforce opportunities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that mainland Hawaiian organizations are encouraged to participate in the voluntary registration program as a way to promote Hawaiian interests abroad; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Executive Director of the HTA.

OFFERED BY: MANAGEMENT

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