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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE JUDICIARY TO PREPARE A MASTER DEVELOPMENT PLAN,  
INCLUDING A CAPITOL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT REQUEST, TO UPGRADE  
THE SOUTH KOHALA DISTRICT COURT.

1           WHEREAS, the South Kohala District Court complex is located  
2 in Waimea, which is a one-hour drive from both Hilo and Kona,  
3 the two larger population centers on Hawaii island; and  
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5           WHEREAS, the population of Waimea has nearly doubled in  
6 twenty years from seven thousand to nearly fourteen thousand  
7 residents; and  
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9           WHEREAS, neighboring communities in North Kohala, Kawaihae,  
10 Waikoloa, Hamakua, Waikii, and the South Kohala Coast rely on  
11 crucial government services in Waimea, including access to the  
12 District Court; and  
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14           WHEREAS, Waimea needs a bigger District Court complex, a  
15 District Court Judge, and Circuit Court Judge to serve the large  
16 geographical area and its growing population; and  
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18           WHEREAS, the current complex does not have adequate seating  
19 capacity and people often must wait outside; some days as many  
20 as fifty individuals are forced to wait outside; and  
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22           WHEREAS, Waimea is at nearly a two thousand seven hundred-  
23 foot elevation level and is exposed to trade winds and rain; and  
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25           WHEREAS, the restroom facilities are inadequate with just  
26 one male and one female restroom, with one stall each, and are  
27 located within the security check point and not easily  
28 accessible to the parties waiting outside; and  
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1 WHEREAS, the public has been told that they cannot file  
2 family court documents at the South Kohala District Court,  
3 forcing them to go to either Hilo or Kona; and  
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5 WHEREAS, for temporary restraining order cases, there is no  
6 separate waiting area for the opposing parties, which creates  
7 stressful, if not dangerous, situations in which the opposing  
8 parties may encounter each other outside of the courtroom; and  
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10 WHEREAS, this serious lack of judiciary facilities in South  
11 Kohala can only be remedied by an objective evaluation of the  
12 demand for these facilities and a determination of how these  
13 needs can be met; and  
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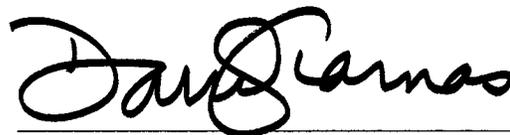
15 WHEREAS, this evaluation and analysis would provide the  
16 necessary information to prepare a master development plan to  
17 upgrade the South Kohala District Court complex; now, therefore,  
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19 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
20 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
21 Session of 2023, the Senate concurring, that the Judiciary is  
22 requested to prepare a master development plan for the South  
23 Kohala District Court complex, including a cost estimate to  
24 plan, design, and construct the upgraded facility as a capital  
25 improvement project; and  
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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Judiciary is requested to  
28 submit a capital improvement project request for the planning,  
29 design, and construction for an upgraded South Kohala District  
30 Court to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the  
31 convening of the Regular Session of 2024; and  
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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
34 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chief Justice and  
35 Administrator Director of the Courts.  
36  
37  
38

OFFERED BY:



MAR 10 2023

