

MAR 09 2018

SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO RECOGNIZE
NAALEHU THEATER AS A HISTORIC LANDMARK AND PROTECT THE
THEATER'S HISTORIC LEGACY.

1 WHEREAS, the Naalehu Theater, the southernmost theater in
2 the country, was constructed in 1925 by the Hutchinson Sugar
3 Company; and

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5 WHEREAS, the theater hosted live performances and community
6 events and, decades later, movie screenings for the public; and

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8 WHEREAS, the property the theater is located on is
9 currently owned by 300 Corporation, a division of the Harry and
10 Jeanette Weinberg Foundation; and

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12 WHEREAS, an attempt to list the theater as a historic
13 property was made in 2005; and

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15 WHEREAS, representatives from the State Historic
16 Preservation Division of the Department of Land and Natural
17 Resources visited the site and determined the theater was
18 eligible for listing; and

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20 WHEREAS, the theater was considered for listing on the
21 Hawaii Register of Historic Places and National Register of
22 Historic Places by the Hawaii Historic Places Review Board; and

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24 WHEREAS, in June 2005, the president of 300 Corporation
25 respectfully objected to the register listings; and

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27 WHEREAS, in 2006, the roof of the theater started to leak
28 and needed repairs, including a new roof and ceiling, new
29 gutters, and repairs to the foundation, at a cost of about
30 \$150,000; and

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32 WHEREAS, volunteers repaired the theater and submitted
33 paperwork for the theater to become a National Historic
34 Landmark, but the theater was not designated as a historic site
35 or given any historic status; and



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WHEREAS, if the Naalehu Theater was listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the theater would be eligible for financial resources and grants, media exposure, and a twenty percent federal reimbursement for approved repairs because the theater would be categorized as a commercial building; and

WHEREAS, in 2010, Honolulu Magazine listed Naalehu Theater as one of "Hawaii's Most Endangered Historic Sites"; and

WHEREAS, recognizing the Naalehu Theater as a historic landmark is an option to provide visitors and future generations the opportunity to visit the theater and learn more about the history of Naalehu; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2018, that the Department of Land and Natural Resources is urged to recognize Naalehu Theater as a historic landmark and protect the theater's historic legacy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources and Administrator of the State Historic Preservation Division.

OFFERED BY: *[Signature]*
[Signature]