
HOUSE 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
5

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
9

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
15

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
21

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
27

28 WHEREAS, the Waikiki War Memorial Natatorium is listed on
29 both the National and Hawaii Registers of Historic Places; and
30



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

7
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

14
15 WHEREAS, tourism is the main economic driver of Hawaii's
16 economy, providing numerous jobs and incomes to our residents;
17 and

18
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

23
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

27
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

32
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,

37
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



1 implementation plan for the restoration of the Waikiki War
2 Memorial Natatorium; and
3

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the task force
5 include a representative from the following organizations or
6 individuals, as appropriate: the National Trust for Historic
7 Preservation, the Historic Hawaii Foundation, the Friends of the
8 Natatorium, the Native Hawaiian Hospitality Association, the
9 Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, the Disabled
10 American Veterans, the Oahu Veterans Council, the American
11 Legion Department of Hawaii, the Pearl Harbor Fleet Reserve
12 Association, the National Association for Uniformed Services,
13 Waikiki Roughwater Swim, the International Swimming Hall of
14 Fame, USA Water Polo-National Development Committee for Hawaii,
15 the Department of Health, the Department of Land and Natural
16 Resources-Historic Preservation Division, the City and County of
17 Honolulu, U.S. Senator Daniel Inouye, U.S. Senator Daniel Akaka,
18 U.S. Representative Neil Abercrombie, and U.S. Representative
19 Mazie Hirono; and
20

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the strategic plan and the
22 implementation plan be submitted to the Legislature no later
23 than thirty days prior to the convening of the 2009 Regular
24 Session; and
25

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
27 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the National Trust for
28 Historic Preservation, the Historic Hawaii Foundation, the
29 Friends of the Natatorium, the Native Hawaiian Hospitality
30 Association, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States,
31 the Disabled American Veterans, the Oahu Veterans Council, the
32 American Legion Department of Hawaii, the Pearl Harbor Fleet
33 Reserve Association, the National Association for Uniformed
34 Services, Waikiki Roughwater Swim, the International Swimming
35 Hall of Fame, USA Water Polo-National Development Committee for
36 Hawaii, the Department of Health, the Department of Land and
37 Natural Resources-Historic Preservation Division, the City and
38 County of Honolulu, U.S. Senator Daniel Inouye, U.S. Senator
39 Daniel Akaka, U.S. Representative Neil Abercrombie, and U.S.
40 Representative Mazie Hirono.
41



1

OFFERED BY:

Celine W. L. King

Cindy Evans

Wil. Karamoto

May Bee

Janet King

Melita

~~St. J.~~

~~Angela~~

Colleen Meyer

Raymond

Barbara Maramoto

Tom Brown

MAR 12 2008

