
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE HAWAII UNITED OKINAWA ASSOCIATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the Hawaii United
2 Okinawa Association is a non-profit organization certified to be
3 tax exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code
4 of 1986, as amended. It was established in 1951 and serves as
5 the umbrella organization for 50 member clubs statewide. The
6 member clubs comprise approximately 40,000 members, whose
7 ancestors immigrated to Hawaii from the same region in Okinawa.
8 The goals of the Hawaii United Okinawa Association are to
9 promote, preserve, and perpetuate the Okinawan culture, enhance
10 awareness of the Okinawan culture and heritage in Hawaii through
11 education, and provide community services. One of the
12 association's most significant events is its two-day Okinawan
13 Festival at Kapiolani park that attracts over 70,000 people
14 annually. More than 1,000 volunteers help to stage this
15 festival. The association also hosts the Children's Cultural
16 Day Camp that provides two weeks of classes for over 80 students
17 annually.



1 The Hawaii Okinawa Center is the headquarters of the Hawaii
2 United Okinawa Association. Built in 1990, the center serves as
3 a living tribute to the Okinawan immigrant pioneers who began
4 arriving in Hawaii in 1900. The center provides space for
5 cultural classes regarding performing arts, language, children's
6 education, and international exchange and is open for the use
7 and enjoyment of the general public, as well. Since it is one
8 of the few large venues in the area, the center provides
9 families, schools, and organizations with space for meetings and
10 banquets. It is also the venue for numerous other community
11 activities, seminars, and civic events.

12 However, the needs of the association and its member clubs
13 have exceeded the available space at the center. Additional
14 space is necessary for the association and its committees and
15 member clubs to hold efficient meetings, such as the Okinawan
16 Festival's planning meeting.

17 The association has purchased over 86,000 square feet of
18 property directly across from the center and plans to develop
19 the new property to meet the present and future expanding needs
20 of the association. The association plans to use the new
21 property to provide additional office space and parking; develop
22 local adult day care and pre-school programs; construct a



1 commercial kitchen for use by member clubs to reduce dependence
2 on outside vendors and help sustain the cost of the
3 association's other activities; and house Okinawa-related
4 businesses that help member clubs by maintaining and promoting
5 contact with Okinawa by:

- 6 (1) Coordinating student exchanges and visits by Okinawan
7 dignitaries; and
- 8 (2) Promoting the annual Okinawan Festival to the mainland
9 and abroad.

10 Based on the foregoing, a grant to the Hawaii United
11 Okinawa Association for the purchase of land relating to the
12 expansion of the Hawaii Okinawa Center will support their
13 activities and permit the community to benefit from those
14 activities. The legislature finds and declares that a grant to
15 the Hawaii United Okinawa Association under this Act is for a
16 public purpose, is in the public interest, and is for the public
17 health, safety, and general welfare of the state.

18 SECTION 2. Act 178, Session Laws of Hawaii, 2005, as
19 amended by Act 160, Session Laws of Hawaii 2006, is amended by
20 repealing section 5, part B, item 6.01.

21 [~~6.01. HAWAII UNITED OKINAWA~~
22 ~~ASSOCIATION, OAHU~~
23



1 ~~LAND ACQUISITION FOR EXPANSION~~
 2 ~~OF THE HAWAII OKINAWA CENTER IN~~
 3 ~~WAIPIO GENTRY. THIS PROJECT~~
 4 ~~QUALIFIES AS A GRANT, PURSUANT TO~~
 5 ~~CHAPTER 42F, HRS.~~

6	<u>LAND</u>			<u>1,600</u>
7	TOTAL FUNDING	LBR	€	1,600 €"]

8 SECTION 3. Act 178, Session Laws of Hawaii 2005, as
 9 amended by Act 160, Session Laws of 2006, is amended by adding a
 10 new item to section 5, part H, to read as follows:

11 "16.03. HAWAII UNITED OKINAWA
 12 ASSOCIATION, OAHU

13
 14 LAND ACQUISITION RELATED TO THE
 15 EXPANSION OF THE HAWAII OKINAWA
 16 CENTER IN WAIPIO GENTRY. THIS
 17 PROJECT QUALIFIES AS A GRANT,
 18 PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 42F, HRS.

19	<u>LAND</u>			<u>1,600</u>
20	<u>TOTAL FUNDING</u>	<u>AGS</u>	<u>€</u>	<u>1,600C"</u>

21 SECTION 4. Act 178, Session Laws of Hawaii, 2005, as
 22 amended by Act 160, Session Laws of Hawaii 2006, is amended by
 23 adding a new section to section 6 to read as follows:

24 "SECTION 95.2. Provided that the general obligation bond
 25 fund appropriation for the Hawaii United Okinawa Association,
 26 Oahu, Item No. 16.03, shall be administered by the state
 27 foundation on culture and the arts."



1 SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
2 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

3 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



Report Title:

Budget; Grant-in-Aid; Hawaii United Okinawa Association

Description:

Amends an appropriation for fiscal year 2006-2007 to the Hawaii United Okinawa Association. (HB3279 HD1)

