

MAR 13 2008

S.R. NO. 128

SENATE RESOLUTION

RENAMING THE NATURAL ENERGY LABORATORY OF HAWAII AUTHORITY AS
THE GEORGE R. ARIYOSHI NATURAL ENERGY LAB.

1 WHEREAS, former Governor George R. Ariyoshi was a visionary
2 who served three terms, from 1974 to 1986, as the first governor
3 of Japanese-American ancestry in the United States; and
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5 WHEREAS, being the first governor of Japanese-American
6 ancestry proved to be among one of many firsts he achieved
7 during his three terms in office, as he brought new ideas and
8 innovative policies to his administration; and
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10 WHEREAS, Governor Ariyoshi emphasized and created long-term
11 plans to secure Hawaii's future, and to preserve the state's
12 fragile environment by recognizing the potential of our natural
13 resources to provide renewable sources of power; and
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15 WHEREAS, Governor Ariyoshi proposed various ideas to
16 protect the islands, including the idea of "controlled growth"
17 to limit the impact of the growing population within the
18 islands; the State Plan, which included measures to conserve the
19 environment; and investment in alternative and renewable sources
20 of power, including the development of ocean technologies; and
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22 WHEREAS, Governor Ariyoshi's vision was instrumental in
23 developing the Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii (NELH), which
24 was created by the Legislature in 1974 to research ocean thermal
25 energy conversion (OTEC); and
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27 WHEREAS, Governor Ariyoshi's involvement in establishing
28 the Mini-OTEC was essential to its success, as it became the
29 first example of an ocean thermal energy conversion electric
30 power plant in the world; and

31 WHEREAS, in 1986, the Hawaii Ocean Science and Technology
32 (HOST) Park was created under the High Technology Development
33 Corporation as a separate entity, and in 1990, NELH and HOST
34 Park were merged into the Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii



1 Authority (NELHA) and attached to the Department of Business,
2 Economic Development, and Tourism; and
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4 WHEREAS, HOST Park was the first to successfully install a
5 commercial 40 inch diameter, deep-water pipeline to pump water
6 from below 2,200 foot depths up to the surface; and
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8 WHEREAS, Governor Ariyoshi recognized that these
9 ecologically-friendly techniques could benefit businesses and
10 boost the economy, and was able to develop a master plan and
11 attain a master lease to help reduce bureaucratic red tape for
12 potential businesses; and
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14 WHEREAS, cold, nutrient-rich seawater is being used for
15 several purposes, including the production of power, air-
16 conditioning, and for growing marine plants and animals,
17 including abalone, oysters, finfish, shrimp, pearls, vegetables,
18 and even flowers; and
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20 WHEREAS, this facility is now drawing international
21 interest and many countries want to emulate this technology; and
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23 WHEREAS, through these and other assets, NELHA has
24 attracted tenants who can use its unique complement of natural
25 and logistical resources to engage in successful, productive
26 research and commercial activities that support sustainable
27 industry development in Hawaii and provide advanced technology
28 jobs for the local economy; and
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30 WHEREAS, NELHA could not have been as successful without
31 the early, visionary encouragement and support of Governor
32 Ariyoshi, whose vision for NELHA has become synonymous with the
33 current vision for a sustainable future for Hawaii; now,
34 therefore,
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36 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
37 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008,
38 that the Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority be
39 renamed the "George R. Ariyoshi Natural Energy Laboratory" in
40 honor of former Governor Ariyoshi; and
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42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
43 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, President of the



1 Senate, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Chief
2 Executive Officer of NELHA.
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OFFERED BY: Russell Kohb
Jim

