SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU TO CONDUCT A SURVEY AND EVALUATION OF ARTIST RELOCATION PROGRAMS AND THEIR POTENTIAL FOR CREATION IN THE STATE OF HAWAII.

WHEREAS, many communities have discovered that often the greatest natural resource a community has are the artists and crafts persons who are part of the creative industries sector of the economy; and

WHEREAS, artists and craft persons are living resources that are always renewable, and even importable, and communities may build an entire economic sector around artists, craft persons, performing artists, writers, and the culture they create; and

WHEREAS, in 2000 the City of Paducah, located at the confluence of the Tennessee and Ohio rivers in western Kentucky, started an "artist relocation program" that has become a national model for using the arts for economic development and fostered an environment where artists and the arts could flourish; and

WHEREAS, the goals of the program were to revitalize one of Paducah's most historic neighborhoods through the arts, accomplished by the city's offering properties at little cost in return for agreement with various conditions of renovation and basing entrepreneurial activities in the arts at the properties located in the model art district community--a place to create, live, and work; and

WHEREAS, private-public partnering was a critical element in the success of the Paducah artist relocation program, which involved innovative financing arrangements with community partner banks for the artists/residents, and public incentives including low cost property sales and zoning accommodations through the city planning department; and

WHEREAS, Paducah's artist relocation program has created a breeding ground for creative concepts as neighbors create synergies that optimize their potential, and the artists/entrepreneurs impact the city's local cultural industries and serve as gateways to national and international markets; now, therefore,

 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2016, the House of Representatives concurring, that the Legislative Reference Bureau, in consultation with the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts and the Creative Industries Division of the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, is requested to conduct a survey and evaluation of artist relocation programs run by state governments and the potential for creation of such a program in the State of Hawaii; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference Bureau is requested to submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2017; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau; Executive Director of the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts; and Administrator of the Creative Industries Division of the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism.