

MAR 14 2007

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## SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE COUNTIES TO AMEND THEIR RESPECTIVE BUILDING CODE  
TO ALLOW FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF INDIGENOUS HAWAIIAN  
DWELLINGS FOR RESIDENTIAL PURPOSES, AS PROVIDED BY THE  
HAWAII REVISED STATUTES.

1           WHEREAS, architecture is one of the most important means of  
2 cultural expression for all peoples; and

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4           WHEREAS, "indigenous architecture" has great aesthetic  
5 appeal and economic potential, in addition to its cultural  
6 significance; and

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8           WHEREAS, there is a growing interest and appreciation among  
9 architects, developers, planners, Hawaiian cultural experts,  
10 visitors, and residents for indigenous architecture; and

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12           WHEREAS, indigenous Hawaiian architecture has immense  
13 cultural and historical significance in linking modern Hawaii to  
14 the past, in nurturing Hawaiian values for the present and  
15 future; and

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17           WHEREAS, indigenous Hawaiian architecture utilizes rock  
18 walls and wood frame walls covered by thatches of different  
19 native grasses or other natural material for roofs; and

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21           WHEREAS, ancient Hawaiians had many forms of architecture  
22 that reflected cultural needs in terms of adapting to climate,  
23 availability of materials, and social and religious conditions;  
24 and

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26           WHEREAS, one of the primary principles in indigenous  
27 architecture is development in harmony with the natural  
28 environment; and

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30           WHEREAS, homeowners should be afforded the opportunity to  
31 utilize indigenous Hawaiian architecture in constructing their  
32 dwellings, in the interest of cultural preservation; and  
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1 WHEREAS, by adherence to the principles of judicious use of  
2 limited resources, indigenous Hawaiian architecture decreases  
3 Hawaii's reliance on external economic forces, engenders  
4 sustainable development, and preserves the forests; and  
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6 WHEREAS, indigenous Hawaiian dwellings are intricate to  
7 construct, but are a work of art when finished; and  
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9 WHEREAS, history has shown that ancient Hawaiian structures  
10 were sturdy and safe enough to substantially survive tropical  
11 storms that destroyed Western style buildings; and  
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13 WHEREAS, some indigenous Hawaiian dwellings or native  
14 buildings, including a grass house in Hamoa, have been used for  
15 quite a few generations and the rock foundations still remain  
16 today; and  
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18 WHEREAS, Act 310, Session Laws of Hawaii 2006, codified as  
19 section 46-1.55, Hawaii Revised Statutes, requires each county  
20 to adopt ordinances allowing the exercise of indigenous native  
21 Hawaiian architectural practices, styles, customs, techniques,  
22 and materials historically employed by Native Hawaiians, in the  
23 county building code, including residential structures and other  
24 structures; and  
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26 WHEREAS, the County of Maui is the only county to have  
27 amended its building code to allow qualified builders to go  
28 through the same process to construct indigenous Hawaiian  
29 dwellings as for Western dwellings; now, therefore,  
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31 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth  
32 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007,  
33 that the City and County of Honolulu, County of Kaua'i, and  
34 County of Hawai'i are requested to amend their respective  
35 building code to allow for indigenous Hawaiian architecture, as  
36 required by law; and  
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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City and County of  
39 Honolulu, County of Kaua'i, and County of Hawai'i are requested  
40 to report to this body not later than twenty days prior to the  
41 convening of the Regular Session of 2008 on the progress of  
42 adopting building code provisions consistent with section  
43 46-1.55, Hawaii Revised Statutes; and



# S.R. NO. 67

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2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
3 Resolution be transmitted to the Mayor of the City and County of  
4 Honolulu, Mayor of the County of Kaua'i, Mayor of the County of  
5 Hawai'i, Chair of the City Council of Honolulu, Chair of the  
6 County Council of Hawai'i, and Chair of the County Council of  
7 Kaua'i.

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OFFERED BY:

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