
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
33 in the Consular Section of the United States Embassy in Seoul in



1 the Republic of Korea, and to include the Republic of Korea in
2 the Visa Waiver Program; and

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4 WHEREAS, on October 17, 2008, following several years of
5 advocacy and lobbying efforts by the Korean-Hawaii Visa Waiver
6 Action Committee in Washington, D.C. and in Korea, President
7 Bush announced the visa waiver program for Koreans, effective
8 November 17, 2008; and

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10 WHEREAS, Koreans entering Hawaii between 2005 to 2008
11 totaled 35,008 in 2005, 37,911 in 2006, 42,140 in 2007, and
12 38,110 in 2008, and the number dramatically increased to 54,739
13 in 2009; and

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15 WHEREAS, the upward trend has continued, totaling 81,921
16 Korean visitors in 2010 and 100,172 visitors in 2011, with
17 projections that the number of Koreans entering in Hawaii will
18 continue to grow at 30 to 50 percent annually; and

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20 WHEREAS, Korean Air schedules fourteen flights a week to
21 Hawaii, Asiana Airlines schedules two flights a week to Hawaii
22 and will increase to seven flights a week starting in July 2012,
23 and Hawaiian Airlines schedules four flights a week to Hawaii
24 and will increase to seven flights a week starting in July 2012;
25 and

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27 WHEREAS, more than 92 percent of the Korean tourists in
28 Hawaii visited Oahu, of which approximately 82 percent are
29 first-time visitors to Hawaii; and

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31 WHEREAS, many Koreans have given their time and expertise
32 in serving the State of Hawaii, one of the most notable being
33 Chief Justice Ronald T.Y. Moon, whose grandparents were among
34 the first Korean immigrants to Hawaii; and

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36 WHEREAS, Census Tracts 36.01 and 36.02 give the general
37 boundaries encompassing areas west of Kalakaua Avenue to
38 Pensacola Street and north of Kapiolani Boulevard to South King
39 Street which has become known as the Korean business district;
40 and

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42 WHEREAS, according to numbers from the 2000 United States
43 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, neighborhood boards, and other
37 applicable community organizations, develop a master plan for
38 the development of a Koreatown that may include but not be
39 limited to the following:
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41 (1) Area boundaries;

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



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- 2 (3) A museum and cultural center highlighting Korea's
- 3 contributions in culture, music, fashion, art, and
- 4 society in Hawaii and including statues of Korean
- 5 leaders from Hawaii; and
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- 7 (4) Specialized architectural design plans to reflect the
- 8 history of Koreans in Hawaii; and
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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Planning is
11 requested to submit a report of its findings and
12 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
13 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
14 the Regular Session of 2014; and
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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
17 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Mayor of
18 the City and County of Honolulu, Director of the Office of
19 Planning, and Director of the City and County of Honolulu
20 Department of Planning and Permitting.

