

MAR 14 2007

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING THE VALUE AND IMPORTANCE OF CONTINUING TO SERVE
HAWAII'S VISITORS WHO COME TO PAY THEIR RESPECTS TO
THE VARIOUS MEMORIALS AT PEARL HARBOR.

1 WHEREAS, for more that thirty years, over 1.6 million
2 visitors annually come to one of Oahu's historic memorials, the
3 USS ARIZONA, only to be subjected to excessively long lines for
4 entry, lack of shelter from the sun and rain, and insufficient
5 amenities, such as; refreshments, restroom facilities and
6 comfortable seating; and
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8 WHEREAS, to rectify this blight that has for so many years
9 reflected negatively on our great State, in December 2004, the
10 Pearl Harbor Visitor Center, as a public service, was opened to
11 provide those comforts needed and desired by our visitors; and
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13 WHEREAS, the livelihood of our local vendors and their
14 trained staff is now at risk if these services are to be
15 discontinued as is now being planned; and
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17 WHEREAS, these hard working people have served over 900,000
18 hot meals, provided low cost visitor transportation to Pearl
19 Harbor, and created a first ever marketing program for all five
20 attractions, resulting in vastly improved visitor counts and
21 revenues, while offering their services at fair prices; and
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23 WHEREAS, all of the neighboring memorials were engaged and
24 challenged by the U.S. Navy to correct this disservice and to
25 provide these amenities identified in a study conducted and
26 published in 1999, for reasons either of discontent, lack of
27 funding or minimal desire to cooperate with each other, out of
28 visitor necessity the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center was conceived
29 and dutifully assumed responsibility to service our local,
30 regional and foreign guests; and
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1 WHEREAS, none of the non-profit neighboring memorials (USS
2 ARIZONA MARINE REMEMBRANCE, USS BOWFIN, USS MISSOURI and the
3 Pacific Aviation Museum) could find common ground to cooperate
4 with each other to provide a comprehensive "Pearl Harbor Day"
5 experience for visitors during which all of the memorials could
6 be visited; the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center led the drive for
7 consolidated ticketing to enhance the attendance of the entire
8 area; and
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10 WHEREAS, in the spring of 2007, the National Park Service
11 is scheduled to be in receivership of the entire Pearl Harbor
12 Visitor Center at the Halawa Landing area; and
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14 WHEREAS, it is a moral imperative that the National Park
15 Service make accommodating visitors their top priority in all
16 decisions; and
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18 WHEREAS, the services now provided by the Pearl Harbor
19 Visitor Center will no longer exist for over a year, should the
20 current plan be executed; a new comprehensive plan, which will
21 enhance visitors' experience, rather than inconveniencing them,
22 must be drafted, accepted and executed; and
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24 WHEREAS, the local Pearl Harbor Visitor Center
25 concessionaires, who have mortgaged their homes and taken large
26 loans to open their own businesses, be grandfathered into the
27 future plan; and
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29 WHEREAS, any commercial service plan be reviewed, validated
30 and accepted by the U.S. Navy, the common landlord, prior to
31 execution; and
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33 WHEREAS, the comprehensive concession plan take into
34 account the importance of shared revenues received with all
35 other memorials of Pearl Harbor; now, therefore,
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37 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
38 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007, the
39 House of Representatives concurring, that all decisions made by
40 the National Park Service regarding the future of Pearl Harbor
41 be reviewed and accepted by a common broker, the U.S. Navy; and
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43 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the local businesses and
44 employees of the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center should remain open



1 as a service to the public until the National Park Service plan
2 can provide comparable services; and
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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that when drafted and executed, the
5 National Park Service plan give first right of refusal to the
6 current local vendors to be a part of the concessionaire plan;
7 and
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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
10 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the National Park
11 Service, the USS Bowfin, the USS Missouri and the Pacific
12 Aviation Museum.
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OFFERED BY:

[Handwritten signatures]
Salt
Fred [unclear]
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