

JAN 22 2008

S.B. NO. 2911

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 fifty member clubs statewide. The
6 member clubs are comprised of approximately forty thousand
7 members, whose ancestors immigrated to Hawaii from the same
8 region in Okinawa. The goals of the Hawaii United Okinawa
9 Association are to promote, preserve, and perpetuate the
10 Okinawan culture, enhance awareness of the Okinawan culture and
11 heritage in Hawaii through education, and provide community
12 services. One of the association's most significant events is
13 its two-day Okinawan Festival at Kapiolani park that attracts
14 over seventy thousand people annually. More than one thousand
15 volunteers help to stage this festival. The association also
16 hosts the Children's Cultural Day Camp that provides two weeks
17 of classes for over eighty students 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, school, 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 eighty-six thousand
18 square feet of property directly across from the center and
19 plans to develop the new property to meet the present and future
20 expanding needs of the association. The association plans to
21 use the new property to provide additional office space and
22 parking; develop local adult day care and pre-school programs;



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.

