
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO REVIEW, DEVELOP, AND
IMPLEMENT ADMINISTRATIVE RULES AND POLICIES TO FACILITATE
AND ENCOURAGE TRADITIONAL HAWAIIAN BURIALS.

1 WHEREAS, there has been a recent increase of interest in
2 traditional Hawaiian practices for burials amongst Native
3 Hawaiians and non-Hawaiians; and
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5 WHEREAS, a recognized traditional Hawaiian practice for
6 treatment of a corpse involves reducing a corpse to its skeletal
7 remains, known as "iwi", and interring the iwi in a kapa or
8 lauhala container; and
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10 WHEREAS, for purposes of this measure, "traditional
11 Hawaiian burial" means the use of modern technology to effect
12 the removal of the flesh and fluids from a human corpse in a
13 manner leaving na iwi (the bones) intact and unharmed.
14 Traditional Hawaiian burial is consistent with traditional
15 practices such as umu (above ground oven) and the use of caves
16 for natural decomposition; and
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18 WHEREAS, traditional Hawaiian burial is safe, feasible, and
19 cost effective through the use of modern crematories or other
20 similar operations; and
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22 WHEREAS, modern treatment of corpses often involves
23 chemicals such as embalming fluids which when buried, can be
24 harmful to the environment as the chemicals will eventually be
25 released into the soil and aquifers; and
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27 WHEREAS, in comparison to modern burial techniques, a
28 traditional Hawaiian burial is a cleaner, more environmentally
29 friendly process; and
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1 WHEREAS, a traditional Hawaiian burial is also more cost
2 effective than modern burial techniques as a smaller burial plot
3 is required and costs of caskets are avoided; and
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5 WHEREAS, the decrease in space required for a burial plot
6 will result in an increase in the carrying capacities for
7 cemeteries; and
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9 WHEREAS, the Department of Health does not have rules and
10 policies addressing traditional Hawaiian burial practices; and
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12 WHEREAS, adopting rules and policies to address traditional
13 Hawaiian burial practices would encourage and promote the use of
14 traditional Hawaiian burial practices; now, therefore,
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16 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
17 Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
18 Session of 2015, the Senate concurring, that the Department of
19 Health is requested to review, develop, and implement
20 administrative rules and policies applicable to the processing,
21 burial, and transportation of a corpse that would encourage and
22 promote the use of traditional Hawaiian burial practices; and
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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
25 requested to submit a report on its findings and actions to the
26 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
27 the Regular Session of 2016; and
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
30 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and
31 Director of Health.
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