
HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE EMMA KWOCK CHUN CORPORATION, THE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE, AND THE HISTORIC HAWAII FOUNDATION TO APPLY FOR PLACEMENT OF PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA'S PUNAHOU CIRCLE APARTMENT ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES.

1 WHEREAS, the Punahou Circle apartments complex, built in
2 the 1960s, is a modest cinderblock walk-up building in the
3 neighborhood of Makiki; and
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5 WHEREAS, Madelyn Dunham, grandmother of President Barack
6 Obama, rented a tenth-floor unit in the Punahou Circle
7 apartments for forty-one years; close to her apartment is
8 Kapiolani Hospital, where President Obama was born; and
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10 WHEREAS, during President Obama's childhood, he lived with
11 his grandmother in that apartment while attending near-by
12 Punahou School from 1971 to 1979; and
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14 WHEREAS, after President Obama graduated from Punahou
15 School in 1979, he attended Occidental College, Columbia
16 University, and Harvard Law School, before taking up residence
17 in Chicago, Illinois; and
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19 WHEREAS, after marrying his wife, Michelle, in 1992,
20 President and Mrs. Obama spent Christmas in Hawaii, visiting his
21 grandmother at the same apartment where he lived many years as a
22 child; and
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24 WHEREAS, in October 2008, President Obama again made a
25 visit to the Punahou Circle apartment to spend time with his
26 grandmother, who was in poor health; and
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1 WHEREAS, Madelyn Dunham passed away at her Punahou Circle
2 apartment home in her sleep on November 3, 2008; and

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4 WHEREAS, although a rental apartment building, the units in
5 the Punahou Circle apartments include the childhood home of a
6 United States President; and

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8 WHEREAS, the Historic Hawaii Foundation offered the
9 possibility of placing the building on the National Register of
10 Historic Places; and

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12 WHEREAS, even though the Historic Hawaii Foundation
13 acknowledges the unusual nature of placing a condominium or
14 apartment building on the National Register, the Punahou Circle
15 apartment where President Obama and his grandmother lived
16 represents a proud and historic part of history in Hawaii; and

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18 WHEREAS, the Emma Kwock Chun Corporation, owner of the
19 Punahou Circle apartments, has not decided on the future of the
20 apartment or nominating the apartment for placement on the
21 National Register; and

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23 WHEREAS, nomination and registration for the National
24 Register of Historic Places is a lengthy process, requiring
25 review and studies of the property conducted by the State
26 Historic Preservation Office before submission to the National
27 Park Service of the United States Department of the Interior;
28 now, therefore,

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30 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
31 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
32 of 2009, that this body urges the Emma Kwock Chun Corporation,
33 with the assistance and guidance of the State Historic
34 Preservation Office and the Historic Hawaii Foundation, to apply
35 President Barack Obama's Punahou Circle apartment home for
36 placement on the National Register of Historic Places; and

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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
39 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
40 Land and Natural Resources, the Administrator of the State
41 Historic Preservation Division of the Department of Land and
42 Natural Resources, the President of the Historic Hawaii



1 Foundation, and the Chairperson of the Emma Kwock Chun
2 Corporation.
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OFFERED BY:

Tom Brown

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