
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS TO
STUDY POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A
LONG-TERM MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR SUNSET MEMORIAL PARK.

1 WHEREAS, Sunset Memorial Park in Pearl City, Oahu, has been
2 neglected for years and has been the subject of numerous
3 complaints by individuals who have family members buried there;
4 and

5
6 WHEREAS, the years of neglect have led to a damaged
7 mausoleum, sinking graves, and overgrown grass and bushes that
8 cover up hundreds of graves, making it nearly impossible to
9 access some graves; and

10
11 WHEREAS, due to the lack of security, Sunset Memorial Park
12 is often the target of vandalism, with thieves displacing ashes
13 from copper urns to sell the urns and homeless encampments
14 accidentally setting fire to the area; and

15
16 WHEREAS, the company that owns Sunset Memorial Park
17 involuntarily dissolved in 2006, and the company's owner passed
18 away in 2011, leaving the property in legal limbo; and

19
20 WHEREAS, since the passing of the property's owner,
21 maintenance of Sunset Memorial Park has relied solely on
22 volunteers to clean up and care for the cemetery; and

23
24 WHEREAS, the Legislature enacted Act 193, Session Laws of
25 Hawaii 2018 (Act 193), in response to the overwhelming number of
26 volunteers at Sunset Memorial Park, to limit liability for
27 volunteers maintaining or repairing cemetery grounds; and

28
29 WHEREAS, Act 193 further required the Department of
30 Commerce and Consumer Affairs, in consultation with the



1 Department of Accounting and General Services, to develop short-
2 term and long-term strategies for the upkeep, repair, and
3 maintenance of Sunset Memorial Park; and
4

5 WHEREAS, as a result of Act 193, the Department of Commerce
6 and Consumer Affairs worked with a surveyor to map the cemetery
7 and create a website and database to help identify graves at
8 Sunset Memorial Park; and
9

10 WHEREAS, the report from the Department of Commerce and
11 Consumer Affairs concluded that once inventory and mapping of
12 the cemetery are complete, the Department will explore viable
13 long-term options for the cemetery, such as deeming Sunset
14 Memorial Park as a dissolved corporation under state law,
15 exercising certain powers to settle any unfinished business and
16 affairs of the cemetery, and distributing the cemetery's assets
17 after identifying those with a legal interest in the cemetery;
18 and
19

20 WHEREAS, almost five years have passed since the enactment
21 of Act 193, and a long-term plan or solution regarding Sunset
22 Memorial Park is still not in place; and
23

24 WHEREAS, the dilapidated, unsightly state of Sunset
25 Memorial Park is of great concern for the families whose loved
26 ones are buried there and the surrounding community; now,
27 therefore,
28

29 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
30 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
31 Session of 2023, the Senate concurring, that the Department of
32 Commerce and Consumer Affairs is requested to study potential
33 solutions for the legal and physical situation at Sunset
34 Memorial Park and make recommendations for a long-term
35 management plan; and
36

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Commerce and
38 Consumer Affairs is requested to report on any developments
39 since the enactment of Act 193; and
40



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in conducting the study, the
2 Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs is requested to
3 consult with the following:

- 4
- 5 (1) The Department of Accounting and General Services;
 - 6
 - 7 (2) The Department of the Attorney General;
 - 8
 - 9 (3) The Pearl City Neighborhood Board (District 21);
 - 10
 - 11 (4) Friends for Sunset Memorial Park Cemetery;
 - 12
 - 13 (5) Members of the community who have family buried at
 - 14 Sunset Memorial Park; and
 - 15
 - 16 (6) Any other entity or individual the Department of
 - 17 Commerce and Consumer Affairs deems necessary to
 - 18 complete the study; and
 - 19

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Commerce and
21 Consumer Affairs is requested to submit a report of its findings
22 and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
23 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
24 the Regular Session of 2024; and

25

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
27 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Commerce
28 and Consumer Affairs, Comptroller, Attorney General, Chair of
29 the Pearl City Neighborhood Board, and Friends for Sunset
30 Memorial Park Cemetery.

