WHEREAS, Philippine Tarsiers are an endangered species native to the Philippine islands of Bohol, Samar, Leyte, and Mindanao; and

WHEREAS, tarsiers are small primates that generally grow from four to five inches in height; and

WHEREAS, because of their popularity as a tourist attraction, many tarsiers are displayed in cages for easy viewing; and

WHEREAS, tarsiers held in captivity seldom survive, and have been known to injure or kill themselves due to the stress caused by their confinement; and

WHEREAS, despite efforts by the Philippine government to curb the display of tarsiers for commercial or business purposes, tarsiers are increasingly traded and taken from their native habitat; and

WHEREAS, in 1997, Philippine President Fidel Ramos issued Proclamation No. 1030, declaring tarsiers to be a specially protected faunal species and calling for the establishment of appropriate sanctuaries; and

WHEREAS, in 2001, Republic Act No. 9174, or the wildlife conservation law, included the protection and conservation of tarsiers and their natural habitat as part of Philippine heritage; and

WHEREAS, in 1996, the Philippine Tarsier Foundation acquired 170 hectares of forested area in Canapnapan, Corella for use as a tarsier sanctuary; and

WHEREAS, the Philippine Tarsier Foundation works to protect tarsiers from extinction through increased awareness, research
and breeding programs, and the establishment of protected areas in Bohol; and

WHEREAS, the Philippine Tarsier and Wildlife Sanctuary has been acknowledged as the center of the tarsier conservation program; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2010, that this body supports the efforts of the Philippine Tarsier Foundation and urges global support for the protection and conservation of tarsiers and their habitat; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body urges support for the Tarsier Sanctuary, its education and conservation programs, and its efforts to increase global understanding of the plight of the Philippine Tarsier; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the Secretary of the Interior, the members of Hawaii's congressional delegation, the Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources of the Republic of the Philippines, and the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Philippine Tarsier Foundation, Inc.

OFFERED BY: John M. Mckee

FEB 26 2010