
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR TO PLACE
IOLANI PALACE ON THE NOMINATION LIST TO THE UNITED NATIONS
EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC, AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION FOR
WORLD HERITAGE SITE DESIGNATION.

1 WHEREAS, over one hundred twenty-five years ago, King
2 Kalakaua ruled over an independent Hawaiian nation that was
3 recognized internationally and had established over ninety
4 legations and consulates in multiple seaports and cities of
5 foreign countries; and

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7 WHEREAS, part of King Kalakaua's vision was the
8 construction of Iolani Palace as a showcase for the
9 sophistication and technological advancement of Hawaii as a
10 society; and

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12 WHEREAS, following the overthrow of Queen Liliuokalani in
13 1893, Iolani Palace ceased to be a royal palace and became the
14 seat of government for five types of political administrations:
15 provisional, republic, territorial, military, and finally, a
16 state; and

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18 WHEREAS, Iolani Palace was designated a National Historic
19 Landmark in 1962; and

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21 WHEREAS, the Executive and Legislative branches of the
22 State of Hawaii vacated Iolani Palace in 1969 and moved to the
23 newly constructed State Capitol building, thus paving the way
24 for The Friends of Iolani Palace to proceed with restoration;
25 and

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27 WHEREAS, over the next decade, The Friends of Iolani
28 Palace, founded in 1966 by Liliuokalani Kawanakoa Morris, who
29 was a grand-niece of Queen Kapiolani, painstakingly worked to
30 return Iolani Palace to its former grandeur as it appeared
31 during the Kalakaua Dynasty; and

1 WHEREAS, in 1978, Iolani Palace reopened to the public with
2 the mission of perpetuating the Hawaiian monarchy and providing
3 visitors and residents with a fresh understanding of Hawaii's
4 royal heritage; and

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6 WHEREAS, Iolani Palace was not included on the current
7 United States list of candidate sites that was compiled for
8 consideration as World Heritage Sites with the United Nations
9 Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); and

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11 WHEREAS, due to the unique cultural and historical
12 attributes of Iolani Palace and the underrepresentation of World
13 Heritage sites in Oceania, The Friends of Iolani Palace believes
14 that Iolani Palace meets multiple criteria for selection to
15 become the very first man-made structure in Polynesia to be
16 designated a World Heritage Site; and

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18 WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of The Friends of Iolani
19 Palace unanimously passed a motion to actively pursue a
20 nomination to become a UNESCO World Heritage Site at its
21 regularly scheduled meeting on October 25, 2007; now, therefore,

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23 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth
24 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2009, the
25 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of the
26 Interior is urged to assist the Friends of Iolani Palace in
27 preparing a nomination to the United States World Heritage
28 Tentative List; and

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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of the Interior
31 is urged to give the nomination of Iolani Palace its full
32 consideration when selecting sites to include on the current
33 United States World Heritage Tentative List that will be
34 presented to UNESCO's World Heritage Centre for review; and

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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Hawaii's congressional
37 delegation urge the Department of the Interior to place Iolani
38 Palace on the nomination list to UNESCO for World Heritage Site
39 designation; and

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41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
42 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the
43 United States, United States Secretary of the Interior, each

- 1 member of Hawaii's congressional delegation, and Princess
- 2 Abigail Kinoiki Kekaulike Kawananakoa.