FEB - 8 2010

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING GOVERNOR LINDA LINGLE TO RECOGNIZE LOCAL KOREANS BY ALLOWING A COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE TO BE PLACED ON MILLER STREET ADJACENT TO WASHINGTON PLACE, FORMER SITE OF THE KOREAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

WHEREAS, on January 13, 1903, the first wave of 102 immigrants from Korea arrived at Honolulu Harbor on the S.S. Gaelic to work on Hawaii's sugar plantations as contract laborers, to be followed in the next two and one-half years by approximately 7,400 Koreans; and

WHEREAS, on February 1, 1909, Koreans in Hawaii organized the Korean National Association, which would eventually become the oldest Korean organization in America; and

WHEREAS, Washington Place is the official residence of the Governor of Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, on December 14, 1914, the Korean National Association constructed its headquarters at 1306 Miller Lane, the same property as today's Washington Place, where it stood until 1946, when it was subjected to friendly condemnation in December 1945 by the Territory of Hawaii for expansion of the Governor's Mansion; and

WHEREAS, the Korean National Association worked from the Washington Place site for thirty-two years to provide financial assistance, publish a Korean vernacular newspaper, and promote general welfare programs for the aging population of local Koreans; and

WHEREAS, the Korean National Association, also known as Kook Min Hur of Hawaii, is currently dedicated to serving others, preserving the history of the State of Hawaii, donating to various nonprofit charities and organizations, and supporting community events, and the Association is a major participant in

the Korean Festival in Hawaii - all a reflection of the indomitable spirit of the Korean people; and

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WHEREAS, February 1, 2009, marked the 100th anniversary of the Korean National Association, coincidental with the 50th anniversary of Hawaii statehood; and

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WHEREAS, a plaque to honor, commemorate, and remember the immigration of Koreans to Hawaii would be proper and fitting; and

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WHEREAS, the location of the plaque should rightfully be on the premises of Washington Place, previously the headquarters of the Korean National Association; now, therefore,

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BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2010, the House of Representatives concurring, that Governor Linda Lingle is requested to direct the placement of a plaque to be funded by the Korean community on the grounds of Washington Place as follows:

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(1) The plaque is to be made of bronze, measuring no larger than twenty-four by fifteen inches, to be mounted on a twenty-four inch high pedestal made of stone or cement block;

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(2) The plaque is to be placed at the sidewalk on the Ewa end of Miller Street near the back gate of the Governor's Mansion; and

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(3) The plaque should read "Korean National Association Headquarters Site, December 1914 - July 1946"; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor of Hawaii and to the Korean National Association.

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