

MAR - 1 2013

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## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE STATE OF HAWAII TO CONVERT THE THIRD FLOOR OF THE NO. 1 CAPITOL DISTRICT BUILDING, LOCATED AT 250 SOUTH HOTEL STREET, INTO PORTIONS OF THE HAWAII STATE ART MUSEUM BY 2016 AND TO CONVERT THE FOURTH FLOOR OF THE NO. 1 CAPITOL DISTRICT BUILDING INTO PORTIONS OF THE HAWAII STATE ART MUSEUM BY 2018.

1           WHEREAS, the Hawaii State Foundation on Culture and the  
2 Arts (HSFCA) was founded in 1965 by the Legislature, stating as  
3 its mission "to promote, perpetuate, preserve and encourage  
4 culture and the arts, history and the humanities as central to  
5 the quality of life of the people of Hawaii"; and  
6

7           WHEREAS, the Hawaii State Art Museum (HiSAM) opened under  
8 HSFCA on November 3, 2002, to an enthusiastic reception across  
9 the State, including the proclamation from then-Governor Ben  
10 Cayetano that the "people of our State will now have a unique  
11 place in the Capitol District where their own art is displayed,  
12 taught, practiced and passed on to the children of Hawaii"; and  
13

14           WHEREAS, the Legislature established the Art in Public  
15 Places Program in 1967, making Hawaii the first state in the  
16 nation with a percent-for-art law to access one percent of all  
17 state building construction costs for public art funds; through  
18 this state fund and the generosity of various benefactors, the  
19 Art in Public Places Program has grown to include an impressive  
20 collection of 5,739 rotational artworks; and  
21

22           WHEREAS, existing exhibition space currently allotted to  
23 HiSAM galleries only accommodates 287 of these pieces, with an  
24 overwhelming 1,800 pieces remaining unseen in storage, while as  
25 of January 3, 2013, the remaining 3,652 pieces circulate through  
26 various government offices; and  
27

28           WHEREAS, the site and structure containing HiSAM boast  
29 unique and fascinating political-economic histories, embodying



1 Hawaii's cultural trajectory to exude a monumental sense of  
2 place best appreciated by visitors who are allowed to access the  
3 building as a whole, beyond merely the second floor; and  
4

5 WHEREAS, this unique history began in 1872 when John Mott-  
6 Smith and Charles Coffin Harris, American politicians serving in  
7 Hawaii's cabinet under King Kamehameha V, convinced the  
8 Legislature to fund Hawaii's first hotel, named the Royal  
9 Hawaiian Hotel by the King, and assigned to the premises now  
10 home to HiSAM; and  
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12 WHEREAS, this original Royal Hawaiian Hotel was converted  
13 to a YMCA facility in 1917 and used by the military during World  
14 War I; however, by 1926 the building had become infested by  
15 termites and was torn down and rebuilt in a "U" shape with a  
16 swimming pool in its courtyard, in the Spanish Mission style, by  
17 the firm Emory & Webb; and  
18

19 WHEREAS, in 1987 American hotel developer Chris Hemmeter  
20 spent \$11,000,000 to acquire the building for his company  
21 headquarters, invested \$29,000,000 on renovations, and sold the  
22 building to the Japanese BIGI Corporation in 1990 for  
23 \$82,000,000; and  
24

25 WHEREAS, during the 2000 legislative session, Governor  
26 Cayetano convinced the Legislature to purchase the building for  
27 \$22,300,000, to be used for government purposes, including a  
28 public art gallery encompassing the second floor; and  
29

30 WHEREAS, an informational kiosk, gift shop and popular café  
31 were added to the building's ground floor in 2005 to provide  
32 residents and visitors alike with a complete museum experience  
33 and to showcase the local art and culture of Hawaii, free of the  
34 admission tickets charged by other museums; and  
35

36 WHEREAS, HiSAM now includes four galleries: a central  
37 sculpture lobby on the second floor, a permanent painting and  
38 sculpture exhibition on the Ewa wing of the second floor, a  
39 rotating series of temporary exhibitions on the Diamond Head  
40 wing of the second floor, and an open air sculpture garden in  
41 the courtyard surrounding the ground floor swimming pool; and  
42

43 WHEREAS, HiSAM regularly opens its doors and grounds for  
44 spectacular musical, dance, and acrobatic performances on the



1 first Friday of every month and other special occasions to  
2 engage the community through holistic exposure to visual art,  
3 music, and movement; and  
4

5 WHEREAS, these events create for the public an encompassing  
6 sense of place dedicated specifically to the arts – a unique  
7 environment that would be substantially enhanced by a more  
8 thorough incorporation of the entire building; and  
9

10 WHEREAS, HiSAM now hosts the multidisciplinary museum  
11 education program "Art Bento," a compact and cohesive  
12 opportunity for public and charter school students from  
13 kindergarten through sixth grade statewide to experience the  
14 galleries as "learning laboratories" where artworks catalyze  
15 inquiry-based student learning in literacy, visual, and  
16 performing arts; and  
17

18 WHEREAS, the interactive museum component of this  
19 educational program is now limited to the space afforded by the  
20 "I Love Art" gallery, a substantial corner of the Diamond Head  
21 gallery of HiSAM, which is not acoustically or visually isolated  
22 from the rotating art displays and thus does not allow school  
23 groups to communicate at likely volumes without disturbing other  
24 museum visitors; and  
25

26 WHEREAS, HiSAM currently lacks an auditorium of ample size  
27 for lectures, musical performances, tapings, or interactive  
28 presentations allowing students to create art; and  
29

30 WHEREAS, HiSAM adds a unique and irreplaceable element to  
31 Hawaii's array of historic and cultural sites, for it is the  
32 State's only public art museum and the only visitor locus  
33 prioritizing the creations of local artists whose stories convey  
34 the cultural legacy of Hawaii as experienced by the community;  
35 now, therefore,  
36

37 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-seventh  
38 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2013, the  
39 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of  
40 Accounting and General Services be urged to convert the third  
41 floor of the No. 1 Capitol District Building, located at 250  
42 South Hotel Street, into exhibition, administrative, and/or  
43 educational space within the Hawaii State Art Museum no later  
44 than 2016; and



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 2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Accounting  
 3 and General Services be urged to convert the fourth floor of the  
 4 No. 1 Capitol District Building into exhibition, administrative,  
 5 and/or educational space within the Hawaii State Art Museum no  
 6 later than 2018; and

7  
 8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 9 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor,  
 10 Comptroller, and the Executive Director of the Hawaii State  
 11 Foundation on Culture and the Arts.

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