
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING FULL PRESERVATION OF UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS AIR
STATION EWA AS A NATIONAL MONUMENT, MUSEUM, AND RESTORED
PARK FOR THE STATE OF HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, as international tensions intensified and military
2 conflicts broke out in Europe and Asia prior to America's entry
3 into World War II, Japan resented what they perceived to be U.S.
4 interference in the affairs of the Far East; and

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6 WHEREAS, Japan decided to destroy the U.S. Pacific Fleet
7 based in Pearl Harbor and all Army, Navy, and Marine air forces
8 on Oahu to ensure that the United States could not hinder
9 Japan's plans for conquest in Asia and the Pacific; and

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11 WHEREAS, in order to attain this objective, Japan sent a
12 powerful naval force of six aircraft carriers and supporting
13 ships across the Pacific Ocean to attack American forces based
14 on the island of Oahu; and

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16 WHEREAS, in the early stages of that attack, at
17 approximately 7:53 a.m. on the morning of December 7, 1941,
18 Lieutenant Kiyokuma Okajima led nine Mitsubishi Type 0 (Zero)
19 carrier fighters from the aircraft carrier Hiryu toward the Ewa
20 Mooring Mast Field (later re-designated Marine Corps Air Station
21 Ewa) on the island of Oahu, and coming from the north, the
22 fighters flew as low as twenty feet over the unsuspecting Marine
23 Corps airfield, and in subsequent firing passes, destroyed many
24 of the forty-nine aircraft there, damaging buildings and
25 equipment; and

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27 WHEREAS, within minutes, fighters from the aircraft
28 carriers Akagi, Kaga, and Soryu arrived over the Ewa Mooring
29 Mast Field and caused further destruction at the base; and

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31 WHEREAS, the attack on Ewa Mooring Mast Field was so
32 precise and well-executed that it appeared as though the



1 Japanese fighters had previously selected their particular
2 targets with the purpose of riddling them, and setting fire to
3 the gas tanks so as to render them useless for pursuit and
4 interception; and
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6 WHEREAS, the Ewa Mooring Mast Field lay along the departure
7 route for many Japanese aircraft flying toward their rendezvous
8 point northwest of Kaena Point, those aircraft subjected the
9 field to additional strafing attacks and completed the
10 destruction of thirty-three aircraft and the damage to sixteen
11 others of the forty-nine present; and
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13 WHEREAS, within minutes, the Marines mounted a gallant
14 defense of their base, while the remainder of the Japanese
15 strike force attacked Pearl Harbor and other airfields on Oahu;
16 and
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18 WHEREAS, the bravery of the United States Marines at Ewa
19 showed itself in full force that morning, with the men fighting
20 gallantly in the face of a ruthless and determined enemy who
21 carried out their mission of neutralizing any American aircraft
22 that could intercept and counterattack the Japanese invaders;
23 and
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25 WHEREAS, in one example of courage, Private William G.
26 Turner, who died of his wounds and received a posthumous Bronze
27 Star, assisted Master Technical Sergeant Emil S. Peters who
28 jumped into the rear cockpit of a SBD-2 dive bomber, with Peters
29 firing from the cockpit as Turner fed ammunition; and
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31 WHEREAS, the Japanese aircraft also inflicted other
32 casualties among the Marines at the Ewa Mooring Mast Field,
33 killing three men and wounding thirteen others; and
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35 WHEREAS, Sergeant Carlo A. Micheletto, Private First Class
36 Edward S. Laurence, and Private William G. Turner, gave their
37 lives in defense of their country, and two civilian residents of
38 Ewa, Yaeko Lillian Oda and Francisco Tacderan, also lost their
39 lives as a result of the attack; and
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41 WHEREAS, Japanese Lieutenant Yoshio Shiga, leader of the
42 first wave fighter unit from the aircraft carrier Kaga, while
43 strafing the parked planes at Ewa Field with his 7.7 mm machine
44 guns, recorded for posterity the account of a lone Marine, who



1 stood amidst the gunfire striking the ground around him and
2 bravely emptied his sidearm at the aircraft attacking overhead,
3 a man in whom Lieutenant Shiga found the "spirit of dogged
4 tenacity that was the very embodiment of bravery and valor" that
5 he did not expect from an American, and commented that this
6 Marine was the bravest soldier he ever encountered; and
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8 WHEREAS, two Army Air Force fighter pilots from Wheeler
9 Field, Second Lieutenants Kenneth M. Taylor and George S. Welch,
10 engaged Japanese dive bombers in the vicinity of the Ewa Mooring
11 Mast Field in one of the most famous dogfights of the war; and
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13 WHEREAS, the Ewa Mooring Mast Field constitutes one of the
14 very first points of the attack against the United States which
15 precipitated our nation's entry into World War II; and
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17 WHEREAS, during 1941, the Marine Corps developed the Ewa
18 Mooring Mast Field which later, as Marine Corps Air Station Ewa,
19 served through World War II; and
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21 WHEREAS, the designation and development of Ewa Field as a
22 National Monument, Museum, and Restored Park would preserve this
23 critical American historic site, allowing stories to be told of
24 the associated military conflicts, American sacrifices, and the
25 heroism and determination that became the foundation for victory
26 in the Pacific arena and eventually in World War II itself; and
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28 WHEREAS, a National Monument at the former Marine Corps Air
29 Station Ewa would further preserve documentation of Hawaii's
30 involvement in World War II, serving as a focal point for the
31 observation, remembrance, and expression of American patriotism,
32 honoring those who served within its gates; and
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34 WHEREAS, the preservation of Marine Corps Air Station Ewa
35 as a National Monument would create opportunities for
36 employment, education, and community pride for the people of
37 Hawaii; now, therefore,
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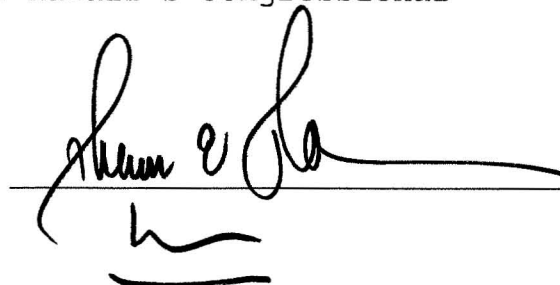
39 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
40 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
41 of 2009, the Senate concurring, that the President of the United
42 States, the Secretary of Defense, and the Secretary of the
43 Interior are respectfully encouraged to preserve Marine Corps
44 Air Station Ewa, or a portion of it, as a National Monument; and



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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the Secretary of Defense, and the Secretary of the Interior, and to each member of Hawaii's congressional delegation.

OFFERED BY:



JAN 28 2009

