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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
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S E N A T E

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P. S. Resolution No. 984

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Introduced by SENATOR LOREN LEGARDA

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**RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE TO LOOK INTO THE CONTINUED DETERIORATION AND DESTRUCTION OF IMPORTANT HERITAGE STRUCTURES AND TREES WITH THE END VIEW OF STRENGTHENING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COUNTRY'S HERITAGE PROTECTION LAWS**

**WHEREAS**, Article XIV Section 15 of the 1987 Constitution provides that the State shall conserve, promote and popularize the nation's historical and cultural heritage and resources, as well as artistic creations;

**WHEREAS**, the rich and colorful history of the country is reflected in the architectural landscape of Manila which was intended as a planned capital city – akin to Washington D.C. of the United States, designed by noted architect Daniel Burnham and created with wide, tree-lined boulevards dominated by the Luneta Park and government buildings in Neoclassical style;

**WHEREAS**, due to pressures of modernity and lack of public appreciation on their significance as the country's historical markers, heritage structures remain in constant danger of destruction as evident in the demolition of the William Parsons-designed Army and Navy Club and Fernando Ocampo's Admiral Hotel and the 1937 Art Deco building Michel Apartments;

**WHEREAS**, further compounding this situation are the dangers faced by old and mature trees found within highly urbanized areas which may be earthballed or even cut due to ongoing construction projects;

**WHEREAS**, citing the prohibitive costs of earthballing a single tree which is estimated to range from P100,000 to P1.5 million, several heritage trees in Southern Cebu for example faced the threat of being removed as part of the implementation of the first phase of the Naga-Carcar road widening project;

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources has an ongoing Heritage Tree Project as part of its efforts to protect old and mature trees found within urbanized areas under the Urban Forestry Program;

**WHEREAS**, there is a clear need to emphasize the duty of concerned cultural agencies to take the lead in the protection of important heritage treasures – whether natural or built, as emphasized in Republic Act 10086 and Republic Act 10066;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED** to direct the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture to look into the continued deterioration and demolition of important heritage structures and trees with the end view of strengthening the implementation of the country's heritage protection laws.

Adopted,

  
**LOREN LEGARDA**  
Senator