
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING TRADITIONAL HAWAIIAN TATTOOING AS AN ART FORM.

1 WHEREAS, Native Hawaiians are recognized as the indigenous
2 people of the Hawaiian archipelago; and

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4 WHEREAS, the practice of Hawaiian tattooing, or kākau,
5 predates western contact; and

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7 WHEREAS, Native Hawaiians refined this practice over many
8 centuries; and

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10 WHEREAS, traditional Hawaiian tattooing was done without
11 the use of modern tools or electricity; and

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13 WHEREAS, the traditional practice held great spiritual and
14 cultural significance in the Hawaiian archipelago for the Native
15 Hawaiian people; and

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17 WHEREAS, traditional Hawaiian tattooing was common among
18 both maka`ainānā and ali`i; and

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20 WHEREAS, traditional Hawaiian tattooing allowed for the
21 preservation of an individual's genealogy, geography, and trade;
22 and

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24 WHEREAS, Native Hawaiians today continue to practice this
25 traditional custom; and

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27 WHEREAS, traditional Native Hawaiian tattoo artists who
28 continue the practice currently still undergo many years of
29 training to develop the skills to practice this custom with
30 traditional tools and methods; and



1 WHEREAS, recognition as a traditional Native Hawaiian
2 tattoo artist can only be bestowed upon an individual by a
3 master artist; and

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5 WHEREAS, many Native Hawaiians today continue to receive
6 tattoos in the traditional method as a way of recognizing their
7 culture and Hawaiian ancestors; and

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9 WHEREAS, traditional Hawaiian tattooing today continues to
10 serve as a cultural expression of an individual's genealogy and
11 trade; and

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13 WHEREAS, Native Hawaiians today continue to receive tattoos
14 in the traditional method for their spiritual and cultural
15 significance; and

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17 WHEREAS, traditional Native Hawaiian tattoo artists
18 constantly work to practice and refine their art; and

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20 WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii is committed to supporting art
21 and culture in Hawaii; and

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23 WHEREAS, traditional Polynesian tattooing, which includes
24 traditional Hawaiian tattooing, is recognized as an art form
25 throughout the Pacific and the world; and

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27 WHEREAS, traditional Hawaiian tattoos have been featured in
28 exhibits at the Honolulu Academy of Arts and the Bishop Museum;
29 now, therefore,

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31 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
32 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
33 of 2010, the Senate concurring, that the Legislature recognizes
34 traditional Hawaiian tattooing as an art form; and

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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
37 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
38 Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

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OFFERED BY:
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