

MAR 08 2019

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

RENAMING THE NATURAL ENERGY LABORATORY OF HAWAII AUTHORITY AS
THE GEORGE R. ARIYOSHI NATURAL ENERGY LAB.

1 WHEREAS, former Governor George R. Ariyoshi was a visionary
2 who served three terms, from 1974 to 1986, as the first governor
3 of Japanese-American ancestry in the United States; and
4

5 WHEREAS, being the first governor of Japanese-American
6 ancestry proved to be among one of many firsts he achieved
7 during his three terms in office, as he brought new ideas and
8 innovative policies to his administration; and
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10 WHEREAS, Governor Ariyoshi emphasized and created long-term
11 plans to secure Hawaii's future, and to preserve the State's
12 fragile environment by recognizing the potential of our natural
13 resources to provide renewable sources of power; and
14

15 WHEREAS, Governor Ariyoshi proposed various ideas to
16 protect the islands, including the idea of "controlled growth"
17 to limit the impact of the growing population within the
18 islands; the State Plan, which included measures to conserve the
19 environment; and investment in alternative and renewable sources
20 of power, including the development of ocean technologies; and
21

22 WHEREAS, Governor Ariyoshi's vision was instrumental in
23 developing the Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii (NELH), which
24 was created by the Legislature in 1974 to research ocean thermal
25 energy conversion (OTEC); and
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27 WHEREAS, Governor Ariyoshi's involvement in establishing
28 the Mini-OTEC was essential to its success, as it became the
29 first example of an ocean thermal energy conversion electric
30 power plant in the world; and
31

32 WHEREAS, in 1986, the Hawaii Ocean Science and Technology
33 (HOST) Park was created under the High Technology Development



1 Corporation as a separate entity, and in 1990, NELH and HOST
2 Park were merged into the Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii
3 Authority (NELHA) and attached to the Department of Business,
4 Economic Development, and Tourism; and
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6 WHEREAS, HOST Park was the first to successfully install a
7 commercial forty-inch diameter, deep-water pipeline to pump
8 water from below two thousand two hundred foot depths up to the
9 surface; and
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11 WHEREAS, Governor Ariyoshi recognized that these
12 ecologically-friendly techniques could benefit businesses and
13 boost the economy, and was able to develop a master plan and
14 attain a master lease to help reduce bureaucratic red tape for
15 potential businesses; and
16

17 WHEREAS, cold, nutrient-rich seawater is being used for
18 several purposes, including the production of power, air-
19 conditioning, and for growing marine plants and animals,
20 including abalone, oysters, finfish, shrimp, pearls, vegetables,
21 and even flowers; and
22

23 WHEREAS, this facility is now drawing international
24 interest and many countries want to emulate this technology; and
25

26 WHEREAS, through these and other assets, NELHA has
27 attracted tenants who can use its unique complement of natural
28 and logistical resources to engage in successful, productive
29 research and commercial activities that support sustainable
30 industry development in Hawaii and provide advanced technology
31 jobs for the local economy; and
32

33 WHEREAS, NELHA could not have been as successful without
34 the early, visionary encouragement and support of Governor
35 Ariyoshi, whose vision for NELHA has become synonymous with the
36 current vision for a sustainable future for Hawaii; now,
37 therefore,
38

39 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
40 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2019, the House of
41 Representatives concurring, that the Natural Energy Laboratory



S.C.R. NO. 50

1 of Hawaii Authority be renamed the "George R. Ariyoshi Natural
2 Energy Laboratory" in honor of former Governor Ariyoshi; and
3

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
5 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, President
6 of the Senate, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the
7 Chief Executive Officer of NELHA.
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OFFERED BY:

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