H.R. NO. 193

## HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF HAWAII TO EXERCISE ITS POWER OF EMINENT DOMAIN TO CONDEMN NAALEHU THEATER TO PRESERVE THE THEATER'S HISTORIC LEGACY.

WHEREAS, the Naalehu Theater, the southernmost theater in 1 2 the country, was constructed in 1925 by the Hutchinson Sugar Company; and 3 4 WHEREAS, the theater hosted live performances and community 5 events and, decades later, movie screenings for the public; and 6 7 8 WHEREAS, the property the theater is located on is 9 currently owned by 300 Corporation, a division of the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation; and 10 11 12 WHEREAS, an attempt to list the theater as a historic property was made in 2005; and 13 14 15 WHEREAS, representatives from the State Historic Preservation Division of the Department of Land and Natural 16 17 Resources visited the site and determined the theater was eligible for listing; and 18 19 WHEREAS, the theater was considered for listing on the 20 Hawaii Register of Historic Places and National Register of 21 22 Historic Places by the Hawaii Historic Places Review Board; and 23 WHEREAS, in June 2005, the president of 300 Corporation 24 25 respectfully objected to the listings; and 26 WHEREAS, in 2006, the roof of the theater started to leak 27 and needed repairs, including a new roof and ceiling, new 28 qutters, and repairs to the foundation, at a cost of about 29 30 \$150,000; and 31 WHEREAS, volunteers repaired the theater and submitted 32 paperwork for the theater to become a National Historic 33 Landmark, but the theater was not designated as or given any 34 35 historic status; and

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1 WHEREAS, if the Naalehu Theater was listed on the National 2 Register of Historic Places, the theater would be eligible for 3 financial resources and grants, media exposure, and a twenty 4 percent federal reimbursement for approved repairs because the 5 theater would be categorized as a commercial building; and 6 7 WHEREAS, in 2010, Honolulu Magazine listed Naalehu Theater 8 as one of "Hawaii's Most Endangered Historic Sites"; and 9 10 WHEREAS, condemning and preserving Naalehu Theater is an 11 option to provide visitors and future generations the 12 opportunity to visit the theater and learn more about the 13 history of Naalehu; now, therefore, 14 15 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the 16 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session 17 of 2018, that the County Council of the County of Hawaii is 18 urged to exercise its power of eminent domain to condemn Naalehu 19 Theater to preserve the theater's historic legacy; and 20 21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this 22 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the County 23 Council of the County of Hawaii. 24 25 26 27 OFFERED BY: L) Ale Glakolum 2018 - 15832 doc

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Gurthi Thicken

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