

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AMENDMENT TO: H.C.R. 169

OFFERED BY: REPRESENTATIVE SHARON E. HAR

DATE: April 13, 2012

SECTION 1. House Concurrent Resolution No. 169 (URGING THE COUNTIES TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT COMMUNITY CONCERNS COUNCILS IN RURAL AREAS) is amended by deleting its contents and replacing it with new language to read as follows:

"HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION URGING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF KOREATOWN AND DEVELOPMENT OF A MASTER PLAN FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A KOREATOWN.

WHEREAS, Koreans have a long history in Hawaii which started with 16 Koreans in 1902 and the first group of Korean laborers arriving in January 1903; and

WHEREAS, after the passage of the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965, Koreans have become one of the fastest growing Asian groups in the United States which spurred the opening of the University of Hawaii's Center for Korean Studies in 1973; and

WHEREAS, immigration has continued, resulting in a population of 23,537 Koreans in Hawaii, according to the 2000 United States Census, and causing the Center for Korean Studies to broaden the teaching of Korean history and culture; and

WHEREAS, Hawaii has been at the forefront of encouraging the federal government to approve a visa waiver program for Korea; and

WHEREAS, on June 16, 2003, the Korean Consulate, Hawaii Korean Tourism Association, and Korean Air formed the Hawaii Tourism Promotion Association for the purpose of promoting tourism and a visa waiver program for Koreans; and

WHEREAS, on August 19, 2003, the Korean-Hawaii Visa Waiver Action Committee was created to promote and advocate the necessity of a visa waiver program for Koreans; and

WHEREAS, on April 26, 2004, the Legislature adopted House Concurrent Resolution No. 202, urging the members of Hawaii's congressional delegation to introduce federal legislation to provide additional resources to expand visa processing capacity in the Consular Section of the United States Embassy in Seoul in the Republic of Korea, and to include the Republic of Korea in the Visa Waiver Program; and

WHEREAS, on October 17, 2008, following several years of advocacy and lobbying efforts by the Korean-Hawaii Visa Waiver Action Committee in Washington, D.C. and in Korea, President Bush announced the visa waiver program for Koreans, effective November 17, 2008; and

WHEREAS, Koreans entering Hawaii between 2005 to 2008 totaled 35,008 in 2005, 37,911 in 2006, 42,140 in 2007, and 38,110 in 2008, and the number dramatically increased to 54,739 in 2009; and

WHEREAS, the upward trend has continued, totaling 81,921 Korean visitors in 2010 and 100,172 visitors in 2011, with projections that the number of Koreans entering in Hawaii will continue to grow at 30 to 50 percent annually; and

WHEREAS, Korean Air schedules fourteen flights a week to Hawaii, Asiana Airlines schedules two flights a week to Hawaii and will increase to seven flights a week starting in July 2012, and Hawaiian Airlines schedules four flights a week to Hawaii and will increase to seven flights a week starting in July 2012; and

WHEREAS, more than 92 percent of the Korean tourists in Hawaii visited Oahu, of which approximately 82 percent are first-time visitors to Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, many Koreans have given their time and expertise in serving the State of Hawaii, one of the most notable being Chief Justice Ronald T.Y. Moon, whose grandparents were among the first Korean immigrants to Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, Census Tracts 36.01 and 36.02 give the general boundaries encompassing areas west of Kalakaua Avenue to Pensacola Street and north of Kapiolani Boulevard to South King

Street which has become known as the Korean business district;
and

WHEREAS, according to numbers from the 2000 United States Census, Census Tract 36.02 was home to 1,008 Koreans and part-Koreans, making it the neighborhood with the highest concentration of Koreans in the State; and

WHEREAS, areas surrounding, in, and around Census Tracts 36.01 and 36.02 are home to approximately 18 percent of Hawaii's Korean population; and

WHEREAS, as Hawaii continues its efforts to overcome the existing global financial crisis, it must look to its own state resources as well as develop international partnerships to plan for its current recovery and future to prevent another economic crisis; and

WHEREAS, Koreatowns or Korean-themed streets or districts exist in large United States cities such as Los Angeles, New York, Dallas, Chicago, Philadelphia, and Atlanta, and internationally Koreatowns exist in Toronto, Sydney, Tokyo, Osaka, London, Auckland, Hong Kong, and Beijing; and

WHEREAS, establishing a Koreatown is the first and natural step in recognizing the long history and bonds developed throughout the decades of Korean immigration and influence in Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, as Korea globally grows in recognition as an economic power, Hawaii must be at the forefront and establish itself as a gateway to Korean investment; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2012, the Senate concurring, that the Legislature urges the establishment of a Koreatown; and


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Planning in coordination with the City and County of Honolulu Department of Planning and Permitting are urged to develop a master plan for the development of a Koreatown to include but not be limited to the following:

- (1) Area boundaries;

- (2) Incentives to promote and perpetuate further investment with Korea;
- (3) A museum and cultural center highlighting Korea's contributions in culture, music, fashion, art, and society in Hawaii and the world and including statues of Korean leaders from Hawaii; and
- (4) Specialized design plans to reflect Korean architecture; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Planning is requested to submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than 20 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2013; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu, Director of the Office of Planning, and Director of the City and County of Honolulu Department of Planning and Permitting."

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 CHIEF CLERK, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES		