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# SENATE 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 sixteen Koreans in 1902 and the first group of  
3 Korean laborers arriving in January 1903; and  
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- 5           WHEREAS, with 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

9  
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 thirty to fifty percent annually; and

19  
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 similarly Hawaiian Airlines schedules four flights a week to  
24 Hawaii and will also increase to seven flights a week starting  
25 in July 2012; and

26  
27 WHEREAS, more than ninety-two percent of the Korean  
28 tourists in Hawaii visited Oahu, of which approximately eighty-  
29 two percent are first-time visitors to Hawaii; and

30  
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 eighteen percent of  
6 Hawaii's 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 U.S. cities such as Los Angeles, New York,  
16 Dallas, Chicago, Philadelphia, and Atlanta, and internationally  
17 Koreatowns exist in Toronto, Sydney, Tokyo, Osaka, London,  
18 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 Senate of the Twenty-sixth  
30 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2012, the  
31 House of Representatives concurring, that this body 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:

- 40  
41 (1) Area boundaries;  
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43 (2) Incentives to promote and perpetuate further  
44 investment with Korea;



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(3) A museum and cultural center highlighting Korea's contributions in culture, music, fashion, art, and society in Hawaii and including statues of Korean leaders from Hawaii; and

(4) Specialized architectural design plans to reflect the history of Koreans in Hawaii; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Planning submit a  
11 report of its findings and recommendations, including any  
12 proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty  
13 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2014; and  
14

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.