JAN 2 3 2020

### A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CEMETERIES.

### BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii is one of the 2 few states that does not exempt religious institutions from 3 charging a fee to help manage the costs of having a columbarium 4 on their property. The legislature further finds that amending 5 current law regarding cemetery and funeral trusts to allow 6 religious institutions to feasibly construct and properly manage 7 a columbarium within their property or place of worship and 8 providing niches to its members for an affordable fee addresses 9 our community's desire and commitment to care for the afterlife 10 needs of deceased members and their family members. The primary 11 goal is to make it affordable for local families and their 12 respective religious institutions to provide a continuum of 13 spiritual care for their loved ones and parishioners, even in 14 their afterlife.

15 The purpose of this Act is to allow any cemetery authority 16 to be exempted from licensing, bonding, and fee requirements 17 when selling or offering use of its property or portion thereof



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1 for the inurnment of cremated remains of its members, adherents, 2 and their families. 3 SECTION 2. Chapter 441, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is 4 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated 5 and to read as follows: 6 **"§441- Religious institutions.** The director shall 7 exempt any cemetery authority from licensing, bonding, and fee 8 requirements of this chapter upon proof satisfactory to the 9 director that it is a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation for 10 religious purposes administering temporalities of any church, 11 religious society, or denomination that intends to sell or offer 12 use of its property or portion thereof for the inurnment of 13 cremated remains of its members, adherents, and their families 14 and not for sale to the general public; provided that niches 15 shall not be sold or transferred to the general public." 16 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored. 17 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY: Suchi









Report Title: Cemetery; Religious Institutions; Fees; Niches

#### Description:

Allows any cemetery authority to be exempted from licensing, bonding, and fee requirements when selling or offering use of its property or portion thereof for the inurnment of cremated remains of its members, adherents, and their families.

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