FEB 2 2 2006 S.C.R. NO. **20**

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE STATE COUNCIL OF HAWAIIAN HOMESTEAD ASSOCIATIONS TO DEVELOP AND SUBMIT TO THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR A LIST OF CANDIDATES FOR THE NINE MEMBER COMMISSION CALLED FOR IN THE NATIVE HAWAIIAN REORGANIZATION ACT, ALSO KNOWN AS THE AKAKA BILL.

WHEREAS, introduced in Congress on January 25, 2005, the Native Hawaiian Reorganization Act, also known as the Akaka Bill, provides a process for the Hawaiian people to secure recognition by the government of the United States of America;

WHEREAS, one of the first steps in the process provided for in the Akaka bill is the establishment of a nine member commission to set the guidelines for native Hawaiians' participation in the organization of a governing entity; and

WHEREAS, central to the guidelines to be established is the establishment of criteria for determining Hawaiian lineage and ancestry; and

WHEREAS, it is critical that the individuals selected to serve on the commission be skilled and have the expertise in Hawaiian ancestry verification and Hawaiian language, history, and cultural traditions, practices, and protocols; and

WHEREAS, it is important that beneficiaries of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, especially those residing in Hawaiian homestead communities throughout the State of Hawaii, be able to submit names of qualified candidates for the commission; now, therefore,

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BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2006, the House of Representatives concurring, that the State Council of Hawaiian Homestead Associations is requested to develop and submit to the United States Secretary of the Interior a list of qualified candidates for the nine member commission called for in the Native Hawaiian Reorganization Act; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State Council of Hawaiian Homestead Associations is urged to submit names of candidates who are skilled in Hawaiian lineal descendancy verification and knowledgeable in the Hawaiian language, history, and cultural traditions, practices, and protocols; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State Council of Hawaiian Homestead Associations is requested to begin this process at its eighteenth Annual Convention; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State Council of Hawaiian Homestead Associations is urged to submit its list to the Secretary of the Interior no later than September 30, 2006; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to Hawaii's congressional delegation, the Secretary of the United States Department of Interior, and the Chairperson of the State Council of Hawaiian Homestead Associations.

OFFERED BY:

