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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

HONORING THE MISSION HOUSES MUSEUM ON THE CENTENNIAL OF THEIR  
CHARTER.

1           WHEREAS, museums preserve artistic, historical and  
2 scientific resources for current and future generations in  
3 providing access to a diverse and rich cultural heritage  
4 prompting us to expand our understanding of the world, and  
5 contribute to the quality of life in the State of Hawaii by  
6 connecting generations and bringing people together through  
7 shared cultural experience as well as introducing new ideas,  
8 providing educational resources, and contributing to the local  
9 economy; and,

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11           WHEREAS, the MISSION HOUSES MUSEUM is part of the Hawai`i  
12 Capital Cultural District, whose mission is to nurture and  
13 promote the rich heritage of Hawai`i's past and present by  
14 moving forward with deep respect for the past, working to  
15 preserve the area's historical assets for future generations,  
16 create interpretive resources, develop educational programs, and  
17 cultivate an understanding of, and appreciation for, Hawai`i's  
18 heritage by residents and visitors alike; and,

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20           WHEREAS, the MISSION HOUSES MUSEUM is a program of the  
21 Hawaiian Mission Children's Society, a non-profit organization  
22 founded in 1852, and was chartered in 1907 to connect the story  
23 of the American Protestant Missionaries and their descendants to  
24 the history and culture of Hawaii in order to give present  
25 generations of residents and visitors a deeper understanding of  
26 and appreciation for Hawaii's rich and complex history, and  
27 consists of three restored houses, which are among the oldest  
28 remaining structures in Honolulu, an extensive research library,  
29 a changing exhibition gallery, an orientation center and a  
30 museum store; and,

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1           WHEREAS, the MISSION HOUSES MUSEUM offers a wide variety of  
2 public programming events and activities complemented by  
3 scholarly lectures, gallery talks, workshops and demonstrations,  
4 traditional programs such as quilting classes, *lauhala* weaving,  
5 the annual holiday craft fair, letterpress printing  
6 demonstrations and historic house tours with more than 15,000  
7 people comprised of tourists, school groups and local residents  
8 visiting the Museum each year; and,  
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10           WHEREAS, the MISSION HOUSES MUSEUM continues to develop new  
11 and innovative programming, committed to give particular  
12 emphasis to native Hawaiian and Pacific Islands communities in  
13 the telling Hawaii's rich and complex history, actively seeking  
14 to increase and diversify its local audience; and,  
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16           WHEREAS, the MISSION HOUSES MUSEUM has existed reflecting  
17 over seven generations, providing a historical reflection of the  
18 previous generations, a consolidation of the heritage which we  
19 have learned to respect and appreciate for the educational  
20 possibilities brought to the islands for its contributions in  
21 literacy, language and learning; and,  
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23           WHEREAS, the profound legacy of the Missionaries in  
24 education is most notably apparent when after having documented  
25 and bringing the oral Hawaiian language to written form or  
26 *palapala*, enabling the Hawaiian people to read and write in  
27 their own language, Hawai`i was formally recognized in 1842 as  
28 the most literate nation in the world, with an estimated  
29 percentage of literacy among Hawaiians to be greater than any  
30 other country in the world except Scotland and New England with  
31 three out of four Hawaiians able to read and write in their own  
32 language and record numbers of schools per capita; later, just  
33 prior to the opening of the native press, *The New York Tribune*  
34 reported that the literacy of the Hawaiian population had even  
35 surpassed that of New England and that Hawaii had free public  
36 schools before the rest of America and that pioneers from Oregon  
37 and California sent their children here to be educated; and,  
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39           WHEREAS, the legacy of the missionaries and their  
40 descendant families has been one of social philanthropy  
41 unrivaled in any of the 50 states among their charitable



1 foundations being the Atherton, Fred Baldwin, Cooke, Wilcox, as  
2 well as the Hawaii Community Foundation along with many others;  
3 and,  
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5 WHEREAS, descendant families' legacy of contribution to the  
6 community has been vast and profound spanning decades in areas  
7 from conservation, preservation, education, arts, and the  
8 sciences with examples such as the Waikiki Aquarium, Honolulu  
9 Art Academy, the Contemporary Art Academy, the Daughters of  
10 Hawaii, the Lyman House Museum, the Garden Club, The Outdoor  
11 Circle and numerous other organizations dedicated to the  
12 preservation of all that is beautiful, healthy and productive  
13 for the people of Hawaii; and,  
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15 WHEREAS, in their commitment to citizenship, education, and  
16 community the MISSION HOUSES MUSEUM, their directors, volunteers  
17 and curators serve as examples to all of us and are deserving of  
18 our heartfelt praise and congratulations; now, therefore,  
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20 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
21 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
22 Session of 2008, that this body hereby honors and commends  
23 MISSION HOUSES MUSEUM on the occasion of their centennial  
24 charter celebration; and  
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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the MISSION HOUSES MUSEUM and the  
27 Hawaiian Mission Children's Society, have earned recognition  
28 from the State of Hawaii for their deep contribution to the  
29 preservation of Hawaii's heritage and their support for the  
30 wellbeing of the people of Hawaii.  
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OFFERED BY:

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