HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

ENCOURAGING KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS TO CONSIDER THE PRACTICE OF LAND EXCHANGES TO FACILITATE THE DEVELOPMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOMESTEADS IN LOCATIONS THAT BETTER SERVE THE HAWAIIAN PEOPLE.

WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands has over 27,000 applicants on the waiting list for homestead leases; and

WHEREAS, eighty percent of all eligible applicants for homestead leases reject the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands' offer each year; and

WHEREAS, Native Hawaiians make up a significant portion of the homeless population in Hawaii and many of these individuals and families receive or are waiting to receive services from the State; and

WHEREAS, many Native Hawaiians choose not to apply for Hawaiian homestead leases because of the daunting size of the waiting lists, the slow rate at which people on the waiting lists receive leases, and the relative geographic isolation of the communities in which Hawaiian homestead leases are available; and

WHEREAS, many Native Hawaiians choose not to pursue homestead leases because they do not wish to live in areas without quality infrastructure such as roads, schools, and retail stores, which represent the majority of the areas in which homestead land is available; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands has been unable to significantly improve the housing rate for its beneficiaries in the past several decades, despite numerous major initiatives designed to improve placement efficiency; and

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WHEREAS, Kamehameha Schools is the third-largest landholder in the State, behind only the state and federal governments in terms of total acreage held; and

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WHEREAS, due to public objections to development of a number of its properties, Kamehameha Schools is inhibited in its plans to develop its land portfolio which, in turn, limit's the capital resources available to Kamehameha Schools to fulfil its mission of the education of the Hawaiian people according to the will of Princess Bernice Pauahi Bishop; and

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WHEREAS, for one such parcel of land in Hawaii Kai on Oahu, located directly adjacent to Maunalua Bay, building permits have been habitually blocked, thereby delaying Kamehameha Schools' development plans for the property; and

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WHEREAS, in contrast to much of the land available for Hawaiian homestead leases, the Maunalua Bay property is in close proximity to quality schools, well-maintained roads, medical facilities, and a variety of retail options; now, therefore,

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BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2016, the Senate concurring, that Kamehameha Schools is encouraged to consider a series of land exchanges with the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands to trade properties that Kamehameha Schools has been unable to develop for lands of equivalent value that are currently held by the Department; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Kamehameha Schools is encouraged to consider the exchange of the Maunalua Bay property as the first of its lands to be exchanged; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Chair of the Hawaiian Homes Commission, Chief Executive Officer of Kamehameha Schools, and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Kamehameha Schools.

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OFFERED BY: South

BCM K. Om'K

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