
HOUSE RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARIES FOR PALAMA SETTLEMENT, THE CHINESE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF HAWAII, AND LILIHA SHINGONJI MISSION.

1 WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii acknowledges the benefits it
2 has derived from organizations that sustain the health of,
3 promote the culture of and respect the people of our multi-
4 cultural State; and

5
6 WHEREAS, the Centennial Anniversaries of the Palama
7 Settlement, the Liliha Shingonji Mission, and the Chinese
8 Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii mark a significant milestone in
9 the history of organizations that have represented community
10 stewardship and civic responsibility, and have contributed
11 greatly to achieve the safety, health and prosperity of our
12 State; and

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14 WHEREAS, Hawaii's state and local governments often address
15 issues regarding at-risk youths, homelessness, job creation,
16 peace and safety and its compassion towards our elderly, and the
17 preservation of cultural and spiritual traditions are also of
18 concern for these organizations who have given selflessly to
19 address these needs; and

20
21 WHEREAS, Palama Settlement was founded in 1905 by James and
22 Ragna Rath and became fully incorporated in 1910 and constructed
23 on 810 North Vineyard Boulevard in Liliha, Hawaii with the
24 mission to provide facilities, services and programs to support,
25 improve and positively enhance the cultural, social,
26 educational, physical and emotional well being of individuals,
27 families and communities in the surrounding area with programs
28 that have included the State's first public health clinic and
29 free dental care and outpatient services; Palama Settlement has
30 been recognized for 100 years of outreach to the Kalihi and
31 Palama community for providing services to various immigrant



1 communities, including the Japanese, Chinese, Hawaiians,
2 Filipinos, Samoans, Tongans, Laotians, and Micronesians. Palama
3 Settlement has effectively provided a wide range of educational,
4 recreational, athletic, cultural, social, health services and
5 mentoring for at-risk youth, adults, and seniors that positively
6 enhance the wellbeing of individuals and families, such as the
7 Children's Savings Project, which educates children about
8 finances and civic responsibility; and
9

10 WHEREAS, Liliha Shingonji Mission was founded in 1911 by
11 Gishun Yamamoto on Liliha Street and has developed a
12 longstanding reputation for providing its patrons with an
13 exceptional spiritual guidance which has fostered and grown a
14 correspondingly dedicated following, as Hawaii has a strong
15 Japanese religious tradition originating from the surge of
16 immigrants, particularly those native to prefectures Hiroshima,
17 Kumamoto, Okinawa and Yamaguchi, who came to the islands to work
18 in the agriculture industry, now referred to as Odaisama; Liliha
19 Shingonji Mission, known for its exceptional and unique East-
20 West architecture and "Healing Gizo" and formerly referred to as
21 the Daigo Bun Kyo In Temple, renamed by Reverend Mitsumyo
22 Tottori, houses many historical religious memorial tablets that
23 Reverend Tottori wrote during World War II. Liliha Shingonji
24 Mission has been a safe environment for families to request
25 prayers for family in the army and holds various records known
26 as the "Prayer Book of Names" up until 1958. Liliha Shingonji
27 Mission's heartfelt commitment to preserving its oral and
28 pictorial history through the experiences of its followers and
29 thereby contributing to the rich tapestry that is Hawaii's
30 heritage has resulted in Liliha Shingonji Mission's longevity of
31 100 years as of this year; and
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33 WHEREAS, the Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii was
34 founded in 1911, then known as the Chinese Merchants'
35 Association, with the mission to promote business and economic
36 development in Hawaii, aid Chinese immigrants with the
37 naturalization procedure, uphold the Chinese community, and to
38 share Chinese culture and traditions to the rest of the state of
39 Hawaii. Located in Chinatown, the Chinese Chamber of Commerce
40 has played an important roles in shaping the State's economic,
41 social and political future, with extensive business relations



1 in China, Taiwan and other Chinese communities in Pacific Rim
 2 countries in addition to raising funds to help during disasters
 3 in China and providing local financial assistance to affected
 4 individuals; its members have consistently aided in the
 5 revitalization of Chinatown through community events, such as
 6 the successful education programs to the business community and
 7 restaurants; the Narcissus Festival, which is the oldest ethnic
 8 festival and pageant in the State; the Splendor of China; and
 9 the Chamber's involvement with charitable relief and
 10 humanitarian efforts; now, therefore,

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 12 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 13 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
 14 of 2012, that this body hereby recognizes, commends and
 15 expresses its deepest gratitude to Palama Settlement, Liliha
 16 Shingonji Mission, and the Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii
 17 on their Centennial Anniversaries for their many contributions
 18 towards the betterment of the lives of the people of Hawaii.

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OFFERED BY:

Chuan W. L. Chung

Stan J. Fu

Ed Ruvie

M. J.

William Manuato

J. R.

Guthrie Wheeler

Joe Wolf

Hele

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