
SENATE 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
34 the Republic of Korea, and to include the Republic of Korea in
35 the Visa Waiver Program; and
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1 WHEREAS, on October 17, 2008, following several years of
2 advocacy and lobbying efforts by the Korean-Hawaii Visa Waiver
3 Action Committee in Washington, D.C. and in Korea, President
4 Bush announced the visa waiver program for Koreans, effective
5 November 17, 2008; and
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7 WHEREAS, Koreans entering Hawaii between 2005 to 2008
8 totaled 35,008 in 2005, 37,911 in 2006, 42,140 in 2007, and
9 38,110 in 2008, and the number dramatically increased to 54,739
10 in 2009; and
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12 WHEREAS, the upward trend has continued, totaling 81,921
13 Korean visitors in 2010 and 100,172 visitors in 2011, with
14 projections that the number of Koreans entering in Hawaii will
15 continue to grow at thirty to fifty percent annually; and
16

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

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

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

33 WHEREAS, Census Tracts 36.01 and 36.02 give the general
34 boundaries encompassing areas west of Kalakaua Avenue to
35 Pensacola Street and north of Kapiolani Boulevard to South King
36 Street which has become known as the Korean business district;
37 and
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39 WHEREAS, according to numbers from the 2000 United States
40 Census, Census Tract 36.02 was home to 1,008 Koreans and part-
41 Koreans, making it the neighborhood with the highest
42 concentration of Koreans in the State; and
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1 WHEREAS, areas surrounding, in, and around Census Tracts
2 36.01 and 36.02 are home to approximately eighteen percent of
3 Hawaii's Korean population; and
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5 WHEREAS, as Hawaii continues its efforts to overcome the
6 existing global financial crisis, it must look to its own state
7 resources as well as develop international partnerships to plan
8 for its current recovery and future to prevent another economic
9 crisis; and
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11 WHEREAS, Koreatowns or Korean themed streets or districts
12 exist in large U.S. cities such as Los Angeles, New York,
13 Dallas, Chicago, Philadelphia, and Atlanta, and internationally
14 Koreatowns exist in Toronto, Sydney, Tokyo, Osaka, London,
15 Auckland, Hong Kong, and Beijing; and
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17 WHEREAS, establishing a Koreatown is the first and natural
18 step in recognizing the long history and bonds developed
19 throughout the decades of Korean immigration and influence in
20 Hawaii; and
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22 WHEREAS, as Korea globally grows in recognition as an
23 economic power, Hawaii must be at the forefront and establish
24 itself as a gateway to Korean investment; now, therefore,
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26 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-sixth
27 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2012,
28 that this body urges the establishment of a Koreatown; and
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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Planning, in
31 coordination with the City and County of Honolulu Department of
32 Planning and Permitting, neighborhood boards, and other
33 applicable community organizations, develop a master plan for
34 the development of a Koreatown that may include but not be
35 limited to the following:
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- 37 (1) Area boundaries;
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- 39 (2) Incentives to promote and perpetuate further
40 investment with Korea;
- 41
- 42 (3) A museum and cultural center highlighting Korea's
43 contributions in culture, music, fashion, art, and



1 society in Hawaii and including statues of Korean
2 leaders from Hawaii; and

3
4 (4) Specialized architectural design plans to reflect the
5 history of Koreans in Hawaii; and

6
7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Planning submit a
8 report of its findings and recommendations, including any
9 proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty
10 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2014; and

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

