HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THAT A TOURISM TASK FORCE BE CREATED AND TO FOCUS ON INCREASING TOURISM FROM TAIWAN AND CHINA.

WHEREAS, the nations of China and Taiwan have one of the largest, fastest growing and affluent middle-class populations $\sqrt{3}$ in the world with 41 million outbound travelers in 2007, a projected 50 million in 2010 and a projected 100 million by 2020; and

WHEREAS, the average spent in Hawaii by tourists traveling from both China and Taiwan is \$283 per person, per day, the highest of any visitor from any geographic area; and

WHEREAS, hope for Hawaii's slumping economy lies in tourism from China and Taiwan and that Hawaii's window of opportunity to cement relationships with one of the most important and largest market for products and services that exist in the world is open; and

WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii has a rich and vibrant heritage, blending history, values, and culture from its various ethnicities to create a unique community in the world; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the State of Hawaii to implement a "full-court press" to tap into this vast, lucrative tourist market to its fullest extent; and

WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii has transitioned from an economy dominated by agriculture to one where tourism is the main driver, contributing to over \$12,800,000,000 in direct visitor expenditures statewide in 2007, according to the 2007 State of Hawaii Data Book; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2010, the Senate concurring, that there be a task force

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created within the Office of the Lieutenant Governor comprised of representatives from the Chinese Chamber of Commerce, Department of Economic Development and Tourism, Hawaii Tourism Authority, Hawaii Tourism Asia, and members of the Chinese Community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2010, that a task force be created within the Office of the Lieutenant Governor comprised of representatives from the Chinese Chamber of Commerce, Department of Economic Development and Tourism, Hawaii Tourism Authority, Hawaii Tourism Asia, and members of the Chinese Community; and

 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said task force should address the barriers that inhibit tapping into the Chinese "tour boom" that the Hawaii Tourism Authority hasn't included in its marketing plan; these include the lack of non-stop direct flights between China and Hawaii, which reduces travel time by as much as ten hours one way, in addition to the development of relationships with government officials and private business to grow this industry sector and support the efforts of the Hawaii Tourism Authority; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said task force shall educate and prepare Hawaii businesses and residents for this new exciting traveler from China and Taiwan in order to be in a position to benefit from this, shall train appropriate personnel, shall create partnerships with tourist-orientated programs such as Kapiolani Community College's Travel and Tourism Program and the University of Hawaii's School of Travel Industry Management, and promote product sales in these new developing markets; and

 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Honorable Governor of the State of Hawaii, the Tourism Liaison for the Office of the Governor of the State of Hawaii, the Director of the Department of Economic Development and Tourism, the Chairman of the Hawaii Tourism Authority, and the appropriate ethnic community organizations.

H.C.R. NO.151

OFFERED BY:

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