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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

STRONGLY URGING THE CONVENING OF A TASK FORCE TO DEVISE A  
STRATEGIC AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR THE RESTORATION OF  
THE WAIKIKI WAR MEMORIAL NATATORIUM.

1           WHEREAS, Hawaii has no more historically significant  
2 architectural icon than the Waikiki War Memorial Natatorium, a  
3 memorial that honors the sacrifices of those who paid the  
4 ultimate price in World War I; and

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6           WHEREAS, the Waikiki War Memorial Natatorium is what  
7 Hawaiians can "wahipana", a sacred place of legendary beauty  
8 where the spirit is uplifted; and

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10           WHEREAS, the artfully constructed interface between natural  
11 and built environment has been hailed as a work of genius,  
12 harmoniously joining land and sea in a magnificent, yet  
13 sensitive statement, making the Natatorium worth preserving  
14 based on artistic merit alone; and

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16           WHEREAS, the facade features a Beaux-Arts style ornamental  
17 arched entryway measuring over twenty feet tall, designed by  
18 famed architect Louis P. Hobart, easily being one of Hawaii's  
19 most recognizable examples of creative architectural excellence;  
20 and

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22           WHEREAS, although the Waikiki War Memorial Natatorium has  
23 deteriorated since its initial construction, in 2001, over four  
24 million dollars of repairs were completed on the site including  
25 a façade restoration and the renovation of the bleachers and  
26 public restrooms; and

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28           WHEREAS, the Waikiki War Memorial Natatorium is listed on  
29 both the National and Hawaii Registers of Historic Places; and  
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1 WHEREAS, allowing the Waikiki War Memorial Natatorium to  
2 fall into disrepair because of inaction and procrastination  
3 would be irresponsible and would be disrespectful to all who  
4 paid the ultimate price for our nation in World War I, and would  
5 render an entire stretch of beach unsafe and incur large clean-  
6 up costs; and

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8 WHEREAS, other options, such as moving the facade and  
9 filling the Waikiki War Memorial Natatorium for athletic  
10 purposes, are not feasible due to the catastrophic damage that  
11 would result from the movement and destabilization to the  
12 bleachers, restrooms, and facade due to the increased load and  
13 drag due to the fill, respectively; and

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15 WHEREAS, tourism is the main economic driver of Hawaii's  
16 economy, providing numerous jobs and incomes to our residents;  
17 and

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19 WHEREAS, the National Trust for Historic Preservation has  
20 proven that cultural heritage tourists are more affluent  
21 overall, stay longer and spend more while contributing to global  
22 understanding through cultural exchange and commerce; and

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24 WHEREAS, cultural and heritage visitors spend, on average,  
25 \$623 per trip compared to \$457 for all U.S. travelers, excluding  
26 the cost of transportation; and

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28 WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of this State to  
29 preserve Hawai'i's uniqueness, sense of place, and cultural  
30 identity for the benefit of all its residents as well as its  
31 visitors; and

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33 WHEREAS, heritage tourism and more broadly, historic  
34 preservation and the efforts of the Heritage Caucus, not only  
35 benefit the State socially but economically as well; now,  
36 therefore,

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38 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
39 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
40 Session of 2008, the Senate concurring, that a task force is  
41 requested to be convened to devise a strategic plan and an  
42 implementation plan for the restoration of the Waikiki War  
43 Memorial Natatorium; and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the task force  
2 include a representative from the following organizations or  
3 individuals, as appropriate: the National Trust for Historic  
4 Preservation, the Historic Hawaii Foundation, the Friends of the  
5 Natatorium, the Native Hawaiian Hospitality Association, the  
6 Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, the Disabled  
7 American Veterans, the Oahu Veterans Council, the American  
8 Legion Department of Hawaii, the Pearl Harbor Fleet Reserve  
9 Association, the National Association for Uniformed Services,  
10 Waikiki Roughwater Swim, the International Swimming Hall of  
11 Fame, USA Water Polo-National Development Committee for Hawaii,  
12 the Department of Health, the Department of Land and Natural  
13 Resources-Historic Preservation Division, the City and County of  
14 Honolulu, U.S. Senator Daniel Inouye, U.S. Senator Daniel Akaka,  
15 U.S. Representative Neil Abercrombie, and U.S. Representative  
16 Mazie Hirono; and

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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the strategic plan and the  
19 implementation plan be submitted to the Legislature no later  
20 than thirty days prior to the convening of the 2009 Regular  
21 Session; and

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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
24 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the National Trust for  
25 Historic Preservation, the Historic Hawaii Foundation, the  
26 Friends of the Natatorium, the Native Hawaiian Hospitality  
27 Association, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States,  
28 the Disabled American Veterans, the Oahu Veterans Council, the  
29 American Legion Department of Hawaii, the Pearl Harbor Fleet  
30 Reserve Association, the National Association for Uniformed  
31 Services, Waikiki Roughwater Swim, the International Swimming  
32 Hall of Fame, USA Water Polo-National Development Committee for  
33 Hawaii, the Department of Health, the Department of Land and  
34 Natural Resources-Historic Preservation Division, the City and  
35 County of Honolulu, U.S. Senator Daniel Inouye, U.S. Senator  
36 Daniel Akaka, U.S. Representative Neil Abercrombie, and U.S.  
37 Representative Mazie Hirono.

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# H.C.R. NO. 319

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OFFERED BY:

Cecilia W. Chung

Cindy Evans

J. Mil. Karamitov

May Blee

Jimmy Murray

Matt L.

~~PT~~

~~Angela~~

Colleen Meier

Ray D. Bush

Barbara Marumoto

Tom Brown

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