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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING THE MOILIILI JAPANESE CEMETERY  
BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT FOR CONDUCTING HISTORICAL RESEARCH  
OF AND IMPROVING THE MOILIILI JAPANESE CEMETERY.

1           WHEREAS, the House of Representatives takes great pride in  
2 honoring the superb achievements and notable contributions of  
3 those who preserve Japanese immigrant history, recognize the  
4 importance of reconnecting families with their ancestors, and  
5 beautify our communities; and

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7           WHEREAS, in the early 1900s, Emyo Imamura, Minister of the  
8 Hawaii Betsuin of Honpa Hongwanji, dreamed of building a bochi  
9 or cemetery for his parishioners in Moiliili; and

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11           WHEREAS, in 1908, the Moiliili Japanese Cemetery was opened  
12 to the entire Japanese community and was a designated resting  
13 place for many early Japanese immigrants to Hawaii; and

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15           WHEREAS, currently, the Moiliili Japanese Cemetery houses  
16 more than 2,000 family monuments and 10,000 souls; and

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18           WHEREAS, as the Moiliili Japanese Cemetery fell into  
19 disrepair, dedicated individuals involved with the Moiliili  
20 Japanese Cemetery Beautification Project gave the cemetery its  
21 first facelift in 105 years; and

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23           WHEREAS, the Moiliili Japanese Cemetery Beautification  
24 Project consists of more than 100 volunteers, who work  
25 diligently each weekend and during holidays to maintain and  
26 improve the cemetery in order to preserve the character of this  
27 historically significant site; and

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29           WHEREAS, the Moiliili Japanese Cemetery Beautification  
30 Project was awarded an Awesome Foundation Grant in August of  
31 2012 that helped to enhance the beauty of this cemetery; and




1 WHEREAS, volunteers have worked tirelessly to replace a  
 2 link fence with a bluestone wall; improve the main entrance;  
 3 remove debris; plant and maintain plumeria trees, desert roses,  
 4 mao and ilima plants, and manila palms; build gardens and  
 5 seating areas; and install a new water supply with washing  
 6 stones and additional faucets; and

7  
 8 WHEREAS, volunteers involved with the Moiliili Japanese  
 9 Cemetery Beautification Project also understand the importance  
 10 of preserving and accessing historical records and together with  
 11 the University of Hawaii Honors 291S course, "The City as Text-  
 12 Reading Moiliili," worked extensively to gather and translate  
 13 data from the hundreds of gravestones in the Moiliili Japanese  
 14 Cemetery and catalog the names online in order to make  
 15 information available to the public about individuals that now  
 16 rest inside the cemetery; and

17  
 18 WHEREAS, the Moiliili Japanese Cemetery Beautification  
 19 Project helps to preserve the historic nature of this site, and  
 20 project advocates are currently applying for the Moiliili  
 21 Japanese Cemetery's placement on the National and State Register  
 22 of Historic Places; now, therefore,

23  
 24 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
 25 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
 26 Session of 2014, that this body hereby recognizes and commends  
 27 the Moiliili Japanese Cemetery Beautification Project for  
 28 conducting historical research of and improving the Moiliili  
 29 Japanese Cemetery, expresses its appreciation to the volunteers  
 30 for their noteworthy achievements, and extends to them its best  
 31 wishes for continued success in all future endeavors.

OFFERED BY:

  
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 Scott K. Sum  
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