

JAN 24 2019

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE HAWAII CHILDREN'S DISCOVERY CENTER.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that children's museums
2 play a significant role in promoting lifelong learning and serve
3 as important cultural resources within the community. As an
4 island state, Hawaii is isolated from the rest of the United
5 States and the world. For many children, this means that their
6 personal experiences and interactions are severely limited to
7 what is available within the State. In order to broaden their
8 horizons and open new and wonderful worlds to them, a facility
9 such as a children's museum is especially important.

10 Incorporated in 1985, the Hawaii Children's Museum was the
11 first and only museum in Hawaii designed especially for
12 children. Its mission was to bring information and experiences
13 about the world beyond Hawaii to the children of Hawaii and
14 instill in the State's keiki a pride in themselves and their
15 ethnic and cultural heritage by providing them with an inspiring
16 and educational world-class participatory learning environment.
17 After searching for a larger site for relocation, the former



1 Kaka'ako landfill was transformed into a waterfront park, and the
2 former city incinerator became a beehive of activity for
3 children from across the Hawaiian islands. The Hawaii
4 children's discovery center, the first and only of its kind in
5 Hawaii, was known largely through word of mouth and its growing
6 reputation as a world-class children's museum. Local families,
7 school groups, and tourists flocked to the museum, which grew to
8 serve over one hundred twenty thousand visitors a year.

9 The legislature further finds that things have changed
10 significantly and, in spite of the rising costs associated with
11 day-to-day operations, the Hawaii children's discovery center
12 continues to strive to cover operating expenses largely through
13 various sources of earned income. Although very successful in
14 its efforts to operate this way in the past, this has taken a
15 costly toll on a small staff that serves a very large audience,
16 which necessitates additional staff and a management team. To
17 further exacerbate the problem, Kaka'ako makai has become densely
18 populated with homeless encampments, which have surrounded the
19 Hawaii children's discovery center for many years increasing the
20 occurrences of vandalism and vagrancy. With the growing
21 homeless population throughout the State, the area is currently



1 overrun by a population of chronically homeless individuals,
2 many with mental health issues and drug and alcohol addictions.
3 This dilemma proves to be a huge deterrent to members and guests
4 who want to visit the center and has resulted in a significant
5 decline in attendance.

6 The purpose of this Act is to designate the Hawaii
7 children's discovery center as the official State of Hawaii
8 Children's Museum to spotlight the center and raise its
9 institutional status.

10 SECTION 2. Chapter 6E, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended
11 by adding a new section to part II to be appropriately
12 designated and to read as follows:

13 "§6E- Hawaii Children's Discovery Center. The official
14 designation of the Hawaii children's discovery center shall be
15 the State of Hawaii Children's Museum. The qualifying standards
16 and conditions related to the receipt of funds contained in
17 chapter 42F shall not apply to funds received by the State of
18 Hawaii Children's Museum; provided that if the museum in turn
19 contracts with a recipient or provider, then the qualifying
20 standards, conditions, and other provisions of chapter 42F shall
21 apply to the recipient or provider and the contract."

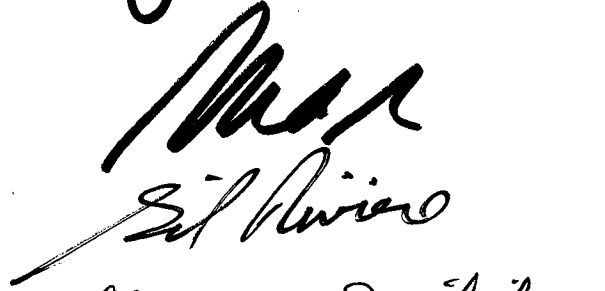


1 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

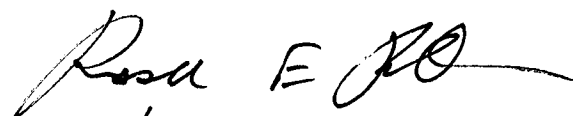
2 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY:



Clarence K. Duchiker



S.B. NO. 1487

Report Title:

Hawaii Children's Discovery Center; Designation

Description:

Designates the Hawaii children's discovery center as the State of Hawaii Children's Museum.

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