
HOUSE RESOLUTION

STRONGLY URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE CITY OF HONOLULU TO HONOR ACT 15 OF THE 1921 TERRITORIAL LEGISLATURE BY PRESERVING THE WAIKIKI WAR MEMORIAL NATATORIUM IN ITS ORIGINAL LOCATION ON THE WAIKIKI SHORE.

1 WHEREAS, the Twenty-Fifth Legislature finds that in
2 upholding the legislation passed by our forefathers, this body
3 perpetuates the integrity of the Hawaii State Legislature and
4 further ensures that the laws passed today are protected and
5 upheld by those elected to precede this Legislature; and
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7 WHEREAS, in 1921, the Territorial Legislature of Hawaii
8 passed Act 15 which approved the construction of the Waikiki War
9 Memorial Natatorium, a "Living Memorial" to honor the 102
10 servicemen from Hawaii who were killed during World War I; and
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12 WHEREAS, completed in 1927, the Waikiki War Memorial
13 Natatorium located in close proximity to Diamond Head, across
14 from Kapiolani Park, and situated between San Souci Beach and
15 the Waikiki Aquarium; and
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17 WHEREAS, designed by famed architect Louis P. Hobart, the
18 façade features a Beaux-Arts style ornamental arched entryway
19 featuring four stone eagles measuring over twenty feet tall; and
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21 WHEREAS, the actual Memorial is a 100 by 40-meter tide fed
22 saltwater pool where Buster Crabbe and Johnny Weismuller trained
23 for the 1928 Olympics and has also been host to world-renowned
24 national and international swim competitions, featuring figures
25 such as Duke Kahanamoku, Bill Smith, Ford Konno, coach Soichi
26 Sakamoto and more; and
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28 WHEREAS, although the Waikiki War Memorial Natatorium has
29 deteriorated since its initial construction, in 2001, over four



1 million dollars of repairs were completed on the site including
2 a façade restoration and the renovation of the bleachers and
3 public restrooms; and
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5 WHEREAS, the Waikiki War Memorial Natatorium is listed on
6 both the National and Hawaii Registers of Historic Places, is
7 not only an architectural anchor for the Waikiki District, but
8 the repository of Hawaii's swimming, ocean sports and Olympic
9 history; and
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11 WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of this State to
12 preserve Hawaii's uniqueness and cultural identity for the
13 benefit of all its residents as well as its visitors; and
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15 WHEREAS, the National Trust for Historic Preservation has
16 proven that Cultural Heritage Tourists are overall more
17 affluent, stay longer and spend more while contributing to
18 global understanding through cultural exchange and commerce; and
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20 WHEREAS, cultural and heritage visitors spend, on average,
21 \$623 per trip compared to \$457 for all U.S. travelers, excluding
22 the cost of transportation; and
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24 WHEREAS, heritage tourism and more broadly, historic
25 preservation and the efforts of the Heritage Caucus not only
26 benefits the State socially but economically as well; now,
27 therefore,
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29 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
30 Twenty-Fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
31 of 2009, that the Department of Land and Natural Resources and
32 the City and County of Honolulu honor Act 15 of the 1921
33 Territorial Legislature by preserving the Waikiki War Memorial
34 Natatorium in its original location on the Waikiki shore; and
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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
37 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Department
38 of Land and Natural Resources, the Mayor of the City and County
39 of Honolulu, and the Honolulu City Council.
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