

MAR 09 2018

SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF HAWAII TO EXERCISE
ITS POWER OF EMINENT DOMAIN TO CONDEMN NAALEHU THEATER TO
PRESERVE THE THEATER'S HISTORIC LEGACY.

1 WHEREAS, the Naalehu Theater, the southernmost theater in
2 the country, was constructed in 1925 by the Hutchinson Sugar
3 Company; and
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5 WHEREAS, the theater hosted live performances and community
6 events and, decades later, movie screenings for the public; and
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8 WHEREAS, the property the theater is located on is
9 currently owned by 300 Corporation, a division of the Harry and
10 Jeanette Weinberg Foundation; and
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12 WHEREAS, an attempt to list the theater as a historic
13 property was made in 2005; and
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15 WHEREAS, representatives from the State Historic
16 Preservation Division of the Department of Land and Natural
17 Resources visited the site and determined the theater was
18 eligible for listing; and
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20 WHEREAS, the theater was considered for listing on the
21 Hawaii Register of Historic Places and National Register of
22 Historic Places by the Hawaii Historic Places Review Board; and
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24 WHEREAS, in June 2005, the president of 300 Corporation
25 respectfully objected to the listings; and
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27 WHEREAS, in 2006, the roof of the theater started to leak
28 and needed repairs, including a new roof and ceiling, new
29 gutters, and repairs to the foundation, at a cost of about
30 \$150,000; and
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32 WHEREAS, volunteers repaired the theater and submitted
33 paperwork for the theater to become a National Historic
34 Landmark, but the theater was not designated as or given any
35 historic status; and



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 2 WHEREAS, if the Naalehu Theater was listed on the National
 3 Register of Historic Places, the theater would be eligible for
 4 financial resources and grants, media exposure, and a twenty
 5 percent federal reimbursement for approved repairs because the
 6 theater would be categorized as a commercial building; and

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 8 WHEREAS, in 2010, Honolulu Magazine listed Naalehu Theater
 9 as one of "Hawaii's Most Endangered Historic Sites"; and

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 11 WHEREAS, condemning and preserving Naalehu Theater is an
 12 option to provide visitors and future generations the
 13 opportunity to visit the theater and learn more about the
 14 history of Naalehu; now, therefore,

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 16 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth
 17 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2018,
 18 that the County Council of the County of Hawaii is urged to
 19 exercise its power of eminent domain to condemn Naalehu Theater
 20 to preserve the theater's historic legacy; and

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 22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
 23 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the County
 24 Council of the County of Hawaii.

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OFFERED BY:

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