
HOUSE 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 the
8 sophistication and technological advancement of Hawaii as a
9 society; and
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11 WHEREAS, following the overthrow of Queen Liliuokalani in
12 1893, Iolani Palace ceased to be a royal palace and became the
13 seat of government for five types of political administrations:
14 provisional, republic, territorial, military, and finally, a
15 state; and
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17 WHEREAS, Iolani Palace was designated a National Historic
18 Landmark in 1962; and
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20 WHEREAS, the Executive and Legislative branches of the
21 State of Hawaii vacated Iolani Palace in 1969 and moved to the
22 newly constructed State Capitol building, thus paving the way
23 for The Friends of Iolani Palace to proceed with restoration;
24 and
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26 WHEREAS, over the next decade, The Friends of Iolani
27 Palace, founded in 1966 by Liliuokalani Kawanakoa Morris, who
28 was a grand-niece of Queen Kapiolani, painstakingly worked to
29 return Iolani Palace to its former grandeur as it appeared
30 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 with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and
9 Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Iolani Palace was not invited by
10 the 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, that the Department of the Interior is requested to
27 reopen the World Heritage nomination process that had been
28 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 to be placed in the nomination
33 file that will be presented to UNESCO's World Heritage Centre
34 for review; and
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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Hawaii's Congressional
37 Delegation urge the Department of the Interior to place Iolani
38 Palace on the nomination list to UNESCO for World Heritage Site
39 designation; and



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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the U.S., U.S.
3 Secretary of the Interior, and each member of Hawaii's
4 Congressional Delegation.
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OFFERED BY:

Karl Abroad

[Signature]

MAR 18 2009

