
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO ASSIST THE PACIFIC GATEWAY CENTER IN FINDING AN APPROPRIATE LOCATION TO LEASE FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEVELOPING THE KE'EHĪ COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER.

1 WHEREAS, the Pacific Gateway Center was founded in 1973 to
2 help immigrants, refugees, and low-income residents of Hawaii
3 gain access to opportunities and services by fulfilling skills
4 that lead to self-sufficiency while respecting the integrity of
5 diverse cultural heritages; and

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7 WHEREAS, Oahu Head Start, founded in 1965, strengthens
8 families through early childhood education, ongoing parent
9 education, and parent policy council leadership opportunities;
10 and

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12 WHEREAS, the administrative facilities of both the Pacific
13 Gateway Center and Oahu Head Start are extremely dilapidated,
14 deteriorating, overcrowded, substandard, and unsafe; and

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16 WHEREAS, because of the poor work environment, the staff
17 are restricted and obstructed in their ability to deliver
18 services and assist target populations that include low-income
19 families, homeless families, recent immigrants, high school
20 drop-outs, and abused spouses; and

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22 WHEREAS, both of these non-profit organizations recognize
23 that their target populations and clients share common
24 characteristics and will benefit from the convenience of
25 receiving services from a one-stop Ke'ehi Community Resource
26 Center; and

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28 WHEREAS, this comprehensive approach not only improves the
29 delivery of program services to common target populations, but
30 also enables the two organizations to share common costs and
31 eliminate the unnecessary duplication of administrative
32 overhead; and

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1 WHEREAS, Oahu Head Start's lease for its current Kapalama
2 Military Reservation site terminates in two years; and

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4 WHEREAS, the Pacific Gateway Center and Oahu Head Start are
5 collaborating to develop a Ke'ehi Community Resource Center; and

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7 WHEREAS, the Ke'ehi Community Resource Center is envisioned
8 as a comprehensive one-stop facility that can accommodate early
9 childhood education programs, comprehensive child care programs,
10 workforce development training programs, food service
11 facilities, administrative office space, and a designated area
12 for police; and

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14 WHEREAS, these community services are presently scattered
15 across the City and County of Honolulu; and

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17 WHEREAS, as planned, the Ke'ehi Community Resource Center
18 would have a campus-like atmosphere by dividing 64,000 square
19 feet of floor area into five separate structures; and

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21 WHEREAS, each structure would be designed in a contemporary
22 Hawaiian manner with landscaping to beautify the surrounding
23 area; and

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25 WHEREAS, the Ke'ehi Community Resource Center project is
26 estimated to cost \$15,000,000 and will be funded by various
27 sources; and

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29 WHEREAS, section 171-43.1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, permits
30 the Board of Land and Natural Resources to lease public lands,
31 by direct negotiation and for nominal consideration, to a
32 qualifying eleemosynary organization for the organization's
33 chartered purposes; and

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35 WHEREAS, the Pacific Gateway Center is a qualifying
36 eleemosynary organization; and

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38 WHEREAS, investing in the proposed Ke'ehi Community Resource
39 Center will result in long-term returns by reducing the costs
40 for incarceration and public assistance as family-strengthening
41 strategies are effectively implemented by the two organizations
42 and their community partner agencies; and



1 WHEREAS, approximately 13.2 acres of vacant and unimproved
2 state-owned public land near Ke'ehi Lagoon, that is leased
3 month-to-month, has been proposed as the location of the Ke'ehi
4 Community Resource Center; and

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6 WHEREAS, the 13.2 acres of state-owned public land near
7 Ke'ehi Lagoon in question is comprised of different parcels that
8 are identified as TMK 1-1-3:30, 138, 204, 205, 206, 207, 211,
9 and 212; and

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11 WHEREAS, the proposed Ke'ehi Community Resource Center is a
12 worthy project for the public welfare, and state-owned public
13 land appropriate for the project should be leased to the Pacific
14 Gateway Center for the purpose of developing the Ke'ehi Community
15 Resource Center; now, therefore,

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17 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
18 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
19 Session of 2008, that the Board of Land and Natural Resources is
20 requested to assist the Pacific Gateway Center in finding an
21 appropriate location to lease for the purpose of developing the
22 Ke'ehi Community Resource Center, including continuing to
23 consider the location near Ke'ehi Lagoon; and

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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature requests that
26 the lease be at a nominal consideration, by direct negotiation,
27 and without recourse to public auction pursuant to section
28 171-43.1, Hawaii Revised Statutes; and

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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
31 Resolution be transmitted to the Chair of the Board of Land and
32 Natural Resources, Director of the Pacific Gateway Center, and
33 Director of Oahu Head Start in Hawaii.
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