
HOUSE RESOLUTION

ENCOURAGING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO
APPROVE THE REQUEST TO REOPEN PARADISE PARK AS A HAWAIIAN
CULTURAL CENTER.

1 WHEREAS, Paradise Park, open to the public from 1968 to
2 1994, was an attraction located in Manoa Valley that featured an
3 exotic bird exhibit and botanical garden; and
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5 WHEREAS, Paradise Park, Inc., has held a seventy-five year
6 lease to the property since 1966; and
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8 WHEREAS, in 1966, the Board of Land and Natural Resources
9 approved Conservation District Use Permit No. OA-30 for
10 approximately 47 acres for recreational purposes by
11 establishment of zoological and botanical gardens, with
12 specified ancillary uses; and
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14 WHEREAS, since closing its operations in 1994 due to the
15 downturn in the economy, use of Paradise Park has consisted of
16 Treetops Restaurant, parking for Manoa Falls Trail, a snack shop
17 and gift shop, hula halau, administrative offices, and
18 occasional film production; and
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20 WHEREAS, the Paradise Park property is located beside the
21 Manoa Falls Trail; and
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23 WHEREAS, Manoa Falls Trail is one of the most popular
24 destinations for Hawaii tourists; and
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26 WHEREAS, Paradise Park, Inc., seeks to provide visitors
27 with a more fulfilling experience of Hawaii by reopening
28 Paradise Park as a Hawaiian Cultural Center; and
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30 WHEREAS, educational projects such as hula workshops,
31 lectures on Hawaiian culture, musical performances, and
32 specialized botanical gardens will bring people to the area and,
33 in turn, provide jobs and opportunities for all parties
34 involved; and
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1 WHEREAS, Paradise Park, Inc.'s vision is to reopen Paradise
2 Park as a gathering place in the rainforest of Manoa Valley to
3 foster public and private partnerships that promote education,
4 preservation, and stewardship of the land, expressing the
5 Hawaiian cultural traditions and practices that make Hawaii
6 unique, thereby supporting the growth of economic and cultural
7 assets of all Hawaiians; and

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9 WHEREAS, on February 27, 2013, Paradise Park, Inc.,
10 submitted to the Department of Land and Natural Resources a
11 formal request for approval to reopen Paradise Park as a
12 Hawaiian Cultural Center, consisting of a zoological and
13 botanical garden with a special emphasis on a unique arrangement
14 of gardens that celebrate the traditional dance of Hawaii, the
15 hula; and

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17 WHEREAS, the Department of Land and Natural Resources has
18 requested additional information, which Paradise Park, Inc., is
19 preparing in addition to themes and concepts for the proposed
20 Hawaiian Cultural Center; and

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22 WHEREAS, Paradise Park, Inc., has prepared a three-phase
23 plan to utilize existing buildings and work from the original
24 master plan from 1966 to reopen Paradise Park as a Hawaiian
25 Cultural Center, with the first phase to be completed within
26 twelve months of approval from the Department of Land and
27 Natural Resources, and the second and third phases to be
28 completed within two to three years; and

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30 WHEREAS, this body supports the plan for the proposed
31 Hawaiian Cultural Center to promote Hawaiian culture, dance, and
32 arts by establishing a center of learning where the arts and
33 culture of Hawaii can prosper in a natural setting; and

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35 WHEREAS, this body believes that the proposed Hawaiian
36 Cultural Center should strive to be the first of its kind
37 dedicated to Hawaiian culture, with an emphasis on the art of
38 hula and highlighting the flora and fauna that the dance
39 describes, and should provide space for resident artists and
40 cultural practitioners to create, showcase, and expand their
41 work; now, therefore,

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43 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
44 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular



1 Session of 2014, that the Department of Land and Natural
2 Resources is encouraged to approve the request to reopen
3 Paradise Park as a Hawaiian Cultural Center; and
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
6 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
7 Land and Natural Resources and Chief Executive Officer of the
8 Office of Hawaiian Affairs.
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OFFERED BY: *Samuel King*

MAR 03 2014