

MAR 14 2007

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE COUNTIES TO AMEND THEIR RESPECTIVE BUILDING CODE
TO ALLOW FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF INDIGENOUS HAWAIIAN
DWELLINGS FOR RESIDENTIAL PURPOSES, AS PROVIDED BY THE
HAWAII REVISED STATUTES.

1 WHEREAS, architecture is one of the most important means of
2 cultural expression for all peoples; and

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4 WHEREAS, "indigenous architecture" has great aesthetic
5 appeal and economic potential, in addition to its cultural
6 significance; and

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8 WHEREAS, there is a growing interest and appreciation among
9 architects, developers, planners, Hawaiian cultural experts,
10 visitors, and residents for indigenous architecture; and

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12 WHEREAS, indigenous Hawaiian architecture has immense
13 cultural and historical significance in linking modern Hawaii to
14 the past, in nurturing Hawaiian values for the present and
15 future; and

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17 WHEREAS, indigenous Hawaiian architecture utilizes rock
18 walls and wood frame walls covered by thatches of different
19 native grasses or other natural material for roofs; and

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21 WHEREAS, ancient Hawaiians had many forms of architecture
22 that reflected cultural needs in terms of adapting to climate,
23 availability of materials, and social and religious conditions;
24 and

25
26 WHEREAS, one of the primary principles in indigenous
27 architecture is development in harmony with the natural
28 environment; and
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1 WHEREAS, homeowners should be afforded the opportunity to
2 utilize indigenous Hawaiian architecture in constructing their
3 dwellings, in the interest of cultural preservation; and
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5 WHEREAS, by adherence to the principles of judicious use of
6 limited resources, indigenous Hawaiian architecture decreases
7 Hawaii's reliance on external economic forces, engenders
8 sustainable development, and preserves the forests; and
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10 WHEREAS, indigenous Hawaiian dwellings are intricate to
11 construct, but are a work of art when finished; and
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13 WHEREAS, history has shown that ancient Hawaiian structures
14 were sturdy and safe enough to substantially survive tropical
15 storms that destroyed Western style buildings; and
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17 WHEREAS, some indigenous Hawaiian dwellings or native
18 buildings, including a grass house in Hamoa, have been used for
19 quite a few generations and the rock foundations still remain
20 today; and
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22 WHEREAS, Act 310, Session Laws of Hawaii 2006, codified as
23 section 46-1.55, Hawaii Revised Statutes, requires each county
24 to adopt ordinances allowing the exercise of indigenous native
25 Hawaiian architectural practices, styles, customs, techniques,
26 and materials historically employed by Native Hawaiians, in the
27 county building code, including residential structures and other
28 structures; and
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30 WHEREAS, the County of Maui is the only county to have
31 amended its building code to allow qualified builders to go
32 through the same process to construct indigenous Hawaiian
33 dwellings as for Western dwellings; now, therefore,
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35 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
36 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007, the
37 House of Representatives concurring, that the City and County of
38 Honolulu, County of Kaua'i, and County of Hawai'i are requested
39 to amend their respective building code to allow for indigenous
40 Hawaiian architecture, as required by law; and
41

42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City and County of
43 Honolulu, County of Kaua'i, and County of Hawai'i are requested



1 to report to the Legislature not later than twenty days prior to
 2 the convening of the Regular Session of 2008 on the progress of
 3 adopting building code provisions consistent with section
 4 46-1.55, Hawaii Revised Statutes; and

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 6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 7 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Mayor of the City
 8 and County of Honolulu, Mayor of the County of Kaua'i, Mayor of
 9 the County of Hawai'i, Chair of the City Council of Honolulu,
 10 Chair of the County Council of Hawai'i, and Chair of the County
 11 Council of Kaua'i.
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OFFERED BY:

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