



## RESOLUTION

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URGING THE STATE OF HAWAII TO WORK WITH THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO ESTABLISH THE STATE OF HAWAII AS AN AREA OF FREE TRADE.

WHEREAS, in 1994, Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation ("APEC") leaders adopted the Bogor (Indonesia) Goals that aim for free trade and investment in the region by the year 2010 for developed countries and 2020 for developing countries; and

WHEREAS, from November 7<sup>th</sup> through the 13<sup>th</sup> of this year, APEC leaders will summit in Honolulu, Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, with the world spotlight on APEC, Hawaii has the opportunity to position itself for a greater role in the global economy where the State could not only serve as the gateway to the Asia-Pacific region, but could also be a living laboratory for global trade liberalization; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of Hawaii as a free trade area would create an opportunity for the State, strategically located in the Pacific Ocean, to increase trade, business, and investment with APEC member nations and entrepreneurs through minimal or no trade restrictions, duties, or tariffs on imports, exports and sales; and

WHEREAS, in addition to APEC member benefits, the establishment of Hawaii as a free trade area would open avenues to increased trade and commerce with member nations of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations ("ASEAN"), and set the stage for new trade agreements with the European Economic Area ("EEA") and the North American Free Trade Area ("NAFTA"); and

WHEREAS, although Hawaii already has elements of a free trade area in place with the establishment of foreign-trade zones where no duties are paid for foreign goods imported into the various zones under certain circumstances, the benefits are limited by federal regulation and restraints; and

WHEREAS, Hawaii, as the only island state in the U.S. is a natural choice for free trade area alliances with APEC member nations not only because of our close proximity to Asia and other nations of the Pacific Region, but also is a natural choice for free trade area alliances with other global free trade areas because of the numerous international cultural ties already established in the State; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of Hawaii as a free trade area would create a true free trade environment that would result in lower prices to Hawaii consumers, increased



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business and trade activities, and higher levels of employment, and thereby enhance Hawaii's position as a center for international commerce and finance; and

WHEREAS, Hawaii, in order to be established as a free trade area, would require the State of Hawaii to initiate actions to ensure the cooperation of the U.S. Congress in the creation and amendment of federal laws and regulations necessary to establish such an area; and

WHEREAS, the Council finds that the economies of Hawaii, the United States and the Asia Pacific Regions are moving towards a true global economy that ultimately must involve ASEAN, EEA and NAFTA member nations, and thus, compels innovative and bold action, and that the timing of APEC's summit in Honolulu is a unique stage for action; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that it urges the State of Hawaii to work with the United States Congress to establish the State of Hawaii as an area of free trade; and



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BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Governor of the State of Hawaii, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of Hawaii's delegation to the Congress of the United States.

INTRODUCED BY:  
TOM BERG

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DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

OCT 28 2011  
Honolulu, Hawaii

Councilmembers