

JAN 22 2007

A BILL FOR AN ACT

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO PLAN FOR AND TO HOST THE
INTERNATIONAL INDIGENOUS HEALTH CONFERENCE, "HEALING OUR
SPIRIT WORLDWIDE" IN HAWAII.

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

1 SECTION 1. Native Hawaiians are the indigenous people of
2 Hawaii. Other indigenous peoples are found around the world and
3 despite untold hardships and tragedies resulting from contacts
4 with people from other cultures and traditions; they have
5 continued to prove to the world the richness of their cultures
6 and traditions. The core values of all indigenous peoples are
7 shared and provide to all the peoples of the world a path by
8 which all peoples can navigate to improve their lives and their
9 wellbeing.

10 In 1990, with support from the World Health Organization,
11 the International Congress on Alcohol and Addictions included a
12 special track on indigenous health issues at its Berlin
13 Conference. Attended by the indigenous peoples of Canada, New
14 Zealand, and Australia, this forum led a discussion that became
15 the foundation for an international healing movement. The first
16 gathering of this new movement entitled "Healing Our Spirit



1 Worldwide" was held in Edmonton, Canada in 1992 and attracted
2 3,300 people from seventeen countries around the world. The
3 leadership of the conferences is the International Indigenous
4 Council, a group of indigenous leaders who meet throughout the
5 year to discuss world health and wellness issues. Today the
6 International Indigenous Council consists of indigenous leaders
7 from Canada, United States, New Zealand, and Australia.

8 Since 1992, with leadership from the International
9 Indigenous Council, different countries of the world through
10 relevant native peoples organizations have hosted the "Healing
11 Our Spirit Worldwide." The stated mission of the conferences is
12 "to gather in a cultural celebration inviting the world to share
13 holistic healing experiences of Indigenous peoples in the
14 movement toward healthy lifestyles." Healing Our Spirit
15 Worldwide conferences have been held in:

16 1992: 1st Gathering: Edmonton, Canada (Health Canada);
17 1994: 2nd Gathering: Sydney, Australia;
18 1998: 3rd Gathering: Rotorua, New Zealand (National Maori
19 Health Board);
20 2002: 4th Gathering: Albuquerque, United States (American
21 Indian Health Board); and



1 2006: 5th Gathering: Edmonton, Canada (Native Counseling
2 Services of Alberta).

3 At its last meeting held in Canada in August 2006, the
4 International Indigenous Council selected Hawaii as possibly the
5 next site for the conference. Papa Ola Lokahi, the Native
6 Hawaiian Health Board, has been asked to facilitate the
7 conference. At its board meeting in September 2006, the Papa
8 Ola Lokahi board of directors agreed to take on the
9 responsibility for facilitating the 2010 conference on behalf of
10 Hawaii.

11 The Healing Our Spirit Worldwide Conference has become a
12 large international event that generates intense interest among
13 health professionals, government officials, traditional
14 practitioners, and members of the general public around the
15 world. The benefits of hosting the 2010 Healing Our Spirit
16 Worldwide in Hawaii include:

- 17 (1) Substantial income to the State from excise and hotel
18 room taxes;
- 19 (2) Substantial revenues re-circulated by conference
20 participants to local businesses and cultural venues
21 such as museums and educational institutions;



- 1 (3) Enhanced exposure of Hawaii to potentially new
- 2 visitors from countries around the world; and
- 3 (4) The opportunity to attract many first-time
- 4 participants from all over the Pacific and the world.

5 The hosting of this conference offers an exciting
6 opportunity for the State of Hawaii to showcase its indigenous
7 Native Hawaiian population and to participate in actively
8 demonstrating its support for the host culture. The visitor
9 industry has already begun to make substantial logistical
10 contributions to this effort and the Native Hawaiian community
11 has already expressed its excitement at hosting this event.
12 More than six thousand conference participants are being
13 projected for the 2010 conference.

14 The purpose of this Act is to make an appropriation for
15 planning to bring the Healing Our Spirit Worldwide conference to
16 Hawaii in 2010.

17 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
18 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$125,000, or so much
19 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008, to bring
20 the Healing Our Spirit Worldwide conference to Hawaii in 2010,
21 and to begin preliminary planning for the 2010 conference by
22 developing tentative venues involving the Native Hawaiian and



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1 other indigenous communities and the general public on all of
2 the major Hawaiian Islands and by beginning to inform indigenous
3 populations around the world about the upcoming 2010 conference.

4 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
5 business, economic development, and tourism for the purposes of
6 this Act.

7 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2007.

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Report Title:

International Indigenous Health Conference; Appropriation

Description:

Makes an appropriation for preliminary planning to host the international indigenous health conference in Hawaii in 2010.

