
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR TO PLACE
IOLANI PALACE ON THE NOMINATION LIST TO THE UNITED NATIONS
EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION FOR WORLD
HERITAGE SITE DESIGNATION.

1 WHEREAS, over 125 years ago, King Kalakaua ruled over an
2 independent Hawaiian nation that was recognized internationally
3 and had established over 90 legations and consulates in multiple
4 seaports and cities of foreign countries; and
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6 WHEREAS, part of King Kalakaua's vision was the
7 construction of Iolani Palace as a showcase for Hawaii's social
8 sophistication and technological advancement; and
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10 WHEREAS, following the overthrow of Queen Liliuokalani in
11 1893, Iolani Palace ceased to be a royal palace and became the
12 seat of government for five types of political administrations:
13 a provisional government, a republic, a territory, a military
14 government, and finally, a state; and
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16 WHEREAS, Iolani Palace was designated a National Historic
17 Landmark in 1962; and
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19 WHEREAS, the executive and legislative branches of the
20 State of Hawaii vacated Iolani Palace in 1969 and moved to the
21 newly constructed State Capitol building, thus paving the way
22 for The Friends of Iolani Palace to proceed with restoration;
23 and
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25 WHEREAS, over the next decade, The Friends of Iolani
26 Palace, founded in 1966 by Liliuokalani Kawanakoa Morris, who
27 was a grand-niece of Queen Kapiolani, painstakingly worked to
28 return Iolani Palace to its former grandeur as it appeared
29 during the Kalakaua Dynasty; and



1 WHEREAS, in 1978, Iolani Palace reopened to the public with
2 the mission of perpetuating the Hawaiian monarchy and providing
3 both visitors and residents with a fresh understanding of
4 Hawaii's royal heritage; and
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6 WHEREAS, when the current United States (U.S.) list of
7 candidate sites was compiled for consideration as World Heritage
8 Sites by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural
9 Organization (UNESCO), Iolani Palace was not invited by the
10 National Park Service to apply; and
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12 WHEREAS, due to the unique cultural and historical
13 attributes of Iolani Palace and the underrepresentation of World
14 Heritage sites in Oceania, The Friends of Iolani Palace believes
15 that Iolani Palace meets multiple criteria for selection to
16 become the very first man-made structure in Polynesia to be
17 designated a World Heritage Site; and
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19 WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of The Friends of Iolani
20 Palace unanimously passed a motion to actively pursue a
21 nomination to become a UNESCO World Heritage Site at its
22 regularly scheduled meeting on October 25, 2007; now, therefore,
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24 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
25 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
26 of 2009, the Senate concurring, that the Department of the
27 Interior is requested to reopen the World Heritage nomination
28 process that was closed under the previous administration; and
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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of the Interior
31 is requested to include Iolani Palace on the current U.S.
32 Tentative List and subsequently in the nomination file that will
33 be presented to UNESCO's World Heritage Centre for review; and
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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Hawaii's congressional
36 delegation urge the Department of the Interior to place Iolani
37 Palace on the nomination list for World Heritage Site
38 designation by UNESCO; and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the
3 U.S., U.S. Secretary of the Interior, Princess Abigail Kinoiki
4 Kekaulike Kawananakoa, and each member of Hawaii's congressional
5 delegation.

