

MAR 14 2007

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE CITY AUDITOR TO AUDIT THE EWA VILLAGES  
REVITALIZATION PROJECT AND THAT THE TERMS OF THE MEMORANDUM  
OF AGREEMENT TO RENOVATE AND MAINTAIN THE HISTORIC  
PROPERTIES BE FACILITATED.

1           WHEREAS, the Ewa Plantation Company leased land about 20  
2 miles from central Honolulu and began operating a sugar  
3 plantation in 1890; and

4  
5           WHEREAS, by the late 1920s, some 5,000 people lived on the  
6 thriving plantation, which by then had 600 homes for workers,  
7 skilled employees, and supervisors in numerous camps, athletic  
8 and recreational facilities, social clubs, a community store, a  
9 health center, a hospital, and an administration building; and

10  
11           WHEREAS, eventually, ownership of the plantation was  
12 transferred for financial reasons and the physical plant and  
13 economic activity started to decline; and

14  
15           WHEREAS, in the 1970s, anticipating the expiration of the  
16 sugar company's land lease in 1995, the City and County of  
17 Honolulu (C&C) began planning to expand the Ewa Villages into a  
18 suburban "Second City"; and

19  
20           WHEREAS, advocacy from the historic preservation community  
21 and community groups helped the C&C to come up with the Ewa  
22 Villages Revitalization Project (Project), with the following  
23 four purposes in mind:

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25           (1) To provide affordable housing opportunities and a  
26 continued sense of community for the current village  
27 residents and other island families;

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29           (2) To preserve the historic character of the plantation  
30 villages;



1 (3) To develop a drainage program to remove the villages  
2 from the flood zone; and

3  
4 (4) To break even financially;

5  
6 and

7  
8 WHEREAS, in 1995, a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) detailing  
9 the plans for revitalization was signed by the Farmers Home  
10 Administration, now known as the Farm Service Agency, the  
11 Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the Hawaii State  
12 Historic Preservation Office, now known as the State Historic  
13 Preservation Division, as parties to the agreement, and the  
14 Department of Housing and Community Development of the C&C, some  
15 of whose functions have been transferred to the Department of  
16 Community Services, Department of Parks and Recreation of the  
17 C&C, and the Historic Hawaii Foundation acknowledged their  
18 concurrence; and

19  
20 WHEREAS, the MOA and subsequent commitments related to the  
21 MOA require the renovation and maintenance of the historic  
22 properties in the historic core of the Project; and

23  
24 WHEREAS, the historic properties in the historic core have  
25 not been significantly renovated or maintained as agreed under  
26 the terms of the MOA since its inception due to lack of funding;  
27 and

28  
29 WHEREAS, the provisions of the MOA requiring the  
30 restoration and maintenance of the historic core of the Project  
31 have not been terminated, annulled, modified, or invalidated  
32 since its signing; now, therefore,

33  
34 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth  
35 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007, the  
36 House of Representatives concurring, that the City Auditor of  
37 the C&C is requested to conduct an audit of the Project and MOA;  
38 and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the C&C City Auditor is  
2 requested to include in the audit:

- 3
- 4 (1) The commitment of the parties to contribute to the
- 5 renovation and maintenance of the historic properties,
- 6 including the amounts contributed, amounts expended,
- 7 and the balance remaining;
- 8
- 9 (2) The status of the funds earmarked for the renovation
- 10 and maintenance of the historic properties; and
- 11
- 12 (3) The status of the MOA, including its validity,
- 13 enforceability, and any amendments thereto;
- 14

15 and

16  
17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the C&C City Auditor is  
18 requested to submit to the Legislature a report of the audit no  
19 later than 20 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session  
20 of 2009; and

21  
22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the council members and the  
23 mayor of the C&C are requested to facilitate the execution of  
24 the terms of the MOA and subsequent commitments relating to the  
25 renovation and maintenance of all historic properties listed in  
26 the MOA; and

27  
28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
29 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Administrator of the  
30 Farm Service Agency, Chairperson of the City Council of the City  
31 & County of Honolulu, the Mayor of the City & County of  
32 Honolulu, the Chairpersons of the Advisory Council on Historic  
33 Preservation, Administrator of the State Historic Preservation  
34 Division of the Department of Land and Natural Resources, and  
35 City Auditor of the City and County of Honolulu.

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OFFERED BY: Will Espero

