## HOUSE RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING THE CULTURAL, EDUCATIONAL, ACADEMIC, POLITICAL, AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE PEOPLE OF HAWAII AND THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY.

WHEREAS, the Republic of Turkey and the United States of America are long-standing allies that cherish the universal values of freedom, democracy, and human rights; and

WHEREAS, in its alliance with the United States, the Republic of Turkey demonstrates a commitment to world peace and liberty, as well as a tolerance of others regarding secular and religious issues; and

WHEREAS, the Republic of Turkey, the world's fifteenth largest economy and Europe's sixth largest economy, is a valued trading partner with the State of Hawaii, and is to be commended on its contributions to the global economy; and

WHEREAS, in 2009, Turkish exports to the United States totaled about \$3,300,000,000, and United States exports to Turkey totaled about \$8,600,000,000; and

WHEREAS, on December 7, 2009, the United States and the Republic of Turkey launched a new cabinet-level initiative called the Framework for Strategic Economic and Commercial Cooperation to increase trade and investment relations; and

WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii and the Republic of Turkey enjoy a strong, vibrant, and mutually beneficial economic relationship, with the prospect of future growth; and

WHEREAS, it is the custom of the State of Hawaii to welcome all who come to our State, especially those who come in the interest of friendship and commerce; and

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WHEREAS, on January 20, 2011, the Pacifica Institute hosted the First Annual Dialoque and Friendship Dinner to promote peace and a better understanding of the Hawaii Turkish-American community among all of Hawaii's multi-cultural population; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the State of Hawaii to further cultivate the mutually beneficial relationship between the State of Hawaii and the Republic of Turkey and other Turkic Nations; and

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to recognize the value of maintaining beneficial relationships with our allies, and the contributions of our allies, including the contributions made by the Republic of Turkey and the value of our positive relationship with this ally; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2011, that this body recognizes the long standing relationship between Hawaii and the Republic of Turkey, looks forward to building upon our time-honored friendship, as well as promoting the cultural, educational, academic, political, and economic relations between the people of Hawaii and the Republic of Turkey; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Pacifica Institute and the West America Turkic Council.

