SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

ENCOURAGING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO
APPROVE THE REQUEST TO REOPEN PARADISE PARK AS A HAWAIIAN
CULTURAL CENTER.

1   WHEREAS, Paradise Park, open to the public from 1968 to
2 1994, was an attraction located in Manoa Valley that featured an
3 exotic bird exhibit and botanical garden; and
4
5   WHEREAS, Paradise Park, Inc., has held a seventy-five year
6 lease to the property since 1966; and
7
8   WHEREAS, in 1966, the Board of Land and Natural Resources
9 approved Conservation District Use Permit No. OA-30 for
10 approximately 47 acres for recreational purposes by
11 establishment of zoological and botanical gardens, with
12 specified ancillary uses; and
13
14   WHEREAS, since closing its operations in 1994 due to the
15 downturn in the economy, use of Paradise Park has consisted of
16 Treetops Restaurant, parking for Manoa Falls Trail, a snack shop
17 and gift shop, hula halau, administrative offices, and
18 occasional film production; and
19
20   WHEREAS, the Paradise Park property is located beside the
21 Manoa Falls Trail; and
22
23   WHEREAS, Manoa Falls Trail is one of the most popular
24 destinations for Hawaii tourists; and
25
26   WHEREAS, Paradise Park, Inc., seeks to provide visitors
27 with a more fulfilling experience of Hawaii by reopening
28 Paradise Park as a Hawaiian Cultural Center; and
29
30   WHEREAS, educational projects such as hula workshops,
31 lectures on Hawaiian culture, musical performances, and
32 specialized botanical gardens will bring people to the area and,

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1 in turn, provide jobs and opportunities for all parties
2 involved; and
3
4   WHEREAS, Paradise Park, Inc.'s vision is to reopen Paradise
5 Park as a gathering place in the rainforest of Manoa Valley to
6 foster public and private partnerships that promote education,
7 preservation, and stewardship of the land, expressing the
8 Hawaiian cultural traditions and practices that make Hawaii
9 unique, thereby supporting the growth of economic and cultural
10 assets of all Hawaiians; and
11
12   WHEREAS, on February 27, 2013, Paradise Park, Inc.,
13 submitted to the Department of Land and Natural Resources a
14 formal request for approval to reopen Paradise Park as a
15 Hawaiian Cultural Center, consisting of a zoological and
16 botanical garden with a special emphasis on a unique arrangement
17 of gardens that celebrate the traditional dance of Hawaii, the
18 hula; and
19
20   WHEREAS, the Department of Land and Natural Resources has
21 requested additional information, which Paradise Park, Inc., is
22 preparing in addition to themes and concepts for the proposed
23 Hawaiian Cultural Center; and
24
25   WHEREAS, Paradise Park, Inc., has prepared a three-phase
26 plan to utilize existing buildings and work from the original
27 master plan from 1966 to reopen Paradise Park as a Hawaiian
28 Cultural Center, with the first phase to be completed within
29 twelve months of approval from the Department of Land and
30 Natural Resources, and the second and third phases to be
31 completed within two to three years; and
32
33   WHEREAS, this body supports the plan for the proposed
34 Hawaiian Cultural Center to promote Hawaiian culture, dance, and
35 arts by establishing a center of learning where the arts and
36 culture of Hawaii can prosper in a natural setting; and
37
38   WHEREAS, this body believes that the proposed Hawaiian
39 Cultural Center should strive to be the first of its kind
40 dedicated to Hawaiian culture, with an emphasis on the art of
41 hula and highlighting the flora and fauna that the dance
42 describes, and should provide space for resident artists and
43 cultural practitioners to create, showcase, and expand their
44 work; now, therefore,

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1
2   BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-seventh
3 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2014, the
4 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of Land
5 and Natural Resources is encouraged to approve the request to
6 reopen Paradise Park as a Hawaiian Cultural Center; and
7
8   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
9 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
10 Board of Land and Natural Resources and Chief Executive Officer
11 of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.
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OFFERED BY: _Suzanne Chun Oakland_