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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

STRONGLY URGING THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU TO AMEND THE REVISED ORDINANCES OF HONOLULU TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF ENTERPRISE SERVICES TO MAKE HOLDING COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES AT THE NEAL S. BLAISDELL CENTER A FIRST-PRIORITY USE.

1           WHEREAS, the 22.4-acre Neal S. Blaisdell Center, which  
2 opened in 1964, is a bustling, vibrant, and important cultural  
3 and community hub located in the heart of urban Honolulu; and  
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5           WHEREAS, the Neal S. Blaisdell Center falls under the  
6 direction of the Department of Enterprise Services of the City  
7 and County of Honolulu; and  
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9           WHEREAS, chapter 28, Revised Ordinances of Honolulu,  
10 addresses the lease and rental of the Neal S. Blaisdell Center,  
11 including the scheduling of and rental rates for nonprofit  
12 organizations, by the Department of Enterprise Services; and  
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14           WHEREAS, the Neal S. Blaisdell Center has hosted the  
15 commencement exercises of thousands of Hawaii students--from  
16 public and private high schools to institutions of higher  
17 education; and  
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19           WHEREAS, in 2018, the commencement exercises of Hawaii  
20 Pacific University, Damien Memorial School, Hawaii Baptist  
21 Academy, Hawaiian Mission Academy, Kalaheo High School, Kalani  
22 High School, Kamehameha Schools Kapalama, Maryknoll School,  
23 Myron B. Thompson Academy, Sacred Hearts Academy, Saint Francis  
24 School, Saint Louis School, and Waipahu High School were held at  
25 one of the venues of the Neal S. Blaisdell Center; and  
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27           WHEREAS, at times, scheduling conflicts have occurred  
28 between commencement exercises and other events at the Neal S.  
29 Blaisdell Center; and

30           WHEREAS, section 28-9.3, Revised Ordinances of Honolulu,  
31 allows the Department of Enterprise Services to displace a



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1 nonprofit organization from an already-contracted date at the  
 2 Neal S. Blaisdell Center to allow for the use of the facility by  
 3 another tenant that will provide an event that offers greater  
 4 financial benefit to the Department; and  
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6 WHEREAS, however, the children and students of Hawaii  
 7 should enjoy preference over other events to commend and  
 8 acknowledge their academic achievements and to encourage their  
 9 further educational and professional endeavors; now, therefore,  
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11 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
 12 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of  
 13 2019, that the City and County of Honolulu is strongly urged to  
 14 amend the Revised Ordinances of Honolulu to require the  
 15 Department of Enterprise Services to make holding commencement  
 16 exercises at the Neal S. Blaisdell Center a first-priority use--  
 17 i.e., to give the holding of commencement exercises precedence  
 18 over other events; and  
 19

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 21 Resolution be transmitted to the Mayor of the City and County of  
 22 Honolulu, Chairperson of the Honolulu City Council, and Director  
 23 of the Department of Enterprise Services of the City and County  
 24 of Honolulu.  
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 26  
 27

OFFERED BY:

MAR 08 2019

