

MAR 14 2007

SENATE 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

3
4 WHEREAS, "indigenous architecture" has great aesthetic
5 appeal and economic potential, in addition to its cultural
6 significance; and

7
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

11
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

16
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

20
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

29
30 WHEREAS, homeowners should be afforded the opportunity to
31 utilize indigenous Hawaiian architecture in constructing their
32 dwellings, in the interest of cultural preservation; and
33



1 WHEREAS, by adherence to the principles of judicious use of
2 limited resources, indigenous Hawaiian architecture decreases
3 Hawaii's reliance on external economic forces, engenders
4 sustainable development, and preserves the forests; and
5

6 WHEREAS, indigenous Hawaiian dwellings are intricate to
7 construct, but are a work of art when finished; and
8

9 WHEREAS, history has shown that ancient Hawaiian structures
10 were sturdy and safe enough to substantially survive tropical
11 storms that destroyed Western style buildings; and
12

13 WHEREAS, some indigenous Hawaiian dwellings or native
14 buildings, including a grass house in Hamoa, have been used for
15 quite a few generations and the rock foundations still remain
16 today; and
17

18 WHEREAS, Act 310, Session Laws of Hawaii 2006, codified as
19 section 46-1.55, Hawaii Revised Statutes, requires each county
20 to adopt ordinances allowing the exercise of indigenous native
21 Hawaiian architectural practices, styles, customs, techniques,
22 and materials historically employed by Native Hawaiians, in the
23 county building code, including residential structures and other
24 structures; and
25

26 WHEREAS, the County of Maui is the only county to have
27 amended its building code to allow qualified builders to go
28 through the same process to construct indigenous Hawaiian
29 dwellings as for Western dwellings; now, therefore,
30

31 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
32 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007,
33 that the City and County of Honolulu, County of Kaua'i, and
34 County of Hawai'i are requested to amend their respective
35 building code to allow for indigenous Hawaiian architecture, as
36 required by law; and
37

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City and County of
39 Honolulu, County of Kaua'i, and County of Hawai'i are requested
40 to report to this body not later than twenty days prior to the
41 convening of the Regular Session of 2008 on the progress of
42 adopting building code provisions consistent with section
43 46-1.55, Hawaii Revised Statutes; and



S.R. NO. 67

1
2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
3 Resolution be transmitted to the Mayor of the City and County of
4 Honolulu, Mayor of the County of Kaua'i, Mayor of the County of
5 Hawai'i, Chair of the City Council of Honolulu, Chair of the
6 County Council of Hawai'i, and Chair of the County Council of
7 Kaua'i.
8
9
10

OFFERED BY:

J. Keli Eghosh

Terrence Q. Anouye

Bruce S. Koh

Mike Hubbard

Jim

