

MAR - 1 2013

SENATE 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
30 Hawaii's cultural trajectory to exude a monumental sense of
31 place best appreciated by visitors who are allowed to access the
32 building as a whole, beyond merely the second floor; and



1
2 WHEREAS, this unique history began in 1872 when John Mott-
3 Smith and Charles Coffin Harris, American politicians serving in
4 Hawaii's cabinet under King Kamehameha V, convinced the
5 Legislature to fund Hawaii's first hotel, named the Royal
6 Hawaiian Hotel by the King, and assigned to the premises now
7 home to HiSAM; and

8
9 WHEREAS, this original Royal Hawaiian Hotel was converted
10 to a YMCA facility in 1917 and used by the military during World
11 War I; however, by 1926 the building had become infested by
12 termites and was torn down and rebuilt in a "U" shape with a
13 swimming pool in its courtyard, in the Spanish Mission style, by
14 the firm Emory & Webb; and

15
16 WHEREAS, in 1987 American hotel developer Chris Hemmeter
17 spent \$11,000,000 to acquire the building for his company
18 headquarters, invested \$29,000,000 on renovations, and sold the
19 building to the Japanese BIGI Corporation in 1990 for
20 \$82,000,000; and

21
22 WHEREAS, during the 2000 legislative session, Governor
23 Cayetano convinced the Legislature to purchase the building for
24 \$22,300,000, to be used for government purposes, including a
25 public art gallery encompassing the second floor; and

26
27 WHEREAS, an informational kiosk, gift shop and popular café
28 were added to the building's ground floor in 2005 to provide
29 residents and visitors alike with a complete museum experience
30 and to showcase the local art and culture of Hawaii, free of the
31 admission tickets charged by other museums; and

32
33 WHEREAS, HiSAM now includes four galleries: a central
34 sculpture lobby on the second floor, a permanent painting and
35 sculpture exhibition on the Ewa wing of the second floor, a
36 rotating series of temporary exhibitions on the Diamond Head
37 wing of the second floor, and an open air sculpture garden in
38 the courtyard surrounding the ground floor swimming pool; and

39
40 WHEREAS, HiSAM regularly opens its doors and grounds for
41 spectacular musical, dance, and acrobatic performances on the
42 first Friday of every month and other special occasions to
43 engage the community through holistic exposure to visual art,
44 music, and movement; and



1
2 WHEREAS, these events create for the public an encompassing
3 sense of place dedicated specifically to the arts – a unique
4 environment that would be substantially enhanced by a more
5 thorough incorporation of the entire building; and
6

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

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

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

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

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

42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Accounting
43 and General Services be urged to convert the fourth floor of the
44 No. 1 Capitol District Building into exhibition, administrative,



S.R. NO. 36

1 and/or educational space within the Hawaii State Art Museum no
2 later than 2018; and

3
4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
5 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Comptroller, and the
6 Executive Director of the Hawaii State Foundation on Culture and
7 the Arts.
8
9
10

OFFERED BY: Will Ezro

Erzanne Chun Aakua
Rosalie de Bel

D. J. J.

Michael

J

Maleson John

Clarence K. Nishihara

Jim

Ronald P.

Handwritten signature

