HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE STATE LIBRARIAN TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE ON THE USE OF PUBLIC LIBRARY FACILITIES FOR CONCESSIONS.

WHEREAS, public libraries provide many services to the communities in which they are located, including the loaning of library materials, internet access, passport applications, and meeting rooms; and

WHEREAS, public libraries are also social spaces that bring together and encourage the development of communities; and

WHEREAS, many public libraries in the State have the generous support of a Friends of the Library group, whose members and volunteers work tirelessly to promote and support the libraries to which they are attached; and

WHEREAS, the majority of the Friends of the Library groups that support individual public libraries in the State are affiliates of the Friends of the Library of Hawaii, which operates as an umbrella organization providing support to these groups; and

WHEREAS, while there are some unaffiliated Friends of the Library groups applying for Friends of the Library of Hawaii affiliation, not all Friends of the Library groups want to be affiliated with this umbrella organization; and

WHEREAS, section 312-3.8, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), réserves the right to use public library facilities for concessions such as book sales and on-site bookstores to the Friends of the Library of Hawaii and its affiliates; and

WHEREAS, as a result, those Friends of the Library groups that do not wish to affiliate are not able to use public library facilities to fundraise for their libraries; and

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WHEREAS, the Department of the Attorney General has stated that this issue cannot be resolved through a memorandum of understanding; and

WHEREAS, this issue has created a great deal of misunderstanding and ill-will between the various Friends of the Library groups; now, therefore,

 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2012, the Senate concurring, that the State Librarian is requested to convene a task force on the use of public library facilities for concessions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force include:

(1) The State Librarian or the State Librarian's designee;

(2) A representative from the Department of the Attorney General:

(3) A representative from the Friends of the Library of Hawaii;

(4) A representative from the Friends of the Library of Hawaii affiliate groups; and

(5) A representative from a Friends of the Library group that is not affiliated with the Friends of the Library of Hawaii;

provided that no member of the task force shall be made subject to Chapter 84, HRS, solely because of that member's participation as a member of the task force; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to address the current issues that have arisen as a result of the requirements of section 312-3.8, HRS; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in considering the requirements of section 312-3.8, HRS, the task force also consider how funds raised through concessions using public library facilities are apportioned and administered; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to submit a report of its findings and recommendations for legislation, if any, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2013; and

 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Attorney General, State Librarian, Executive Director of the Friends of the Library of Hawaii, and President of each non-affiliate of the Friends of the Library of Hawaii.