

MAR 18 2009

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING FULL PRESERVATION OF THE WORLD WAR II HONOULIULI  
INTERNMENT CAMP AS A NATIONAL MONUMENT, MUSEUM, AND  
RESTORED MEMORIAL PARK FOR THE STATE OF HAWAII.

1           WHEREAS, President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Executive Order  
2 9066, issued on February 19, 1942, authorized the mass forced  
3 removal and detention of all Japanese-Americans living on the  
4 west coast of the United States, over 110,000 persons,  
5 two-thirds of whom were American citizens; and  
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7           WHEREAS, the congressionally appointed Commission on  
8 Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians (CWRIC) concluded  
9 in its 1983 report that the internment of Japanese-Americans was  
10 caused not by the stated rationale of "military necessity" but  
11 by "race prejudice, war hysteria, and a failure of political  
12 leadership"; and  
13

14           WHEREAS, Japanese in Hawaii were spared the draconian  
15 treatment meted out to those on the mainland because martial law  
16 had already been declared in Hawaii, because the Japanese  
17 comprised over thirty-five per cent of the population making it  
18 logistically difficult to detain such large numbers of people,  
19 and because Hawaii's productivity depended on the resident  
20 Japanese; and  
21

22           WHEREAS, government authorities rounded up several hundred  
23 of Hawaii's Japanese-Americans in the days following the attack  
24 on Pearl Harbor, took away their homes and other property, and  
25 herded them into internment camps scattered throughout the  
26 islands: Sand Island on Oahu, Kilauea on the Big Island, Haiku  
27 on Maui, and Kalaheo and Wailua on Kauai; and  
28

29           WHEREAS, those who were initially arrested represented the  
30 leadership of the local Japanese immigrant community: religious  
31 and cultural leaders, Japanese language school instructors, and



1 leaders of Japanese immigrant organizations such as newspapers,  
2 prefectural groups, and social/cultural groups; and

3  
4 WHEREAS, after neighbor island internment camps closed, the  
5 camp on Sand Island became the site for detainees from all the  
6 islands, and when Sand Island closed on March 1, 1943, the vast  
7 majority of internees were transferred to camps in the  
8 continental United States; and

9  
10 WHEREAS, the three hundred or so remaining internees were  
11 then transferred to the newly built camp at Honouliuli, where  
12 most were imprisoned for the duration of the war, without ever  
13 being charged with a crime, and having received only token  
14 hearings; and

15  
16 WHEREAS, the wooden barracks and tents of the Alien  
17 Internment Camp, later known as POW Compound Number 6, were set  
18 up in an isolated gulch in Honouliuli, now beautiful with wild,  
19 natural foliage; and

20  
21 WHEREAS, the concrete remnants of Honouliuli's internment  
22 buildings--drainage catchment and pipes, floors, foundations,  
23 and walls--remain as proof of the site's former purpose, when  
24 armed guards patrolled the camp, which was ringed with double  
25 barbed-wire fences and guard towers; and

26  
27 WHEREAS, Japanese-Americans from Hawaii served in World War  
28 II in numbers disproportionate to their population, mostly in  
29 the segregated 100th Infantry Battalion and 442nd Regimental  
30 Combat Team, described as the most decorated unit in American  
31 military history for its size and length of service and  
32 memorialized in the Hollywood film *Go for Broke*; and

33  
34 WHEREAS, Japanese-Americans also served in World War II in  
35 the Military Intelligence Service as translators and  
36 interpreters who played a key role in the Pacific War and in the  
37 1399th Engineering Construction Battalion in Hawaii; and

38  
39 WHEREAS, while the United States fought in World War II to  
40 combat the evil of genocide and to protect freedom and democracy  
41 around the globe, on the home front, our country implemented an  
42 era of tremendous suppression of civil liberties due to racial  
43 discrimination; and

44



1 WHEREAS, the shame of the World War II internment camps is  
2 a mar on our country's reputation as the great protector of  
3 freedom; and  
4

5 WHEREAS, the detention of Japanese-Americans during World  
6 War II remains a largely untold story of the great injustice  
7 suffered by these loyal Americans by the United States; and  
8

9 WHEREAS, many former internment camps throughout the  
10 country have already or will soon disappear; and  
11

12 WHEREAS, preserving Honouliuli's history will remind all of  
13 the need to guard against the injustice bred by fear and racism,  
14 and honor the memories of those who were detained at Honouliuli;  
15 and  
16

17 WHEREAS, concerned groups are planning to build a memorial  
18 to tell the tragic stories of these World War II internment  
19 camps and their impact on the internees and their families, to  
20 encourage the protection of civil rights, with the Japanese  
21 Cultural Center of Hawaii and its Hawaii Confinement Sites  
22 Committee lending historical and cultural expertise to ensure  
23 that the significance of the site is preserved; now, therefore,  
24

25 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth  
26 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2009, the  
27 House of Representatives concurring, that the Legislature  
28 support a national monument, museum, and memorial park to be  
29 established at the former site of the Honouliuli internment  
30 camp; and  
31

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the federal government, the  
33 Hawaii state government, the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii,  
34 and other private stakeholders are urged to work together to  
35 make this memorial site a reality; and  
36

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Park Service is  
38 requested to play a key role in this effort, and eventually take  
39 over custody, ownership, and responsibility for the memorial  
40 site; and  
41

42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
43 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the  
44 United States, the Secretary of Defense, and the Secretary of



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1 the Interior, the President of the Monsanto Company, the  
2 Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Japanese Cultural  
3 Center of Hawaii, and to each member of Hawaii's congressional  
4 delegation.

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OFFERED BY: Will Eyo

*[Handwritten signatures and initials]*  
Clarence Smith  
Avid Ylge  
Jim  
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