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## HOUSE 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

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32          WHEREAS, recognition as a traditional Native Hawaiian  
33 tattoo artist can only be bestowed upon an individual by a  
34 master artist; and



1 WHEREAS, many Native Hawaiians today continue to receive  
2 tattoos in the traditional method as a way of recognizing their  
3 culture and Hawaiian ancestors; and  
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5 WHEREAS, traditional Hawaiian tattooing today continues to  
6 serve as a cultural expression of an individual's genealogy and  
7 trade; and  
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9 WHEREAS, Native Hawaiians today continue to receive tattoos  
10 in the traditional method for their spiritual and cultural  
11 significance; and  
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13 WHEREAS, traditional Native Hawaiian tattoo artists  
14 constantly work to practice and refine their art; and  
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16 WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii is committed to supporting art  
17 and culture in Hawaii; and  
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19 WHEREAS, traditional Polynesian tattooing, which includes  
20 traditional Hawaiian tattooing, is recognized as an art form  
21 throughout the Pacific and the world; and  
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23 WHEREAS, traditional Hawaiian tattoos have been featured in  
24 exhibits at the Honolulu Academy of Arts and the Bishop Museum;  
25 now, therefore,  
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27 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
28 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
29 of 2010, that this body recognizes traditional Hawaiian  
30 tattooing as an art form; and  
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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
33 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of  
34 Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.  
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OFFERED BY: Karen Luana  
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