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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO REVISE ITS 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  
4

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, traditional Hawaiian treatment of a corpse is  
11 safe, feasible, and cost effective through the use of modern  
12 crematories or other similar operations; and  
13

14           WHEREAS, modern treatment of corpses often involves  
15 chemicals such as embalming fluids which when buried, can be  
16 harmful to the environment as the chemicals will eventually be  
17 released into the soil and aquifers; and  
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19           WHEREAS, in comparison to modern burial techniques, a  
20 traditional Hawaiian burial is a cleaner, more environmentally  
21 friendly process; and  
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23           WHEREAS, a traditional Hawaiian burial is also more cost  
24 effective than modern burial techniques as a smaller burial plot  
25 is required and costs of caskets are avoided; and  
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27           WHEREAS, the decrease in space required for a burial plot  
28 will result in an increase in the carrying capacities for  
29 cemeteries; and  
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31           WHEREAS, the Department of Health does not have rules and  
32 policies addressing traditional Hawaiian burial practices; and



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1  
 2 WHEREAS, adopting rules and policies to address traditional  
 3 Hawaiian burial practices would encourage and promote the use of  
 4 traditional Hawaiian burial practices; now, therefore,

5  
 6 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
 7 Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
 8 Session of 2015, the Senate concurring, that the Department of  
 9 Health is requested to review and implement administrative rules  
 10 and policies applicable to the processing, burial, and  
 11 transportation of a corpse that would encourage and promote the  
 12 use of traditional Hawaiian burial practices; and

13  
 14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is  
 15 requested to submit a report on its findings and actions to the  
 16 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
 17 the Regular Session of 2016; and

18  
 19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 20 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and  
 21 Director of Health.

OFFERED BY:

*[Handwritten signatures and names:]*  
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