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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS TO  
STUDY POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A  
LONG-TERM MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR SUNSET MEMORIAL PARK.

1           WHEREAS, Sunset Memorial Park in Pearl City, Oahu, has been  
2 neglected for years and has been the subject of numerous  
3 complaints by individuals who have family members buried there;  
4 and

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6           WHEREAS, the years of neglect have led to a damaged  
7 mausoleum, sinking graves, and overgrown grass and bushes that  
8 cover up hundreds of graves, making it nearly impossible to  
9 access some graves; and

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11           WHEREAS, due to the lack of security, Sunset Memorial Park  
12 is often the target of vandalism, with thieves displacing ashes  
13 from copper urns to sell the urns and homeless encampments  
14 accidentally setting fire to the area; and

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16           WHEREAS, the company that owns Sunset Memorial Park  
17 involuntarily dissolved in 2006, and the company's owner passed  
18 away in 2011, leaving the property in legal limbo; and

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20           WHEREAS, since the passing of the property's owner,  
21 maintenance of Sunset Memorial Park has relied solely on  
22 volunteers to clean up and care for the cemetery; and

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24           WHEREAS, the Legislature enacted Act 193, Session Laws of  
25 Hawaii 2018 (Act 193), in response to the overwhelming number of  
26 volunteers at Sunset Memorial Park, to limit liability for  
27 volunteers maintaining or repairing cemetery grounds; and

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29           WHEREAS, Act 193 further required the Department of  
30 Commerce and Consumer Affairs, in consultation with the  
31 Department of Accounting and General Services, to develop short-



1 term and long-term strategies for the upkeep, repair, and  
2 maintenance of Sunset Memorial Park; and

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4 WHEREAS, as a result of Act 193, the Department of Commerce  
5 and Consumer Affairs worked with a surveyor to map the cemetery  
6 and create a website and database to help identify graves at  
7 Sunset Memorial Park; and

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9 WHEREAS, the report from the Department of Commerce and  
10 Consumer Affairs concluded that once inventory and mapping of  
11 the cemetery are complete, the Department will explore viable  
12 long-term options for the cemetery, such as deeming Sunset  
13 Memorial Park as a dissolved corporation under state law,  
14 exercising certain powers to settle any unfinished business and  
15 affairs of the cemetery, and distributing the cemetery's assets  
16 after identifying those with a legal interest in the cemetery;  
17 and

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19 WHEREAS, almost five years have passed since the enactment  
20 of Act 193, and a long-term plan or solution regarding Sunset  
21 Memorial Park is still not in place; and

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23 WHEREAS, the dilapidated, unsightly state of Sunset  
24 Memorial Park is of great concern for the families whose loved  
25 ones are buried there and the surrounding community; now,  
26 therefore,

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28 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
29 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
30 Session of 2023, that the Department of Commerce and Consumer  
31 Affairs is requested to study potential solutions for the legal  
32 and physical situation at Sunset Memorial Park and make  
33 recommendations for a long-term management plan; and

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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Commerce and  
36 Consumer Affairs is requested to report on any developments  
37 since the enactment of Act 193; and

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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in conducting the study, the  
40 Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs is requested to  
41 consult with the following:

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- 1 (1) The Department of Accounting and General Services;
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- 3 (2) The Department of the Attorney General;
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- 5 (3) The Pearl City Neighborhood Board (District 21);
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- 7 (4) Friends for Sunset Memorial Park Cemetery;
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- 9 (5) Members of the community who have family buried at
- 10 Sunset Memorial Park; and
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- 12 (6) Any other entity or individual the Department of
- 13 Commerce and Consumer Affairs deems necessary to
- 14 complete the study; and
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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Commerce and  
17 Consumer Affairs is requested to submit a report of its findings  
18 and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the  
19 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
20 the Regular Session of 2024; and

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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
23 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Commerce and  
24 Consumer Affairs, Comptroller, Attorney General, Chair of the  
25 Pearl City Neighborhood Board, and Friends for Sunset Memorial  
26 Park Cemetery.

