
SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE CONVENING OF A SUNSET MEMORIAL PARK WORKING GROUP 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 people who have family members buried there; and
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5 WHEREAS, the years of neglect have led to a damaged
6 mausoleum, sinking graves, and overgrown grass and bushes that
7 cover up hundreds of graves, making it nearly impossible to
8 access some graves; and
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10 WHEREAS, due to the lack of security, Sunset Memorial Park
11 is often the target of vandalism, with thieves displacing ashes
12 from copper urns to sell the urns and homeless encampments
13 accidentally setting fire to the area; and
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15 WHEREAS, the company that owns Sunset Memorial Park
16 involuntarily dissolved in 2006 and the company's owner passed
17 away in 2011, leaving the property in legal limbo; and
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19 WHEREAS, since the passing of the property's owner,
20 maintenance of Sunset Memorial Park has relied solely on
21 volunteers to clean up and care for the cemetery; and
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23 WHEREAS, the Legislature enacted Act 193, Session Laws of
24 Hawaii 2018 (Act 193), in response to the overwhelming number of
25 volunteers at Sunset Memorial Park, to limit liability for
26 volunteers maintaining or repairing cemetery grounds; and
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28 WHEREAS, Act 193 further required the Department of
29 Commerce and Consumer Affairs, in consultation with the
30 Department of Accounting and General Services, to develop short-
31 term and long-term strategies for the upkeep, repair, and
32 maintenance of Sunset Memorial Park; and



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

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

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

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

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023, that a Sunset Memorial Park Working Group is requested to be convened to:

- (1) Study potential solutions for the legal and physical situation at Sunset Memorial Park and make recommendations for a long-term management plan; and
- (2) Follow up with the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs on any developments since the enactment of Act 193; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Sunset Memorial Park Working Group is requested to comprise the following members:



- 1 (1) One member of the Senate, selected by the President of
2 the Senate, who shall serve as Co-Chairperson of the
3 Working Group;
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- 5 (2) One member of the House of Representatives, selected
6 by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, who
7 shall serve as Co-Chairperson of the Working Group;
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- 9 (3) The Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, or the
10 Director's designee;
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- 12 (4) The Comptroller, or the Comptroller's designee;
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- 14 (5) The Attorney General, or the Attorney General's
15 designee;
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- 17 (6) One member from the Pearl City Neighborhood Board,
18 selected by the Co-Chairpersons; and
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- 20 (7) One member from Friends of Sunset Memorial Park
21 Cemetery, selected by the Co-Chairpersons; and
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Sunset Memorial Park
24 Working Group is requested to submit a report of its findings
25 and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
26 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
27 the Regular Session of 2024; and

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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
30 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the Senate,
31 Speaker of the House of Representatives, Director of Commerce
32 and Consumer Affairs, Comptroller, Attorney General, Chair of
33 the Pearl City Neighborhood Board, and Friends for Sunset
34 Memorial Park Cemetery.

