
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF KOREATOWN AND DEVELOPMENT OF A
MASTER PLAN FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A KOREATOWN.

1 WHEREAS, Koreans have a long history in Hawaii which
2 started with 16 Koreans in 1902 and the first group of Korean
3 laborers arriving in January 1903; and
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5 WHEREAS, after the passage of the Immigration and
6 Nationality Act of 1965, Koreans have become one of the fastest
7 growing Asian groups in the United States which spurred the
8 opening of the University of Hawaii's Center for Korean Studies
9 in 1973; and
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11 WHEREAS, immigration has continued, resulting in a
12 population of 23,537 Koreans in Hawaii, according to the 2000
13 United States Census, and causing the Center for Korean Studies
14 to broaden the teaching of Korean history and culture; and
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16 WHEREAS, Hawaii has been at the forefront of encouraging
17 the federal government to approve a visa waiver program for
18 Korea; and
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20 WHEREAS, on June 16, 2003, the Korean Consulate, Hawaii
21 Korean Tourism Association, and Korean Air formed the Hawaii
22 Tourism Promotion Association for the purpose of promoting
23 tourism and a visa waiver program for Koreans; and
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25 WHEREAS, on August 19, 2003, the Korean-Hawaii Visa Waiver
26 Action Committee was created to promote and advocate the
27 necessity of a visa waiver program for Koreans; and
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29 WHEREAS, on April 26, 2004, the Legislature adopted House
30 Concurrent Resolution No. 202, urging the members of Hawaii's
31 congressional delegation to introduce federal legislation to
32 provide additional resources to expand visa processing capacity



1 in the Consular Section of the United States Embassy in Seoul in
2 the Republic of Korea, and to include the Republic of Korea in
3 the Visa Waiver Program; and
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5 WHEREAS, on October 17, 2008, following several years of
6 advocacy and lobbying efforts by the Korean-Hawaii Visa Waiver
7 Action Committee in Washington, D.C. and in Korea, President
8 Bush announced the visa waiver program for Koreans, effective
9 November 17, 2008; and
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11 WHEREAS, Koreans entering Hawaii between 2005 to 2008
12 totaled 35,008 in 2005, 37,911 in 2006, 42,140 in 2007, and
13 38,110 in 2008, and the number dramatically increased to 54,739
14 in 2009; and
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16 WHEREAS, the upward trend has continued, totaling 81,921
17 Korean visitors in 2010 and 100,172 visitors in 2011, with
18 projections that the number of Koreans entering in Hawaii will
19 continue to grow at 30 to 50 percent annually; and
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21 WHEREAS, Korean Air schedules fourteen flights a week to
22 Hawaii, Asiana Airlines schedules two flights a week to Hawaii
23 and will increase to seven flights a week starting in July 2012,
24 and Hawaiian Airlines schedules four flights a week to Hawaii
25 and will increase to seven flights a week starting in July 2012;
26 and
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28 WHEREAS, more than 92 percent of the Korean tourists in
29 Hawaii visited Oahu, of which approximately 82 percent are
30 first-time visitors to Hawaii; and
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32 WHEREAS, many Koreans have given their time and expertise
33 in serving the State of Hawaii, one of the most notable being
34 Chief Justice Ronald T.Y. Moon, whose grandparents were among
35 the first Korean immigrants to Hawaii; and
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37 WHEREAS, Census Tracts 36.01 and 36.02 give the general
38 boundaries encompassing areas west of Kalakaua Avenue to
39 Pensacola Street and north of Kapiolani Boulevard to South King
40 Street which has become known as the Korean business district;
41 and
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43 WHEREAS, according to numbers from the 2000 United States
44 Census, Census Tract 36.02 was home to 1,008 Koreans and part-



1 Koreans, making it the neighborhood with the highest
2 concentration of Koreans in the State; and

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4 WHEREAS, areas surrounding, in, and around Census Tracts
5 36.01 and 36.02 are home to approximately 18 percent of Hawaii's
6 Korean population; and

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8 WHEREAS, as Hawaii continues its efforts to overcome the
9 existing global financial crisis, it must look to its own state
10 resources as well as develop international partnerships to plan
11 for its current recovery and future to prevent another economic
12 crisis; and

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14 WHEREAS, Koreatowns or Korean-themed streets or districts
15 exist in large United States cities such as Los Angeles, New
16 York, Dallas, Chicago, Philadelphia, and Atlanta, and
17 internationally Koreatowns exist in Toronto, Sydney, Tokyo,
18 Osaka, London, Auckland, Hong Kong, and Beijing; and

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20 WHEREAS, establishing a Koreatown is the first and natural
21 step in recognizing the long history and bonds developed
22 throughout the decades of Korean immigration and influence in
23 Hawaii; and

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25 WHEREAS, as Korea globally grows in recognition as an
26 economic power, Hawaii must be at the forefront and establish
27 itself as a gateway to Korean investment; now, therefore,

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29 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
30 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
31 of 2012, the Senate concurring, that the Legislature urges the
32 establishment of a Koreatown; and

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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Planning in
35 coordination with the City and County of Honolulu Department of
36 Planning and Permitting are urged to develop a master plan for
37 the development of a Koreatown to include but not be limited to
38 the following:

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40 (1) Area boundaries;

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42 (2) Incentives to promote and perpetuate further
43 investment with Korea;

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- 1 (3) A museum and cultural center highlighting Korea's
- 2 contributions in culture, music, fashion, art, and
- 3 society in Hawaii and the world and including statues
- 4 of Korean leaders from Hawaii; and
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- 6 (4) Specialized design plans to reflect Korean
- 7 architecture; and
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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Planning is
10 requested to submit a report of its findings and
11 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
12 Legislature no later than 20 days prior to the convening of the
13 Regular Session of 2013; and

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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
16 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Mayor of
17 the City and County of Honolulu, Director of the Office of
18 Planning, and Director of the City and County of Honolulu
19 Department of Planning and Permitting.

