
HOUSE RESOLUTION

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4 HONORING THE CHINESE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF HAWAII FOR HAVING
5 CELEBRATED THEIR 60TH NARCISSUS FESTIVAL.
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9 WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii supports and acknowledges the
10 importance of organizations that preserve the culture and values
11 of Chinese Americans in a multi-cultural society; and,
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13 WHEREAS, established in 1911, the Chinese Chamber of
14 Commerce of Hawaii, formerly known as the Chinese Merchants'
15 Association, serves the local Chinese business community with
16 the mission to promote business and economic development with
17 focus on China and Southeast Asia, to preserve Chinese culture,
18 and to encourage civic responsibility; and,
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20 WHEREAS, the Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii has
21 raised funds to provide relief to victims of natural disasters
22 in China, provided financial assistance to schools in China,
23 assisted many elderly, indigent Chinese return to the homeland,
24 and helped Chinese immigrants navigate the immigration and
25 naturalization procedures; and,
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27 WHEREAS, the Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii has been
28 involved in Chinese trade exhibitions, conducted management
29 training programs, and worked with the State of Hawaii in
30 promoting investment missions to Taiwan, Hong Kong, and China;
31 and,
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33 WHEREAS, the Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii has
34 participated in many community activities, such as the Community
35 Chest under the present Aloha United Way, and the Red Cross, the
36 largest and most extensive project that the Chinese Chamber
37 takes on is the annual Narcissus Festival; and,
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39 WHEREAS, the vision behind the Chinese Chamber of Commerce
40 of Hawaii's Narcissus Festival was realized in 1950 through the



1 dedicated time, labor, financial support and resources of its
2 founders, each committed to the preservation and expansion of
3 Chinese culture and traditions; among these men included: Henry
4 Awa Wong, president of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce, Honorary
5 Mayor of Chinatown; Frederick K. Lam, M.D., Kan Leong, the first
6 festival chairperson, Given K.W. Tang, Wah Chan Thom, Bing Fai
7 Lau, and Walter Aloiau, and many others; and,
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9 WHEREAS, inspired by an old Chinese saying, "marn see hee
10 tau nurn", meaning "among a thousand things, the beginning is
11 the hardest", despite the challenges of implementing a festival
12 of its magnitude, founders of the Narcissus Festival saw and
13 seized an opportunity to promote commerce during a trying time
14 in our Nation's history, the Narcissus Festival has thrived and
15 flourished since its inception sixty years ago and now possesses
16 the distinct privilege of being the State's first and oldest
17 ethnic festival; and,
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19 WHEREAS, the Narcissus flower, namesake of the Festival
20 (also known as Sui Sin Fah in Chinese), abounds in auspicious
21 symbolism by virtue of its association with the lunar new year;
22 ever-abundant in the springtime, and through the release of its
23 sweet, delicate fragrance, the Narcissus flower, beloved to the
24 Chinese, came to epitomize purity of heart and soul in the
25 Chinese culture, fitting qualities for contestants in the
26 Festival's annual Narcissus Queen Pageant; and,
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28 WHEREAS, traditionally held in mid-January, the Narcissus
29 Queen Pageant is the oldest ethnic pageant in the State of
30 Hawaii in which participants desirous of the opportunity to
31 represent the Chinese community while adhering to the highest
32 standards of personal conduct each succumb to rigorous pre-
33 pageant preparation and an intense selection process, before the
34 new Queen and her Court are ultimately selected by judges among
35 a pool of worthy contestants; and,
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37 WHEREAS, the Pageant, now in its sixtieth year, showcases
38 the beauty and poise of its contestants, and overtime has
39 eliminated the need for a swimsuit competition, instead adding a
40 talent category in its place; each contestant is judged on the
41 basis of their overall performance in four areas: talent,



1 performed at the selection of the contestant, the cheong sam
2 gown phase, a question and answer phase based on Chinese history
3 and traditions, and a personal interview conducted by Pageant
4 judges; and,
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6 WHEREAS, on January 10, 2009, the 60th Annual Narcissus
7 Queen Pageant was held at Hawaii Theatre Center during which
8 contestant Lisa Wai Hah Wong, daughter of Dr. Roger and Darlene
9 Wong, was crowned as the 2009 Narcissus Queen and members of the
10 Court: Tina Ng crowned first princess, Dan Yuan, crowned second
11 princess, Kacie Pang crowned third princess, and Kristine Duong
12 crowned as fourth princess; and,
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14 WHEREAS, on January 17, 2009, the Chinese Chamber of
15 Commerce of Hawaii celebrated the 60th Anniversary of the
16 Narcissus Queen Coronation Ball with 60 years of past
17 presidents, 40 years of prior Narcissus Queens, and present
18 Chinese Chamber officers including President and past-chair of
19 the Narcissus and Splendor of China Festivals Ted T.C. Li;
20 President-Elect and 60th Narcissus Festival General Chairman
21 Dennis J. Hwang; 20-year Narcissus Queen Pageant Chairman and
22 current Secretary of the Chinese Chamber Michele Ching; and past
23 President of both the Chinese Chamber of Commerce and the Palolo
24 Chinese Home Wes Fong; and,
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26 WHEREAS, with each passing year, as the Narcissus Festival
27 grows in renown and popularity, it serves to strengthen and
28 reinforce the Chamber's efforts in promoting the Chinese
29 cultural heritage while aiding the Chamber's ongoing progress
30 towards the revitalization of Chinatown; now, therefore,
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32 BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the
33 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
34 of 2009, that this body hereby honors the Chinese Chamber of
35 Commerce of Hawaii for having celebrated sixty years of success,
36 memories, and history through their presentation of the Annual
37 Narcissus Festival; this body offers its heartfelt thanks to the
38 Chinese Chamber and its members, both past and present, for
39 their dedicated efforts in tending to the growth of the
40 Narcissus Festival which, like the flower it represents, has
41 bloomed into the deeply respected and valued tradition and

1 source of pride for which the State of Hawaii offers its deepest
2 gratitude.

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OFFERED BY:



